

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

Meeting held: **21 September 2015**
Lower Hall, Ganges United Church

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

Regrets: Michele Severn

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

Public: 24

The “town hall” meeting was called to order by Chair Lee at 7:00pm who welcomed those attending and invited their questions and comments.

Members of the public thanked Chief Bremner and staff for the presentation 17 September 2015 at the Gospel Chapel on Fire Service Level Policy.

Questions were asked concerning the assignment the standby-duty shift to excluded staff. Chair Lee reported that a grievance was filed by Local 4467 of the International Association of Firefighters on this matter. Chair Lee further advised that trustees did not wish to proceed to arbitration and that advice of general counsel was sought and legal costs were incurred. In response to a request that the Finance Committee report to the Board on monies saved and costs incurred on this matter, Chair Lee commented that some of the information requested may be confidential and the request should be made in writing so that advice from the Human Resources Committee can be obtained.

In response to a request to allow public comment or questions during the regular meetings of the Board of Trustees, Chair Lee advised that meeting materials are available in advance of meetings and that the town hall session would be the normal venue where trustees would hear public input on matters before the board. Chair Lee further commented that it would not be appropriate to have public interjections during the regular meeting of the board as at that time, trustees are speaking to each other so that decisions can be made. Chair Lee also commented that the public does not have to “wait one month” to ask questions as trustees can always be contacted by email.

In response to a question concerning appointments to the Occupational Health & Safety Committee, Chair Lee advised that the matter will be addressed during the regular meeting of the board.

There being no further questions from the floor, the “town hall” meeting was adjourned by Chair Lee at 7:11pm

Linda Lee
Chair Board of Trustees

Andrew Peat
Corporate Administrator

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