

Although all Councillors and the Mayor initially agreed that the recommended site for a new fire hall be located at the Public Works Yard, the intent of the motion was to solicit input to assist in making the best possible decision. The site of the new fire hall is not finalized. Once the public has had an opportunity to provide input, each Councillor will assess the information in order to prepare for further discussion at the Council level.

Presentation of Fire Association - Ken Peterson

Mr. Peterson, representing the regular Firefighters and the Volunteer Firefighters, stated their concurrence with the need for a new Fire Hall. In choosing a new site, Mr. Peterson explained various considerations to be taken into account. Underlying these considerations is response time. As an example, an average of four minutes elapses from the time of fire detection until the firefighters leave the fire hall. In extreme situations, there is 70% destruction after 14 minutes. For a fire at the west end of Town, there would be a 2 minute faster response if the fire hall were located at the subway location rather than the existing site and four minute faster response than the Public Works yard site.

Mr. Peterson stated that the subway area location represented the best location for a new fire hall because of quick access and central location

Presentation from Citizens

Mat Cedarwall, volunteer firefighter and firefighter at Stone Consolidated, supported Mr. Peterson, and stated his experience has been that response time makes a difference. The new Recycling Plant at Stone Consolidated poses a new fire hazard due to dust. The subway area location is a preferred location.

Stuart Roberts, spokesperson from Kenora Hospital, indicated a concern with the east location regarding response time.

Bill Doerksen, resident of the Evergreen area, stated the east location would be unacceptable due to increased response time and the need for firefighters to double back because of CP tracks, should a fire occur in the northeast section of Town.

George Parks, resident of Keewatin, advised Council that a new fire hall location should be viewed in the long term (100 years). The east end location does not support a long term commitment.

Rose Carver, long time resident of Kenora, stated in the current economic climate Council should hold off for a year or two. The Seniors could move from the New Horizons site and the fire hall expanded on the existing property.

Tom Shura, resident of Kenora, advised Council of his random telephone survey on the new fire hall location. No one supported the east end location. Response time should be of prime importance.

Lawrence Rosdobutko, resident of Kenora, suggested Council purchase the old Town & Country for the Seniors and use the seniors' area to expand the fire hall. The present fire hall site is a good one.

Kelvin Winkler, resident of Kenora, stated that during his term in Council the East Highway location was designated for a new fire hall based on the construction of a north/south route over the CP tracks. Because there is no north/south route, the east site is not a prime location. Any new fire hall must be planned in a fiscally responsible manner.

Closing Remarks

Mayor Chevrier thanked those in attendance for their input. Council will now consider the information provided at this meeting in order to make a final decision on a fire hall location.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

A G E N D A

PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS
PROPOSED LOCATION OF NEW FIRE HALL

KENORA MUNICIPAL OFFICE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
MONDAY, APRIL 22, 1996
7:30 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.

- * Opening remarks
 - Introduction of Members of Council/Administration/Dept. Heads
 - Ground rules for presentations and discussion
- * Background information - Bill Preisenzanz, Clerk/Administrator
- * Council Presentation - Rory McMillan, Chair, Admin/Planning
Re: Rationale for site selection
- * Presentation by Fire Department Chief Ed White
- * Presentation by Fire Association President Ken Peterson
- * Presentations by other Department Heads
- * Presentations from Citizens
- * Further comments from Floor
- * Summarize points - Pros and Cons
- * Council Review process of information garnered during Public Meeting
- * Expected date decision will be announced
- * Adjournment