



TOWN OF MINTO

DATE: March 8, 2016
REPORT TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Chris Harrow
SUBJECT: North Perth Fire Agreement

STRATEGIC PLAN:

6.5 Make available the Town's Volunteer Fire Services to abutting municipalities at fees that cover the cost of developing and maintaining the service, and support joint initiatives to share the cost of fire prevention and inspection services.

BACKGROUND:

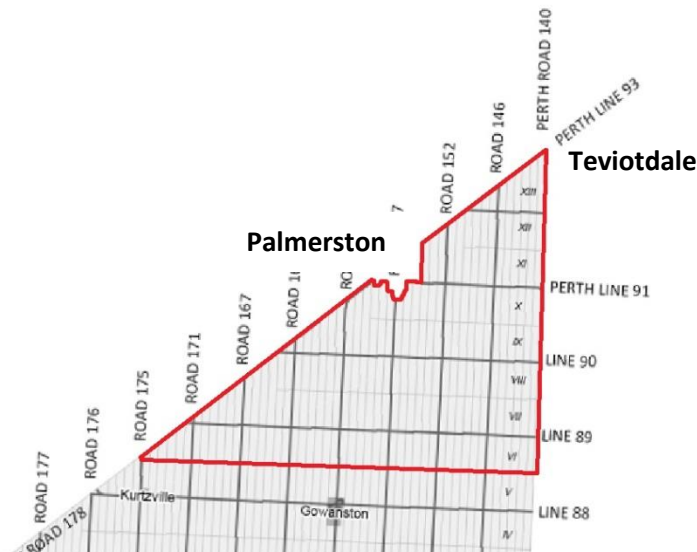
A large portion of North Perth in the Wallace Ward (former Wallace Township) abuts the Town of Palmerston. The Palmerston Station of Minto Fire has provided fire protection for a long period of time to a designated area of North Perth. The area we service extends from outside of Teviotdale to half way down Highway 23 towards Listowel.

The agreement was updated and signed in 2010 by both Councils having expired in 2015. The North Perth Fire Chief and I met and recommend renewing the agreement with minor changes for a period of seven years.

COMMENTS:

The agreement maintains the remuneration from the previous agreement and has a clause increasing the remuneration by the cost of living moving forward. The following summarizes some of the terms:

- a. Seven year agreement with 12 month termination for fire area shown on map below.



- b. Services provided include:
 - i. Fire Suppression, Rescue and Emergency Services (include Motor Vehicle Collisions, Confined Space Rescue but does not include Trench Rescue or Water/Ice Rescue)

- ii. Dispatching of Calls, Radio Communication from Emergency Scenes and Interoperable Communications
 - iii. Hazardous Materials Response to the Awareness Level only
 - iv. Medical Tiered Response acting under the current Agreement with Minto and Guelph/Wellington EMS including defibrillation
 - v. Open Air Burning Matters to be dealt with by North Perth with our assistance.
 - vi. Issues or Complaints regarding Nuisance Burning to be dealt with by North Perth with our assistance
 - vii. Routine Fire Inspections
- c. Town Fire Chief may refuse to supply response if personnel, apparatus or equipment are required in Minto or elsewhere, under the Mutual Aid Plan.
- d. Minto receives all funds for occurrences at which the fire department attends in the *Fire Area*. Minto will be responsible for the billing of services in accordance with the North Perth Fees and Services By-Law.
- e. Fire Chiefs agree to communicate regularly but no less than once per year, to discuss program and service delivery matters within the *Fire Area*.

As mentioned, the agreement contains minor changes from the previous one. It clarifies some of the roles each department performs in the fire protection area. Minto Fire will still be responsible for providing fire protection to the area with a full response from our Palmerston Station. As well, it clarifies when we are to notify the North Perth Fire Department Senior Management. The Fire Chief and designates of North Perth are designated as the Chief Fire Officials for the area. As such, any decisions required of this position must be forwarded on promptly to allow a decision to be made.

There are no concerns about the agreement on our behalf. Minto Fire still has the obligation to respond to emergencies within our own Municipality over and above this agreement. There is a great working relationship with the North Perth Fire Department and look forward to continuing to work with them.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The financial compensation maintains the payment structure established in the previous agreement and includes a cost of living increase every year. The first year's remuneration will be \$61,634.51.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council receives the Fire Chiefs March 8, 2016 report on the North Perth Fire Agreement and consider a by-law authorizing the Mayor and C.A.O. Clerk to sign the Fire Agreement with the Town of North Perth.

Chris Harrow
Fire Chief