



105 Lower Ganges Rd
Salt Spring Island, BC
V8K 2T1

Emergency: 911
Office: 250-537-2531
Fax: 250-537-2507
Web: www.saltspringfire.com

file: letters patent

*Board Trustees
20 February 2017*

*Correspondence Regarding
Amendment to letters patent
2017 02 09
(Re employees services
Trustees)*

9 February 2017

Ms. Tara Faganello
Assistant Deputy Minister
Local Government Division,
Ministry of Community, Sport, and Cultural Development
PO Box 9490 Stn. Prov. Govt.
Victoria,
BC V8W 9N7

Dear Ms. Faganello

Petition to Amend Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District Letters Patent
& Petition requesting amendments to Local Government Act
Arising from election of an employee as a trustee of the Salt Spring Island
Fire Protection District

Further to your email of January 18, 2017 regarding the election of an employee as a trustee of the improvement district. At the February 2, 2017 meeting of the Board, trustees considered your advice and legal opinions from counsel and believe that for an employee to serve as a trustee puts the employee and District in an almost untenable position because of issues that may arise because of a real or perceived conflict of interest. At the meeting trustees considered and passed the following motion:

Motion that the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District request the Lieutenant Governor in Council amend the Letters Patent by inserting in Section 11 after the sentence "Every person qualified as aforesaid vote shall be qualified to be a candidate for Trustee of the improvement district..." the following text: "... save and except for an employee or salaried officer of the improvement district, who is disqualified from being nominated for, being elected or holding office with the improvement district so long as he or she remains an employee".

The trustees of the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District request the Lieutenant Governor in Council amend the Letters Patent disqualifying an employee from being nominated, elected or being a trustee of the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District.

In view of the potential conflict of interest for an employee of any improvement district to serve as a trustee, at the same meeting trustees considered and passed a further motion that says:

Motion that the trustees of the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District request the Lieutenant Governor consider and pass such amendments as may be necessary to the Local Government Act to make Section 82 of the Local Government Act, "Disqualification of local government employees", of application to sit on governing body of said improvement districts.

The trustees of the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District request that the Lieutenant Governor consider and pass the necessary amendments to the Local Government Act to disqualify an employee from serving as a trustee of an improvement district.

Employees being able to serve as trustees is a matter of concern to Board members and many of our electorate. We would respectfully request that receipt of the petition be acknowledged and dealt with expeditiously as we do not want to have the problem compounded in the upcoming election which will be held on April 22, 2017.

Yours truly,



Mitch Forest
Chair, Board of Trustees
Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District



Andrew D. Peat
Corporate Administrator
Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District