

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

Meeting held: **11 May 2015**

In attendance: Trustees: Linda Lee (Chair), Mitch Forest, Michael Garside, Derek Hill, Norbert Schlenker, Michael Schubart, Michele Severn
Staff Members: Chief Tom Bremner, SSIFFA Lieutenant Eric Taylor, Corporate Administration Officer (CAO) Andrew Peat
22 residents

Called to Order: 7:00pm

At the beginning of the meeting Chair Lee welcomed and thanked those present for taking the time to attend and for their continuing interest in the Fire Service. Chair Lee again invited questions and comments from the community which are welcome and needed by the board to assist them in their deliberations. Chair Lee advised that minutes will be taken so that what was discussed at ‘town hall’ meetings could be part of the public record.

A question was asked concerning what constitutes a quorum at board and committee meetings. Chair Lee responded that for board meetings a majority of trustees (four) must be present in order that business may be conducted. CAO Peat replied that for all committees a majority of members appointed to that committee must be present in order that business may be conducted. Chair Lee also commented that four trustees meeting with Chief Bremner would not constitute a meeting of the board as the District’s meeting bylaw (Bylaw No. 119 Meeting Procedures Bylaw 2012) has requirements regarding notice of a meeting and providing an agenda of the business to be conducted.

A question was asked concerning the proposed Open-burning Bylaw No. 125. Specifically there is a section on cost recovery and it was questioned whether an improvement district has the power to do so. Chair Lee responded that at tonight’s meeting trustees will only give first reading of proposed Bylaw No.125. After the bylaw has been introduced trustees will likely convene a special meeting of the board to receive further public input and then deal with the bylaw in detail.

A question was asked concerning the quarterly financial operating statements. CAO Peat replied that in preparing the report he has not had an opportunity to review the information in any detail and could not comment as to why the budget numbers for the first quarter were not 25% of the annual budget as might be expected. He advised that quarterly statements are normally received by the board and reviewed in detail by the Finance Committee. CAO Peat said that prior to the committee’s review he would satisfy himself that budget figures reflect a realistic expectation of expenses for the quarter.

The Board was thanked for making available the meeting agenda and materials on the website.

There being no further questions from the floor, the “town hall” meeting was adjourned by Chair Lee at 7:10pm.

Linda Lee
Chair Board of Trustees

Andrew Peat
Corporate Administrator

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