

Report to Council

Report Title:	Fire Response-771 Bruce Road 19 January 4, 2020	
Prepared By:	Michael Murphy, Fire Chief	
Department:	Fire	
Date:	April 28, 2020	
Report Number:	FIRE2020-03	File Number: C11FI
Attachments:	Letter to Mayor Peabody and Council By-Law 2017-034 Open Air Burns	

Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number FIRE2020-03 – Fire Response 771 Bruce Road 19 January 4, 2020, prepared by Michael Murphy, Fire Chief for information purposes and further to provide staff direction on the source of funding if the invoice is discounted.

Report:

Background:

On January 4, 2020 at 17:27:19 hrs the Walkerton Station responded to the report of a tree/brush fire in the area of 771 Bruce Road 19. Crews arrived on scene and found a small brush fire on the property. The fire was small and smoldering and due to the location the firefighters allowed the fire to self-extinguish.

Analysis:

The January 4, 2020 at 771 Bruce Road 19 call in was in contravention of By-Law 2017-034 Open Air Burns.

4. Issuance of Permit

4.1 Any person who is actively farming land and who wishes to set or maintain a fire incidental to farm use; or to set a fire such as burning a derelict building or a large brush pile, shall notify the Municipal Office or Chief Fire Official during normal business hours at least 24 hour before setting the fire.

5. Penalty

5.2 Any person who sets or allows a fire to burn and which fire escapes and becomes beyond his or her control, whether or not the said fire is permitted under this by-law, and any person who fails to give notice under Section 4.1 of this by-law, so that the Fire Department is called to the fire, shall be liable for the

expenses of the fire department including personnel, equipment and apparatus costs necessary to investigate, respond and extinguishment of the fire at such rates established from time to time by Council.

The response was invoiced under Schedule J to By-Law 2019-117 – 2020 Fees and Charges Fire Fees. “Fire Response Charges-Contravention to Burn By-Law” – Three (3) apparatus and Twelve (12) firefighters responded to the fire. There is a minimum call-out of one (1) hour per apparatus plus personnel costs.

The owner of the property has asked Council for a reduction in the invoice. The letter is attached to this report.

To summarize, the individual was burning without a permit, and in the evening when all burns would have been prohibited in any event. Staff recommend that there be no reduction in the invoice to avoid setting a precedent and to confirm to all residents the importance of obtaining burn permits.

Sustainability Checklist:

What aspect of the Brockton Sustainable Strategic Plan does the content/recommendations in this report help advance?

- Do the recommendations help move the Municipality closer to its Vision? N/A
- Do the recommendations contribute to achieving Cultural Vibrancy? N/A
- Do the recommendations contribute to achieving Economic Prosperity? N/A
- Do the recommendations contribute to Environmental Integrity? N/A
- Do the recommendations contribute to the Social Equity? N/A

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding:

- Do the recommendations represent a sound financial investment from a sustainability perspective? Yes

Given that the individual did not obtain a permit and was burning in the evening, staff recommend that the invoice not be reduced.

Reviewed By:



Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer

Respectfully Submitted by:



Michael Murphy, Fire Chief

Reviewed By:



Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer