

**Series 74 - Fort William Fire, Water & Light Committee Minutes Fort William Fonds**

1903-1965

32 cm. of textual records ( 12 v.)

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A Committee of Council known as the Fire, Water and Light Committee was in existence just after the Fire at City Hall in Fort William. The earliest remaining minutes begin on April 20th, 1903.

A procedural By-law (#709) passed in July 1909. This by-law identified the duties of the Fire, Water and Light Committee. The Committee was responsible for reporting to Council on lighting issues in the city such as the placement of poles and lamps, as well as the placement of hydrants, the supply of water and the watering of streets. The bulk of the Committee's time, however, revolved around the management of fire protection services through the Fire Brigade and the Fire Department. Specifically, the committee was required:

to manage and report on the organization, equipment and maintenance of the Fire Brigade and the maintenance of the Fire Department; to manage Fire Department accounts and oversee the tendering process for the purchase of fire equipment; to submit names of officers of the Fire Brigade to Council; and to manage and report to Council on matters relating to the establishment of fire limits and building inspections relating to fire regulations.

This five-member committee of Council included the mayor, and met monthly prior to the first monthly meeting of Council. As in the case of other standing committees of council, appointments to the Fire, Water and Light Committee were made as required during the inaugural meeting of Council each year.

Despite the fact that minutes conclude in December of 1959, appointments to the Committee are referenced in the inaugural Council Minutes between 1960 and 1962 when a change of name was recorded. Thereafter known as the Fire and Light Committee, Council reasoned that the Works Committee effectively directed all matters relating to water service. In 1963 all appointments made in 1962 were held for another year and in 1964, direction of Fire services was assigned to the newly formed Fire, License, Traffic and Safety Committee. This new committee combined the functions of the former License Traffic and Safety Committee with the responsibility for fire services formerly held by the Fire and Light Committee. Minutes for the Fire License, Traffic and Safety Committee are scarce, but are included in Series 72. They conclude in June of 1964.

This series consists of eight volumes ranging from 1903 to 1966. Includes indices (Four volumes dating between 1943 and 1967). See also minutes for the Board of Commissioners – Water, Telephone, and Light.

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Further accruals are not anticipated.