



8 January 2013

City Council Committee Report

To: Mayor and Council

**Fr: Warren F. Brinkman, Emergency Service Manager, City of Kenora
Fire and Emergency Services**

Re: Kenora 109- Final Report

Recommendation:

That Council of the City of Kenora hereby accepts the invoice from the Ministry of Natural Resources pertaining to costs associated with the September, 2012 Kenora 109 Fire; and

That approval be hereby given for the invoice in the amount of \$32,596.52 to be sourced from Contingency Reserves; and

That in accordance with Notice By-law Number 144-2007, public notice is hereby given that Council intends to amend its 2012 Budget at its meeting on January 21, 2013; and further

That Council gives three readings to a by-law for this purpose.

Background:

At twenty two minutes past two o'clock in the afternoon of 12 September 2012 the City of Kenora's Fire Dispatch Centre received the first of many 9-1-1 calls reporting smoke being observed behind the Valley Drive Water Tower. A Ministry of Natural Resources Helicopter returning from another fire flew over this location and confirmed that a .1 hectare fire was burning about 400 metres east of the Valley Drive Water Tower. At twenty seven minutes after two o'clock the City of Kenora Fire and Emergency Services responded to this fire location and observed heavy black smoke and visible flames. At thirty five minutes after two o'clock the .1 hectare fire had grown to one hectare and was out of control. On scene Incident Command for the City of Kenora requested a "four Station alarm" and requested assistance from the Ministry of Natural Resources. The MNR dispatched two CL-415s, one Birddog, one Helitac and four three man ground crews to this fire location. Winds speeds gusted between 30 to 50 kilometres per hour throughout this incident. Kenora 109 grew to 6 hectares in size before "being held".

The investigation as to origin and cause of this fire began soon after this fire was reported. Ontario Provincial Police and the Ministry of Natural Resources Conservation Office have concluded their respective investigations into this human caused fire, however both agencies do not have enough conclusive evidence to proceed with appropriate charges.

At 2:00pm on the 20th of September 2012 Kenora 109 was declared "out".

Thankfully no injuries were reported during Kenora 109. Save and except for minor damage to a private vehicle, all values and structures remained unscathed.

Kenora 109 is human caused and therefore preventable. Kenora 109 compromised the health and safety of residents of the City of Kenora. In short this unconscionable act assigned manpower and apparatus that would otherwise be required to address other fire and emergency calls for service such as structure fires and motor vehicle crashes.

Of equal significance was the trauma suffered by young children feeling endangered and the parents who were hearing dislocated information on social media and who were worried about their safety.

Not only are lives and property at risk in such human caused events, there is a real cost associated to fire suppression. The City of Kenora Fire and Emergency Services assigned 380 man-hours to resolve Kenora 109 at a cost of \$10, 955.00. In addition apparatus was assigned to Kenora 109 for 134 hours. Calculated at an established Ministry of Transportation rate the City of Kenora's fire apparatus cost is \$54,940.00. MNR costs amounted to \$32, 596.52.

Budget:

City of Kenora Fire and Emergency Service Manpower and associated apparatus costs are contained in the 2012 Operating Budget however MNR costs are not a budgeted item and are therefore sourced from contingency reserves.

Communication Plan/Notice By-law Requirements:

Municipal Memo, Portal, and Media.