

Councillors will address issue Nov. 25

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That response time now averages at eight minutes, 43 seconds.

"There is no doubt that full-time personnel responding immediately is saving minutes and reducing response time. However, the fire marshal pointed out that this is placing only five full-time crew on scene within the 10 minute requirement," says a staff report.

"It is staff's opinion that the only way to accommodate the requirements on a consistent basis is to hire full-time personnel. This would require hiring a further 20 firefighters, which has a monetary issue attached (approximate starting costs would be \$833,504 plus any required capital costs)."

Milton's Fire Master Plan (approved in 1998) addresses the hiring of additional firefighters over the next three years, placing full-time firefighters at all stations around the clock. Under the plan, Milton will hire 10 new full-time firefighters in 2004 and 10 more in 2005.

In addressing the OFM's response time concerns, consideration was also given to allowing part-time firefighters to carry the necessary equipment in their vehicles, again reducing response times.

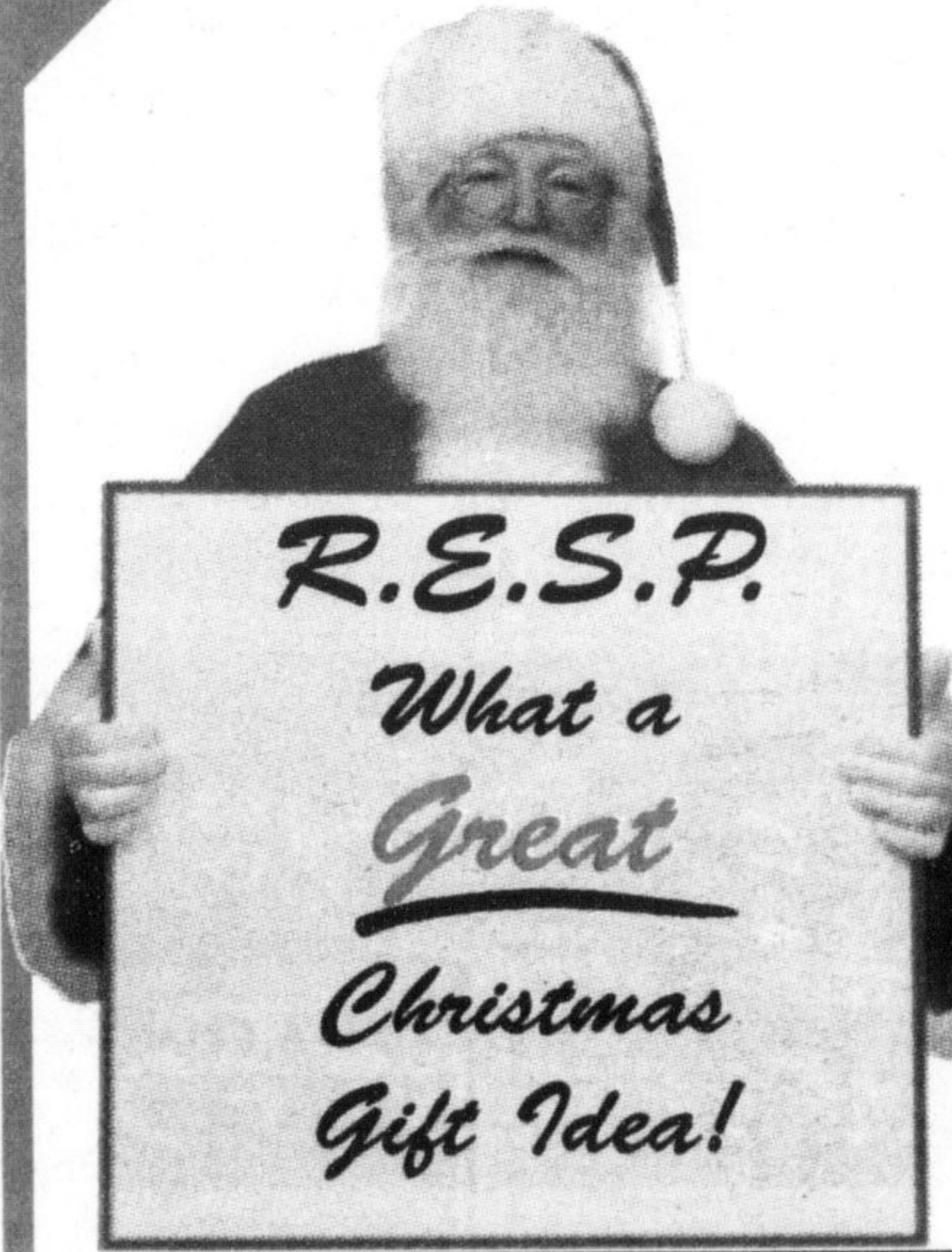
However, because of previous problems with doing so, that idea was dismissed, said Chief Penson. "We did that a few years ago and nobody went to get the truck. We had to send somebody to go get it."

Town council has yet to formally address the issue, but is scheduled to do so November 25.

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