

INTER MUNICIPAL FIRE COM.

1005  
January 21, 1974.

A meeting of representatives of the City of Port Coquitlam and the District of Coquitlam convened in the Council Chambers of the District of Coquitlam at 4:15 p.m. on Friday, January 21, 1974 with the following persons in attendance:-

Representing the City of Port Coquitlam:

Ald. E. Mabbet  
Ald. P. Ranger  
L. Pollock - City Administrator  
Fire Chief W. Wingrove

Representing the District of Coquitlam:

Ald. L. Bewley  
Fire Chief B. Falcon

Ald. Mabbet spoke stating that some fire protection has to come soon to the North East sector. The area of Coast Meridian and Lincoln seems to be agreeable to both Fire Chiefs. This Fire Hall was quite an Election item. We realized that we had to do something. Right after the Inaugural Meeting Mayor Campbell said he would speak to Mayor Tonn to see if they couldn't get the show on the road again.

Ald. Bewley said there are three ways of solving the problem of fire protection in the City's eastern section and the District's North East section.

1. We can go it alone - which will duplicate services.
2. Make a reciprocal deal - and turn to each other for help.
3. Complete amalgamation.

Ald. Mabbet said we should take a good, hard look at the City establishing a Fire Hall on the North Side and sell service to the District for the North East sector and the District sell service to the City west of the Pitt River Bridge.

Ald. Bewley asked Ald. Mabbet if that route was taken when could we expect to see an equipped fire hall?

Ald. Mabbet said his Council is very keen to get the fire hall built and it should be completed in 1974.

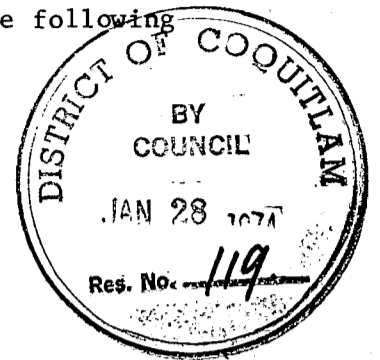
Ald. Bewley asked Fire Chief Falcon what would happen to the men in the volunteer service. The Fire Chief said everything would be done to utilize the men.

Ald. Mabbet said why not combine both and recommend to our Councils that a thorough investigation be undertaken on the consolidation and this job of investigation be turned over to the two Fire Chiefs, to come up with the pros and cons and give them two months to do it and in the meantime proceed with an agreement whereby the City protects the North East Sector and the District protects the area west of the Coquitlam River.

Fire Chief Wingrove said they have tried in the past to exchange services but were unsuccessful because of the Unions.

Ald. Bewley said if we don't consolidate we are going to have it foisted on us.

Ald. Bewley said if we can agree in principle then we could allow six months for study, in the meantime we can agree upon an exchange of services. If it turns out that consolidation of services is not practical or desirable then we have number two alternative already in operation.



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Fire Chief Wingrove said his department was in favour of it before and sees no problems providing that you can show that it is building up towards complete consolidation. If the two Councils agree, it is just a matter of making it work. He said he can see no reason why it would not work. It will be easy to institute under the contract now that it has come up for renewal.

Fire Chief Wingrove said it would be necessary to do everything possible so that the positions are preserved and no one takes a loss of position due to the transfer. How to overcome the seniority problem will have to be worked out.

Ald. Ranger said if amalgamation is so close, perhaps the City should hold back on the construction of a fire hall at their expense. Ald. Bewley said he thinks they should go ahead - they could always be reimbursed for the District's share.

Ald. Bewley recommended that both Councils should be requested to proceed with a study of consolidation and recommend that each Council sign an agreement as soon as it can be worked out so that the City will service the North East end of Coquitlam and the District will service West of the Coquitlam River.

Ald. Bewley said that the site chosen by Port Coquitlam is going to be necessary in any case, and should consolidation take place, we will share in the cost of the construction of that fire hall on whatever formula is worked out.

Fire Chief Wingrove said regarding the choice of a site he would choose Sefton site over the Kent St. site, but his number one choice would be the Coast Meridian Road site.

Moved By Ald. Bewley  
Seconded By Ald. Mabbet

That we recommend to both Councils that we enter into a reciprocal arrangement for fire protection so that the City Fire Department will protect the North East end of Coquitlam and Coquitlam will protect the City property West of the Coquitlam River and that the City Council be urged to move with all haste in purchasing the property on Coast Meridian Road and construct a fire hall on this site as soon as possible.

Carried

Moved by Ald. Ranger  
Seconded by Ald. Bewley

That we recommend to both Councils that a Committee composed of Chief Wingrove and Chief Falcon, with powers to add, be instructed to prepare a study of the consolidation of fire departments in Port Coquitlam and the District of Coquitlam for presentation to both Councils by April 1, 1974.

Carried

Moved by Ald. Bewley  
Seconded by Ald. Ranger

That no present member of either Fire Department will suffer any loss of wages as a result of reorganization.

Carried