

MAY 3, 1960

A Special meeting of Council was held in the Committee Room, Municipal Hall, 4545 East Grandview-Douglas Highway, on Tuesday, May 3, 1960, at 10:30 a.m.

PRESENT: His Worship, Reeve Emmott in the Chair;  
Councillors Edwards, MacSorley, Harper  
and Jamieson

Also present were Messrs. Coughlin,  
Wilkinson, Hicks, Jones, Buckley, Shaw,  
Blakely, Greensword, McCafferty, Jeboult,  
Menzies, Armson, Stirling, Lake, Fountain,  
and Balfour.

The meeting was called as a part of Civil Defence exercise "Tocsin". The Civil Defence Officer presented a report entitled: "A Review of Events to April 1st, 1960". The Civil Defence Officer reported briefly on parts 1 and 2 of the report and particular reference was made to part 3, entitled: "A review of existing policy" -

" PART III  
A REVIEW OF EXISTING POLICY

1. Prior to the Prime Minister of Canada stating that the Federal Government did not favour a policy for the evacuation of the Target Cities of Canada, Civil Defence planning was comparatively simple because of the following reasons:
  - (a) It was assumed that a Strategic Warning would be received from the Federal Government which would indicate that a World War was imminent. This warning would provide a period of 10 to 14 hours before an attack could be expected.
  - (b) The emergency powers of the Civil Defence Act would be proclaimed.
  - (c) The Prime Minister, Premiers, Mayors and Reeves would recommend (via Radio broadcasts) that the people move from the Target Areas.
2. The Warning System will now be as follows:
  - (a) The "Alert" signal means that an enemy attack is probable in as little as two hours. Listen to your radio for further instructions.
  - (b) The "Take Cover" signal means that an attack is imminent - take the best shelter immediately available.
  - (c) The "Radiation Fallout Warning" is the same signal as for the "Alert". Specific instructions will be announced over the radio stations.

NOTES:

- (1) We should be reminded that it is extremely doubtful that we will have any advance warning prior to the sounding of the sirens.
- (2) We should also be cognisant of the fact that the Army is responsible for issuing the various warnings but it is the responsibility of the civic government authorities to take action for the welfare of the people.

(3) In the event of a Civil Defence warning being sounded on the sirens:

(a) Will each Mayor/Reeve in the Target Area broadcast instructions to the people?

or

(b) Will there be one spokesman for the whole Target Area?

4. At the present time the Council and their families, and certain Officials and their families, are expected to report to the Emergency Headquarters in Clearbrook when the "Civil Defence Alert" is sounded:

(a) Should we continue this policy?

or

(b) Should only a part of the Council report to the Emergency Headquarters?

or

(c) Should we prepare a suitable shelter on a Municipal basis?

or

(d) Should there be a suitable shelter provided for the whole Target Area Headquarters similar to the facilities of the City of Portland.

5. To have an effective plan for the continuity of Government it is necessary to provide for automatic lines of succession.

(a) What should the automatic lines of succession be in Burnaby?

(b) Does the Municipal Act provide the necessary legislation?

6. Plans now exist for the evacuation of the Burnaby General Hospital by railroad to the Interior. Should the policy be continued?

7. Present plans require the Burnaby schools to close on receipt of the C.D. "Alert". Should this policy be continued?

8. Present traffic control plans would prohibit the entry of vehicles to the Target Area after an alert had been received. The plans also provide for the institution of a one-way traffic in the Target Area during an emergency, which would direct all traffic out of the area. Should this policy be continued?

9. The change of the Federal Government policy from evacuation to "stay put", requires a lot of clarification, and in addition to the problems referred to above the following points need clarification:

(a) Should we be supporting a shelter programme?

(b) What is expected of the Civil Defence Officers after the warnings are received?

(c) Should we continue to advise our employees to get out of the area and be available for service in other parts of the Province?

or

(d) Should we require them to remain at their jobs unless they are assigned specific Civil Defence duties?

(e) What plans should we now be encouraging industrial and commercial organizations to prepare?

Part III was considered item by item by the Council and it was the general consensus of opinion after discussion that there should be more organization at the Municipal level.

In the interests of continuity of government at that level.

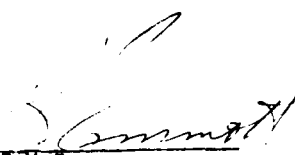
MOVED BY COUNCILLOR EDWARDS,  
SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR MACSORLEY:

"That His Worship the Reeve be authorized to call a meeting of all Reeves and Mayors of the immediate area to discuss what action should be taken in the interests of co-ordinating warnings and government continuity at the Municipal level."

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Confirmed:

  
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REEVE

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CLERK