

From: Bonny McCleery Scanlan <bmccleeryscanlan@hotmail.com>

Subject: Highlights - Special Meeting of Council - January 7, 2021 - Hastings Highlands Fire Services

Hastings Highlands Interlake - Fire Commitee

Chair Tom Scanlan - President, Lake St. Peter Property Owners Association

Shaun Collier - President, Mink Lake Association

We are sharing this message along with the Council Highlights, as it is very clear that the current state Of the Hastings Highlands Fire Department and decisions to be made regarding that service affects all residents. While the current discussion relates specifically to Station #5 at Lake St Peter, it is clear that the entirety of the Fire Department Infrastructure and equipment is in dire need of fitness assessment, and in many instances, replacement. We see this closure as only the thin edge of the wedge.

Bonny McCleery Scanlan has been providing summaries of the Council meetings for the information of the Executive of the Hastings Highlands Interlake. Because this is so important, we urge you to share with your membership the notes from the Special Council Meeting of January 7, 2022, called to specifically address the recent and sudden closure of Station #5. Please take a few minutes to review those notes, using the links further down this message.

The potential closure of the Lake St Peter Firehall (Station #5) was identified nearly two years ago. Since that time, the LSPPOA, the Mink Lake Association and the Hastings Highlands Interlake have:

- Written to Council expressing concern about chronic underfunding of the Fire Dept. (June, 2021)
- Made Delegation to Council (July 21, 2022) recommending studies to identify potential changes
- Commented on the drafts of the Master Fire Plan
- LSPPOA circulated a notice to 230 residents of LSP and Boulter Lake about the problem (May/June) with our annual membership appeal and education package.
- Spoken at AGMs regarding the status of the Hastings Highlands Fire Dept.
- Promoted a campaign of letter writing to Council about the dangers to residents and properties
- Consulted with other residents about the closure
- Conferred with each individual Council member about the implications of the closure, via email receiving responses from 6/7, leading to further phone conversations.
- Compiled a list of consultants who could provide a Fire Needs Study
- Contacted suppliers of firefighting equipment (specifically tanker trucks)

The condition of this building has been known for several years, first identified in a Consultant Report during an Asset Management review in 2016. More recently, the issue was further highlighted in a report to Council by Fire Chief Danny Korocsil in February 2020. Letters to Council were sent by a number of residents starting from that point. That campaign was strengthened by a blitz in September, 2021 after the AGMs of the LSPPOA and the MLA. Those letters (about 50) were received and considered at the Council meeting of September 15, 2021. Regrettably, Council did not react promptly to the residents' concerns, and on December 21, 2021, Station #5 was closed by an order from the Ministry of Labour, citing structural problems with the building.

While it is clear that Council must now take this issue seriously, you should be assured that a continued stream of messages to Council, from residents, will be impactful on any decisions. We expect an important motion to be

discussed at the January 19, 2022, meeting (refer to the notes!) and messages received by Hastings Highlands prior to that meeting must be recognized.

Please encourage your membership to write to Council expressing their concern about this issue. Some of them may have already written; if so, they should do so again. If this is their first message, they should be assured that they will be heard. Sample letters were provided for the campaign in September and current examples can be available now if requested. Letters and emails should be sent to the Clerk, Suzanne Huschilt shuschilt@hastingshighlands.ca and will be recorded as part of the minutes.

Tom Scanlan, Chair - Hastings Highlands Interlake Fire Committee
President LSPPOA

Media Release - Fire Station 5 Lake St. Peter Closure - Municipality of Hastings Highlands

MEDIA RELEASE 21 Dec 2021 Hastings Highlands Fire Station 5 – Lake St. Peter Closure
Maynooth, ON – The Municipality of Hastings Highlands wishes to release the following information to the community: Hastings Highlands Fire Station 5 – Lake St. Peter Closure Effective immediately the Hastings Highlands Fire Station 5 in Lake St. Peter is closed...
Continue reading Media Release – Fire ...

<https://hastingshighlands.ca/2021/12/21/media-release-fire-station-5-lake-st-peter-closure/>

Media Release - Fire Station 5 Lake St. Peter Fire Service Continuity Plan - Municipality of Hastings Highlands

33011 Highway 62 Maynooth, ON K0L 2S0Hastings Highlands Fire DepartmentTel: 613-338-2811Fax: 613-338-3292Toll Free: 1-877-338-2818 www.hastingshighlands.ca MEDIA RELEASE 6 JANUARY 2022 Fire Station 5 – Lake St. Peter Fire Service Continuity Plan Maynooth, ON – The Hastings Highlands Fire Department wishes to release the following Fire Service Continuity Plan in response to the recent ...

<https://hastingshighlands.ca/2022/01/06/media-release-fire-station-5-lake-st-peter-fire-service-continuity-plan/>

Highlights - Special Meeting of Council - January 7, 2021 - Hastings Highlands Fire Services

[Special Meeting of Council - 07 Jan 2022 - Agenda - Html \(civicweb.net\)](#) - all associated reports links

[Special Meeting of Council - 07 Jan 2022 - Minutes - Html \(civicweb.net\)](#) - recorded motions and votes

Present at the Meeting:

Council: -Mayor Hagar -Councillor Buck -Councillor Fitzgerald -Deputy Mayor Gerrow -Councillor Matheson -Councillor Walder
Davis -Councillor - Absent

Staff: David Stewart Suzanne Huschilt Brandon Northrup Glen Ackerman Martin Cox

Others: Quan Tan, P.Eng. Structural Engineer - Q&E Engineering Inc. Civil-Structural Engineers

Public Comment Period:

The Mayor read comments from Tom Scanlan and Julie and Peter Williams. (Owners of Sliver Birches Resort on LSP)

Submitted January 5th to Municipal Clerk - Suzanne Huschilt

The closure of the LSP Firehall is not well received locally. Recent campfire discussions with our neighbours indicate their dismay and anger with the way this has unfolded. Bonny and I share those sentiments. It is galling to remember that this Firehall was put on a one year IV drip on March 17/21, with a commitment to study financial and planning aspects of a new Firehall. Clearly this should have been undertaken immediately so that answers would have been available within that year. However, there have been no requests for proposals nor money allocated to fund such studies. The year will apparently end with the Firehall forced to close, while we have neither a long term plan for coverage nor a short term emergency plan. The residents of this part of HH deserve better.

I urge Council to seize this as an opportunity. Determine what the HH Fire Dept should look like in the future, and how to transition to that model. The Master Fire Plan, under production for the past year, has so far been a waste of time and resources.

There are consultants that specialize in Emergency Services. A modest investment over the next months could assist to identify the optimal Fire Services model for HH.

For the safety of your residents and their properties, and to keep insurance premiums within reach, please get this Firehall reestablished as an asset that we can all be proud of."

Tom Scanlan

President - LSP Property Owners Association

Chair - Hastings Highlands Interlake Fire Committee

Quan Tan, P.Eng. Structural Engineer - Q&E Engineering Inc. Civil-Structural Engineers

Reports: Structural Assessment of the Fire Hall at 2356 Highway 127, Lake St Peter - Station 5

[Structural Assessment of the Fire Hall at 2356 Highway 127, Lake St Peter - Station 5 \(civicweb.net\)](http://civicweb.net)

On December 2, 2021, the Ministry of Labour conducted an inspection of Lake St. Peter fire station (Station 5). The inspection findings resulted in an order that requested a professional engineer complete a structural assessment/evaluation of Fire Station 5 - Lake St. Peter building by December 31, 2021, to ensure that the building is capable of supporting or withstanding the loads being applied to it or likely applied to it.

A professional engineer was commissioned to complete an on-site inspection that took place on December 16, 2021 and provided their findings and recommendations in a report for the fire department on December 21, 2021 - Attached as Attachment B. In their report, the professional engineer has recommended the "immediate closure/decommissioning of the building shall be completed to ensure safety".

[Structural Assessment of the Fire Hall at 2356 Highway 127, Lake St Peter - Station 5 \(civicweb.net\)](http://civicweb.net)

New Motion - Station 5 - Temporary Storage for Fire Apparatus

Gerrow (4-2022) That Council direct staff to immediately investigate alternative storage for all fire apparatus at Station 5 to allow their use in responding to fire calls from Station 5 Volunteer Firefighters; and To bring a report to Council no later than February 16, 2022. Carried

Hastings Highlands Fire Department Master Fire Plan Priorities and Next Steps

[Hastings Highlands Fire Department Master Fire Plan Priorities and Next Steps \(civicweb.net\)](http://civicweb.net) <- Master Fire Plan incl.

At the September 15, 2021 Regular Meeting of Council, Council resolved the following: (342-2021) That Council accepts this report "Bylaw 2021-062 Hastings Highlands Fire Department Master Fire Plan (Third Reading)"; and That Council reviews the Master Fire Plan Bylaw 2021-062 for a third reading; and That

Council provides further direction or required changes/amendments, if necessary, by proposing a new motion; and Furthermore That Council adopts the Master Fire Plan in principle; and That Council directs staff to bring back a report with a financial analysis of each fire station within the Master Fire Plan to generate discussion.

*Important Note from the Interim Fire Chief and Deputy Fire Chief In late 2021, after the adoption of the attached Master Fire Plan, the Hastings Highlands Fire department underwent a leadership change. Both the Interim Fire Chief and Deputy Fire Chief are new to their positions with the municipality and were not part of the development of the Master Fire Plan. At the present time their ability to answer questions or expand on its recommendations may be limited.

New Motion - Fire Services

Buck (6-2022) Whereas Council, directs staff, who, with the participation of up to three members of Council, shall create and define the terms of reference to engage a qualified consultancy firm whose specialty is focused on public fire protection analysis as required by a municipality similar in scale and scope to the Municipality of Hastings Highlands;

WITHDRAWN: Details are in the Minutes however, due to the motion being withdrawn due to its length and detail allowing councillors to more time, we will follow further in the January 19, 2022 meeting.

New Motion - Dry Hydrants

Walder (8-2022) That the Fire Service proceeds with the initiation of, and toward the installation of dry hydrants as needed. Carried

Note: Deputy Fire Chief has indicated that a Cistern is at Birds Creek Public School now and 5 Dry Hydrants already purchased

New Motion - Municipal Insurance Provider Fire Presentation

Matheson (9-2022) That Council direct staff to contact our insurance providers to arrange a presentation on the policies related to fire insurance, at their earliest convenience. Carried

Councillor Matheson in preparation for this meeting spoke to local insurance provider to further understand insurance requirements for Fire Station proximity and impacts.

Public Comment Period:

The Mayor read comments from Patricia Sidebottom.

For your information:

What is a Dry Hydrant:

A dry hydrant is usually an **unpressurized, permanently installed pipe that has one end below the water level of a lake or pond**. This end usually has a strainer to prevent debris from entering the pipe. The other end is above ground and has a hard sleeve connector. When needed, a pumper fire engine will pump from the lake or pond by drafting water.

What is a Fire Cistern:

Providing a fire cistern or firefighting water storage tank in compliance with the local fire department's design and storage volume requirements may reduce insurance premiums and create a valuable emergency water resource available to the entire community.

Prepared by:
Bonny McCleery Scanlan

Hastings Highlands Interlake

January 19, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. for the Regular Meeting of Council, Operations and Planning

January 7, 2021 HH Special Meeting of Council at 9:00 a.m. Part 1
of 2

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<https://form.foreaction.cloud/submit/hastings-highlands>

[January 7, 2021 HH Special Meeting of Council at 9:00 a.m. Part 1 of 2 - YouTube](#)