

Municipality of the County of Cumberland

Council Resolution regarding the discharge of Jerrold Cotton and Andrea Bishop and related matters

February 26, 2025

Whereas, paragraphs 18 and 19 of the By-law to Establish and Regulate Fire Departments in the Municipality of the County of Cumberland set out a Code of Conduct for all Members of a Fire Department and the authority to discipline those who breach the code, and

Whereas, subparagraph 18(c) states that a member shall “Not engage in any activity while on duty, that can reasonably be expected to tarnish, impair or otherwise negatively impact the reputation of the fire service in the Municipality, and

Whereas, paragraph 19 states, in part, that “In the case of a Fire Chief who has breached the Code of Conduct or who fails to fulfill the duties of their office, disciplinary action, up to and including discharge, shall be by Council upon the recommendation of the Director of Protective Services and the CAO”, and

Whereas, Jerrold Cotton and Andrea Bishop were, at various times throughout the period from February 21, 2025 to February 24, 2025 Chief and Acting Chief of the Collingwood & District Volunteer Fire Department, and

Whereas, Council has received a report and recommendations from the Director of Protective Services and the CAO on the actions of Cotton and Bishop during the period from February 21, 2025 to February 24, 2025, concluding that both Cotton's and Bishop's actions breached paragraph 18(c) of the bylaw and recommending that both Cotton and Bishop be discharged as Chief of the Collingwood & District Fire Department in accordance with paragraph 19 of the bylaw,

Therefore, be it resolved that Jerrold Cotton, having acted contrary to section 18(c) of the By-Law to Establish and Regulate Fire Departments in the Municipality of the County of Cumberland 23-03 is hereby discharged from the position of Fire Chief for the Collingwood and District Volunteer Fire Department pursuant to Section 19 of the By-Law, and

Be it further resolved that Andrea Bishop, having acted contrary to section 18(c) of the By-Law to Establish and Regulate Fire Departments in the Municipality of the County of Cumberland 23-03 is hereby discharged from the position of Fire Chief for the Collingwood and District Volunteer Fire Department pursuant to Section 19 of the By-Law, and

Be it further resolved that staff be directed to recover all municipally owned property from Jerrold Cotton and Andrea Bishop, and

Be it further resolved that staff be directed to, as soon as safely and practicably possible, change the locks at the Collingwood & District Fire Department, ensuring that the new Chief has access for distribution as appropriate, and

Be it further resolved that Jerrold Cotton and Andrea Bishop be notified that they are required to remove all signage from any personal motor vehicles that allude to the Collingwood & District Fire Department, and

Be it further resolved that Jerrold Cotton and Andrea Bishop be barred and excluded from entering the property at 59 Wentworth Collingwood Road, Collingwood, Nova Scotia known as the Collingwood & District Volunteer Fire Department on an indefinite basis and that notices under the Protection of Property Act in relation to these premises be prepared and served on Jerrod Cotton and Andrea Bishop, and

Be it further resolved that staff be directed to arrange for an independent external review of the response of the Collingwood & District Volunteer Fire Department to the call for assistance at a snowmobile accident near Poison Lake Cumberland County on February 21, 2025.