



Staff Report FIRE2020-010

Title of Report: FIRE2020-010- Attending Natural Gas Incident Charge

Department: Fire

Council Date: June 3, 2020

Recommendation:

Be it resolved that Council receive Staff Report FIRE2020-010 for information; and **That** Council direct the Treasurer to bring forward an amendment to the fees and charges By-law No. 2019-186 at the next regular meeting of Council to allow for a fee to be charged when the Fire Department attends avoidable natural gas leak incidents.

Background:

Since June 2018 the Dundalk Fire Department has responded multiple times to a subdivision development in Dundalk for avoidable natural gas leak calls. On each occasion, a contractor has struck the gas line while excavating the property. In total the Fire Department has spent approximately 74.15 staff hours related to these calls plus fuel costs for the trucks attending the scene.

Staff Comments:

A fee would allow for the Fire Department to recover costs associated with responding to avoidable natural gas leak calls. The fee would be set at the current MTO rate plus the firefighter rate per hour. The fee would not be imposed in accidental cases. This will ensure that future offenders are responsible for the costs associated with the Fire Departments response for avoidable incidents. As development continues, primarily in Dundalk, staff predict multiple calls in the future for avoidable situations.

Financial Implications:

There will be a positive financial impact as this will be used as a cost recovery tool.

Communications & Community Action Plan Impact:

This report has been written and presented to Council to communicate accurate information to the public.

Concluding Comments:

That Council direct the Treasurer to bring forward an amendment to the fees and charges by-law to allow for a fee to be charged when the Dundalk Fire Department attends avoidable natural gas leak incidents.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dept. Head: Original Signed By
Derek Malynyk, Fire Chief Official

CAO Approval: Original Signed By
Dave Milliner, CAO