

**TOWN OF HAMPTON EMERGENCY MEASURES ORGANIZATION (HEMO) COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING: Monday, September 18, 2023**

In attendance: Keith Copeland Evelyn Bostwick Evelyn Millen Bruce Whitaker Nancy Whitticase  
Robin Langford Maura Collings Laure Sheel Pam McKenzie Mike Hickey  
Mark Rodaway

Town Staff: Richard Malone Jessie Dean Megan O'Brien Harrison

Guest: Les Weber

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Keith Copeland called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Moved by Bruce Whitaker and seconded by Pam McKenzie that the minutes of the June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Hampton EMO committee meeting be adopted as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**UPDATES FROM MINUTES KEITH COPELAND**

Keith Copeland gave an update on the June 19<sup>th</sup> motion to recommend Council approve the Hampton Spring Freshet Response Policy and the Flood Contingency Plan for Hampton Emergency Measures Organization Committee. Council approved these two policies at the September meeting.

Pending updates from Colin regarding the cell phone dead spots for coverage.

**EXECUTIVE UPDATES**

Richard Malone update on the Municipal plan and zoning by-laws which are currently going through legislated approval process. Draft Municipal Plan is currently posted on the town's website while working through the public approval process. Zoning will follow the Municipal Plan in October. Full process is expected to take approximately five months.

Richard Malone provided an update on the Fundy Regional Service Commission. The commission introduced new interim CEO. The new FRSC Strategic plan focuses on regional EMO committee and completing regional assessment. Fire/Police implementation expected in 2024/2025.

Les Weber provided update on the Fundy Regional Service Commission public safety committee which is part of the Local Governance Reform. Goals: Better interoperability, Standardization and Regional EMO plan. Focus to adopt a regional EMO instead of multiple municipal EMOs to work on same initiatives. This would allow the ability to pull all resources to run and sustain during events. The FRSC Strategic Plan was adopted in August and is currently in the early stages. Les explained this is a new model which is currently being used in various states in the US. Model will be worked out in future Public Safety Committee meeting. Richard Malone made note that EMO is on the regional radar.

Les Weber is working on training and advised EMO Committee that the ICS 200 course is being held on September 30<sup>th</sup> to October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, and that members are encouraged to attend.

Les Weber provided an Alert Ready overview of the capabilities it provides to municipalities. Municipalities have use of the system, based on requirement criteria during an emergency. Les Weber provided the process to follow for Hampton to use the service and response times.

Les noted the AIM fire, hurricane and a natural gas leak kept EMO busy this week and it also made awareness that evacuation plans are not robust and will be working with municipalities regarding evacuation planning. Keith Copeland expressed his concerns of the environment change noticed with the smoke plume modeling from the fire and what he considered to be a slow response on communication. Les Weber responded that many factors were considered as the event unfolded. Air quality monitors were not calibrated for toxins emitted by fire. Air samples were taken and will be tested. Portable air quality monitors were not available in the area. Les Weber commended Saint John Fire Department, Kennebecasis Valley Fire Department, and Irving on their work to get the fire out in two days which was a remarkable job to get such a large fire out. Keith Copeland commented that those with the knowledge and expertise should have known that the foul smell and respiratory issues being reported that an earlier warning should have been issued. Les Weber responded that the Government of New Brunswick issued air quality warning and that his would be included in the AAR. Mike Hickey commented that most people in the region travel to the city for services. Push notifications should be used instead of relying on social media. Nancy Whitticase mentioned that she

was alerted by Hampton's bciti+ app when Hampton sent out notification. Les Weber provided information about types of communication used in event and decisions made.

### **TRAINING OUTCOMES JULY/AUGUST**

July and August trainings were focused on Hurricane scenarios that Mike Hickey put together based on challenge from Les Weber. Outcomes included: Extreme weather contingency plan, possible map overlay with members and designated sites identified for next locations for setup of EOC communications and assistance. Meet in advance through Teams and during public warn, inform and after event. Warn and inform CVN locations before event to be able to accommodate and respond. Neighbourhood response coordinators in key locations. Have kits available to be signed out to locations before events. Schedule members and roles ahead of time. Stagger response to be able to respond for longer periods of time. Supplies to operate remotely which would require supplies to be purchased. Megan O'Brien Harrison noted we should be cautious of RTIPPA rules when creating overlay map, identifying member's closest location instead of their actual addresses. Keith Copeland responded that the map is still in development. Pam McKenzie noted information which is already available to public. Megan O'Brien Harrison that the rules of municipal use of personal information to be followed for information being used.

### **TROPICAL STORM LEE AFTER ACTION REPORT (ARR)**

Keith Copeland spoke about the parameters of different hurricanes, their directions and how they respond. Discussion on how Hurricane Lee progressed through the region, and the impacts on the region. Discussed the hurricane forecast and how amazing much can change in a quick time frame. Keith Copeland noted that although some complain that many preparations were made and when barely effected, the storm could have shifted which could have been a really bad impact.

Keith Copeland explained how Hurricane Lee was a huge event over the province. All EMO players were involved in the action. EMO did not complete a post event call. Keith Copeland gave recognition to Pam McKenzie who offered to open the Lighthouse River Centre in the event of an emergency despite personal engagements. Les Weber noted that this time last year we had two storms to date versus this year with thirteen storms to date. Keith Copeland noted 20% of Hampton's residents experienced power outages, some being overnight. Keith Copeland suggested CBC Listen as a great option for coverage during weather events and that it gives a great idea of how people are handling an event. Keith Copeland inquired how St. Martin's did during the event. Les Weber responded they did okay, considering this was their first storm and that NB Power predictions were two days for power restoration reiterating the 72-hour preparedness messaging. Megan O'Brien Harrison noted that Hampton Communication issued lots of pre-messaging on 72-hour preparedness. Saint John fire event allowed a good opportunity to test the bciti+ app and text alerts and provided a boost in sign-ups. Notifications worked well and there was a lot of sharing of messaging. Power Outage was earlier than expected. Keith Copeland exclaimed it was nice EMO didn't have to activate but were prepared. Keith Copeland suggested to add to the training outcomes to setup an awareness campaign at gas stations and grocery stores before a known event which would be better held in October months.

### **ROUND TABLE**

Megan O'Brien Harrison updated on awareness campaign on social media. When networks go down and how messaging gets out, identified need for cross-generational communication and messaging. Awareness for battery operated radios.

Mark Rodaway noted strategies need to be blended. Suggested template for key messaging which can be filled in during an event and posted on church bulletin boards for communications at CVN. Megan O'Brien Harrison agreed that this is a great strategy and could also be posted at general stores, etc. where communities tend to get information. Mark Rodaway also noted use of GIS mapping to identify community locations for messaging. Richard Malone replied that Hampton will be updating to a new GIS software which can be utilized.

### **HEMO EVOLUTION**

Keith Copeland provided an update of his five years in his role as EMO Coordinator. There has been an uptick in events, changes in Hampton's size and many moving parts. Hampton now being part of Region 9 from Region 8, EMO requirements are vastly different and changes in the municipality needs and environment. Keith Copeland notified the Hampton EMO Committee that he would be stepping down as Hampton EMO coordinator. Upon review of the Hampton EMO mandate and practices, Keith Copeland recommended Hampton EMO to shift the EMO coordinator position from a volunteer position to municipal staff as this would give continuity of the position going forward. Keith Copeland noted that within the new region other EMO coordinators are municipal staff. This would provide more training opportunities. The coordinator's role would be more involved with municipal staff and make it easier to connect with municipal contacts. Volunteers and CVNs to continue. October and

November training will continue as planned. Keith Copeland acknowledged the support Richard Malone provided on initiatives over the past five years.

Richard Malone thanked Keith Copeland for his commitment to Hampton EMO. Noting the changes implemented by Keith Copeland over the past years. Richard Malone acknowledged Keith Copeland's leadership role and bringing Hampton EMO to this stage. Richard Malone acknowledged Keith Copeland's recommendation that the EMO Coordinator be added to a staff person's role. Richard noted Hampton will continue working with Keith Copeland during the future transition of the role. Hampton will be looking for someone to fill the EMO coordinator position and noted that Keith Copeland will work with the new coordinator and assist with what the role fully entails.

Evelyn Millen noted the changes over the past thirteen years, a lot of change and the Hampton EMO has come a long way.

**NEXT MEETINGS:**

Trainings Meetings: Monday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, 7 p.m. @ EOC, Monday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, 7 p.m. @ EOC

Business Meeting: Monday December 18<sup>th</sup>, 7 p.m. @ EOC

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Bruce Whitaker to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.