

Minutes of the “Town Hall” Meeting of the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District

Meeting held: **15 June 2015**

Lower Hall, Ganges United Church

In attendance: Trustees: Linda Lee (Chair), Mitch Forest, Michael Garside, Derek Hill, Norbert Schlenker, Michele Severn

Regrets: Michael Schubart

Staff Members: Chief Tom Bremner, SSIFFA Lieutenant Eric Taylor, Corporate Administration Officer (CAO) Andrew Peat

23 residents

The “town hall” meeting was called to order by Chair Lee at 7:00pm.

Chair Lee began the meeting by saying that trustees will be making no decisions this evening regarding “Fire Service Level Policy” as the board is staff gathering information and listening to the public.

A question was asked concerning the cost of the “Training in Paradise” (TIP) weekend hosted by the District. Chief Bremner commented that TIP is not a separate budget line but including in “Training Expense” and in addition to the direct costs of hosting the event, expenses include registration fees payable to the Justice Institute of BC (JI) and wages to POC/Career members while attending courses. Chief advised that TIP allows POC/Career members to schedule training courses in advance and the District avoids travel/accommodation expenses otherwise payable if members had to go off island. In response to a further question Chief Bremner advises that the District does not bill the Justice Institute for the cost of facilities and only receives a per diem for the cost of meals. Assistant Chief (AC) Jamie Holmes commented that by sponsoring the event the registration fee is waived for one member to attend each course offered. Chief Bremner commented that we are not training others at our expense but by partnering both the JI and the District benefit.

A question was asked as to whether trustees were considering assigning the evening/nights Duty Vehicle to excluded staff. Chair Lee advised that the matter had not yet been discussed by trustees.

Regarding proposed Open-burning Bylaw No. 125, a question was asked about the need for regulating machine piles (class 3 fires) and how many callouts there have been in the past. Chief Bremner was asked to review callouts from prior years and reply to Ron Smith. Trustee Schlenker asked that Chief Bremner’s reply also be circulated to trustees.

As has been allowed in the past, permission was asked for a family member to be allowed to cut and bale the hay on the District’s Brinkworthy property. Chair Lee asked that the request be formally made through CAO Peat who would investigate.

A question was asked whether other volunteer fire departments have training facilities such as the District has at the Fulford Fire Hall and where and how they do training. Chief Bremner responded that Nanaimo and Otter Point both have training facilities and smaller Districts/Fire Services partner with other departments to use their facilities. AC Holmes commented that prior to having the Fulford training grounds, the District relied on the co-operation and forbearance of property owners in Ganges. AC Holmes further commented that the Fulford training grounds are primarily utilized by POC/Career members for Tuesday night drill to develop and maintain their core competencies.

There being no further question from the floor, the “town hall” meeting was adjourned by Chair Lee at 7:19pm

Linda Lee
Chair Board of Trustees

Andrew Peat
Corporate Administrator