MOTION

Committee Date: May 20, 2009

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR R. PASUTA

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR

Volunteer Firefighters Inclusion in Presumptive Legislation Regulation

WHEREAS the Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan had forwarded a copy of their approved resolution, respecting Volunteer Firefighters Inclusion of Presumptive Legislation Regulation, dated March 25, 2009, to Hamilton City Council for its endorsement (attached hereto);

AND WHEREAS in May 2007, Bill 221, being the Workplace Safety and Insurance Amendment Act (Presumptions for Firefighters), 2007, passed into legislation and recognizes workplace safety and insurance entitlement for full-time (career) Firefighters who have incurred certain work-related occupational diseases;

AND WHEREAS it was presumed at that time that such legislation would also apply to Volunteer Firefighters who face the same exposures as their full-time (career) peers;

AND WHEREAS it appears that the extension of this legislation to cover Volunteer Firefighters is now uncertain;

AND WHEREAS the vital service that Hamilton's Volunteer Firefighters provide in protecting the lives and properties of rural citizens must be recognized by treating them and their families fairly and with the same respect and rights as their full-time (career) peers;
AND WHEREAS, the previous full time legislation failed to recognize the financial hardship and impact to the municipal tax base, and amending the legislation to include Volunteer Firefighters without addressing the funding will only increase this hardship.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

(a) That the Provincial Government be urged to move as quickly as possible to ensure that Bill 221 protection is extended to include the same level of coverage for Volunteer Firefighters in the amalgamated City of Hamilton and throughout the Province of Ontario.

(b) That the Honourable Premier McGuinty be requested to fund benefits directly associated with Bill 221 for all Firefighters who provide services and protect all Ontarians.

(c) That a copy of the approved resolution be forwarded to the Honourable P. Fonseca, Minister of Labour, the Honourable R. Bartolucci, Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, all local MPP’s., the Firefighters Association of Ontario and the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs.
Memorandum

Date: May 1, 2009

To: Stephanie Paparella
   Legislative Assistant, City Clerk's Office

From: Kevin Christenson, City Clerk

Subject: Volunteer Firefighters Inclusion of Presumptive Legislation Regulation

At its meeting of April 29, 2009, City Council considered the attached letter from the Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan, dated March 25, 2009, regarding the above matter.

Please be advised that Council has received this correspondence and referred it to the Emergency and Community Services Committee to allow the Fire Chief to provide comments to the Committee on the correspondence.

cc

Jim Kay, Chief/General Manager of Emergency Services
March 25, 2009

Re: Volunteer Firefighters Inclusion of Presumptive Legislation Regulation

Attached is a resolution that was duly passed by the Council of the Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan at the March 16, 2009 Council Meeting.

A copy of this resolution was forwarded to the Honourable Premier McGuinty and Council requested that a copy be circulated to all Ontario municipalities for consideration and endorsement. We would ask that a copy of your resolution of endorsement be forwarded directly to: Honourable Premier McGuinty; Honourable P. Fonseca, Minister of Labour; Honourable R. Bartolucci, Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services; Local Member of Provincial Parliament; Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario; the Leader of the New Democratic Party of Ontario; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); The Fire Fighters Association of Ontario (FFAO); The Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs (OAFC); and the Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan.

For further information please contact
Heather Scott, Clerk or Ted Bryan, Fire Chief
Corporation of the Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan
P.O. Box 70, 20 Third Street
Keene, Ontario
KOL 2G0
(T) 705-295-6852 or 705-295-6880
(F) 705-295-6405 or 705-295-6786
(E) hscott@otonabeesouthmonaghan.ca or tbryan@otonabeesouthmonaghan.ca
Resolution: Demand for Action
Volunteer Firefighters Inclusion in Presumptive Legislation Regulation

Whereas: The Ontario Provincial Government on May 3, 2007 with “all party support” passed Bill 221 the Workplace Safety and Insurance Amendment Act (Presumptions for Firefighters). This legislation was passed in record time (one day) recognizing the urgent need to assist firefighters, who develop job-related cancer or sustain a heart injury, when they file a claim with the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB).

And Whereas: Presented with scientific proven data the Government of Ontario implemented Regulations to immediately cover “Full Time” firefighters.

And Whereas: The Act clearly identifies the intent and allows for the inclusion in the Regulations for “Volunteer and Part Time” Firefighters.

And Whereas: The Liberal Government in the past two years made promise through three Ministers of Labour, the Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services, Assistant Deputy Ministers and other levels of Government, yet has failed to deliver the inclusion Regulations for Presumptive Legislation for Volunteer and Part-Time Firefighters.

And Whereas: In today’s fire service of Composite Departments and Province wide emergency deployment of Mutual Aid, Full-time, Volunteer and Part-Time firefighters work side by side every day. Volunteer and Part-Time Firefighters are the backbone to the Ontario Fire Service. These brave men and women give their time and service to protect our homes, properties and families and deserve better.

And Whereas: Cancer and Heart Attack does not discriminate between Full Time, Volunteer, and Part Time firefighters.

And Whereas: There is no explanation other than the Government is clearly discriminating against Volunteer and Part-Time firefighters.

Therefore be it resolved: The Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan strongly urges that the Provincial Government take immediate action to implement Presumptive Legislative Regulations to include Volunteer and Part-Time Firefighters.
And further be it resolved; The Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan requests the support of all other Municipalities in the Province of Ontario in this resolution.

And further be it resolved, That this and all supporting resolutions be forwarded / copied to Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty, Minister of Labour the Honourable P. Fonseca, Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services the Honourable R. Bartolucci, Local MPP Jeff Leal, the Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario, the Leader of the New Democratic Party of Ontario, all Ontario Municipalities, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), The Fire Fighters Association of Ontario (FFAO), The Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs (OAFC).

This Resolution is passed by Municipal Council on March 16, 2009 at the Township of Otonabee South Monaghan #20 Third Street Keene, Ontario, K0L 2G0.

Moved by: Councillor Dennis Hannah
Seconded by: Councillor Steve St. Jean
Carried: March 19, 2009
Clerk: Heather Scott
Head of Council: Deputy Reeve Paul Heath