

TOWNSHIP OF WOOLWICH

FIRE DEPARTMENT

REPORT: P5-2006

MEETING DATE: July 4, 2006

TITLE: Floradale Fire Station

FILE ID:

PREPARED BY: Rick Pedersen

REVIEWED BY:

DATE REVIEWED BY MANAGEMENT TEAM: June 27, 2006

C.A.O.: \_\_\_\_\_ (signature not required if reviewed by SMT)

**RECOMMENDATION**

THAT the Council of the Township of Woolwich remove the service analysis of the Floradale Fire Station from the Woolwich Master Fire Plan and direct Staff to purchase land in 2006 for the construction of the new Floradale Fire Station in 2007;

AND FURTHER THAT the Council of the Township of Woolwich adopt the National Fire Protection Association (N.F.P.A.) 1720 guidelines as the standards for the Township of Woolwich Fire Service.

**BACKGROUND**

The fire department has been working on the Townships Master Fire Plan for the last year; the Master Fire Plan for the Township is scheduled for completion in 2007. Location of a fire station is often the catalyst for a Master Fire Plan. The plan will show the options or alternatives relating to increasing, decreasing or moving stations to strategic locations. The plan will address the location and the number of fire stations required for the best response coverage in the township.

The National Fire Protection Association (N.F.P.A.) 1720 is a guideline used for deployment of fire suppression operations by Volunteer Fire Departments; this is one of the guidelines recommended by the Fire Marshalls Office to be used for the Master Fire Plan analysis

In 1988, the Office of the Fire Marshal completed the Municipal Fire Protection Survey. At that time the recommendation was made that the Floradale Station be replaced. The report stated "The Floradale Station is too small for the effective and efficient operation of a modern fire department". The station is seriously deficient. The structure is old and extensive upgrading

would be impractical. The building is far too small and operations are hampered or restricted because of both the building and lot size (60' wide). There is also no parking or other outside spaces available for any purpose and no area for equipment or truck maintenance. In 1998, the 1978 Floradale Rescue was scheduled to be replaced. This could not be done as the present building cannot accommodate the size of a new vehicle. This 28 year old unit requires immediate replacement due to difficulty sourcing replacement parts to make the vehicle road worthy. There is a concern that corrosion problems with the rescue vehicle will lead an annual inspection failure. Floradale requires three vehicles to respond to all fire calls. This is necessary to provide the proper equipment and manpower on scene. If the vehicle is removed from service, a replacement vehicle will need to be housed at another facility within Floradale. This will negatively affect the response time and coordination of firefighters during fire calls.

### COMMENTS

The N.F.P.A 1720 guideline contains minimum requirements relating to the organization and deployment of Fire Suppression operations, medical operations and special operations to the public by Volunteer Fire Departments. These requirements in the guideline address functions and outcomes of the Fire department service delivery, response capabilities and resources. It is recognized that the guideline may apply in whole or in part to the township based on local needs and circumstances and provides the framework to analyze the location of fire stations by setting the response standards.

Staff recommends that Council adopt these guidelines as the standards to be used for the Woolwich Fire Service.

The Woolwich fire service developed six models for station location to be reviewed in the Master Fire Plan. Two were eliminated because the required NFPA 1720 response guideline could not be met. This guideline requires that 10 firefighters respond to fire calls in the Floradale fire zone within 10 minutes of receiving the alarm 80% of the time. One of two eliminated models did not have a Floradale station. This model had two fire stations in Elmira, a new station located in the north end of the town. However, in order to achieve the required 10 firefighters in 10 minutes, the station would be required to be manned with a minimum of 10 full time firefighters 24hours a day, 7 days a week. To operate a full time Fire station in Elmira would require a staffing level of 30 fire fighters. It would be proposed to Council that Elmira fire zone would not require a full time fire service when its call volume increases to 1,000 emergency calls for the coverage area, Presently Elmira responses to 365 calls a year.

The Floradale station is also the second response to 70% of the Elmira fire zone area. The existing Floradale station response meets the requirement in its coverage area 84% of the time. This does not include Floradale's responses in its contracted areas. If the station were eliminated, response would be achieved in only 38% of the time. The fire department is required by the standard to assemble 15 firefighters in 15 minutes to coordinate a fire attack team.

In the risk assessment, approved by the Office of the Fire Marshal in January 2006, Floradale was recognized as a high risk area. The most serious fire concerns in our community are in farm buildings with a secondary use such as wood working, machining, and welding. In 2005, the Floradale area had the highest dollar loss (40%) in the township. For the past 5 years, Floradale has been second highest in dollar loss.

A requirement of the Office of the Fire Marshal is that Woolwich Fire Service be part of the Region of Waterloo Mutual Aid Agreement. This agreement states "Participants in the Waterloo Regional Mutual Aid Association mutual aid plan must meet or exceed acceptable personnel requirements and fire station, apparatus and equipment standards." The following are the minimum requirements for participation in the Region mutual aid plan:

**Fire Station Standards:**

Each agency must have exclusive control of a fire station or similar facility that:

- a) Is a sound building equipped with electrical power, telephone service and a suitable heating system
- b) Offers inside accommodation and necessary facilities for help and cover crews
- c) Is large enough to accommodate help and cover vehicles inside
- d) Provides year round access to streets or roads for emergency responses.

**CONCLUSION**

That Council removes the Floradale station from the Master Fire Plan and approves the land purchase in 2006 and construction of Floradale station in 2007. Staff recommends that the (N.F.P.A.) 1720 guideline be adopted as the standards for the Woolwich Fire Service.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

2006 Capital Funding available for land purchase-\$60,000  
2007 Capital Funding available for construction-\$360,000

**OTHER DEPARTMENT IMPLICATIONS**

Recreation Facilities: RFP for architectural/structural design/tender drawings and property appraisal

Finance: Assist in coordinating the RFP issuance and receipt

**LIST OF ATTACHMENTS**

None

