

**TO:** Mayor Peter Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

**SUBMITTED BY:** Michael E. Eddy  
Michael E. Eddy, Chief Director, Fire Services

**DATE:** January 15, 2002

**SUBJECT:** Terence Bay Fire Hall

### INFORMATION REPORT

#### ORIGIN

At the December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2000, Regional Council Meeting, Councillor Meade served a petition containing 350 signatures of residents from Terence Bay and surrounding areas requesting that the Terence Bay Fire Hall remain open and that it be staffed with two firefighters and with the appropriate apparatus.

#### BACKGROUND

In October of 1988, staff were hired for the Terence Bay Fire Department. Upon amalgamation of the Terence Bay and Hatchet Lake Fire Departments in 1994, the Fire Protection Committee of District 4 Fire Department moved staff to the central fire station in Shad Bay. The rationale behind this move was to centralization services as approved by the former Halifax County and District 4 Fire Department. The District 4 Fire Department changed its name to Prospect Road and District on April 2, 1996, at the time of amalgamation in HRM.

Since 1999, the Volunteers that were involved in the District 4 Terence Bay (now Station No. 53) have moved out of the Terence Bay Community and we have not been successful in recruiting new volunteers in this area.

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## DISCUSSION

As a result of the petition being submitted, with a request for Station 53 remain open and be staffed with two firefighters and appropriate apparatus, fire services management have held meetings with Councillor Meade to discuss the issues. On May 7, 2001, a Town Hall meeting was arranged with the community which was chaired by Councillor Meade.

As a result of the Community Meeting the following items have been implemented:

- 1) A Fire truck has been placed in Station 53
- 2) A newsletter will be developed and sent to the community.
- 3) Will post glow sign for recruitment of volunteers hoping to attract recruits.
- 4) Will hold a training session at Station 53
- 5) Overview of the role of the District Chief.

Meetings are continuing with the community group and plans are underway to hold more open houses. Also the newsletter will continue, and a strategy will be developed to get residents involved in their department. Another consideration being looked at is having a rotation of paid staff within the district.

## BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The only budget implication would be if a decision was made to hire two paid firefighters for this station which would be over Fire Service's approved compliment and would increase the tax rate for the fire district.

## FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES/BUSINESS PLAN

None

## ALTERNATIVES

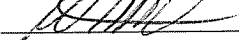
None

## ATTACHMENTS

Minutes from the September 10, 2001 Community Meeting.

Additional copies of this report, and information on its status, can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by: Doug Avery, District Chief, 471-6285

Report Approved by:   
William H. Mosher, Deputy Chief Director, 490-4239

## Community Meeting

Date: September 10, 2001

Location: Fire Station 53 - Terence Bay

Meeting was held on this date, whereas Councillor Meade provided the stakeholders with a financial report which provided all with a greater picture of the financial implications to the residents of Terence Bay and Lower Prospect.

### Stakeholder Conclusion:

Given the financial picture as presented, hiring two (2) additional staff firefighters is cost prohibitive and would not be pursued.

That the stakeholders will continue to try and recruit volunteers from the community to support the operational needs of the Terence Bay station 53, Prospect Rd. Fire Department.

### Level of Service

That all stakeholders agree that the level of service currently being provided by the Prospect Rd. Fire Department is not an issue within the community. The issue deals with the lack of support from the community in the Department's effort to recruit volunteers.

### Programs / Projects

The Prospect Rd. Fire Department, under the direction of the Fire Chief, would continue with the effort to recruit volunteers through open houses, special training information programs and news letters.

The Community Stakeholders committee to date has not had any success in attracting volunteers, the Fire Department has received two (2) applications for membership through one of the training information initiatives.

Prepared by: Doug Avery, District Chief  
Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency Service