

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

Meeting held: **February 15, 2016**

Lower Hall, Ganges United Church

In attendance:

Trustees: Chair Linda Lee, Howard Baker, Michael Craig, Mitch Forest, Andy Hildebrand, Derek Hill, Norbert Schlenker

Staff Members: Acting Chief Arjuna George, SSIFA President Peter Address

Regrets: Corporate Administrator and Financial Officer Andrew Peat

Recording Secretary: Sarah Shugar

Others: 19 members of the public, Driftwood Reporter

Chair Lee called the “Town hall” meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. She welcomed those in attendance and called for questions and comments.

One member of the public addressed the following to Trustees:

(1) What was the cost of the Live Fire Structure Training that was held on February 6, 2016 and would the District provide an accounting report for the training? He acknowledged the costs that homeowners incur to have a structure demolished and expressed concern regarding the cost savings for the homeowner. Chair Lee advised the accounting for the training would be reported in the training budget and there is an application process for homeowners to apply for the program. (2) He noted the venting days during the training were rated “poor” and asked if the District is exempt from Ministry of Environment Venting Index regulations? Acting Chief George reported the training was scheduled to accommodate firefighter availability and fire structure training is exempt from venting regulations although measures were taken to eliminate toxic materials including removal of asphalt shingles and burning “very hot”. He added that there were six training scenarios and the final burn during the training exercise. (3) Will the program be continued? Acting Chief George advised the program would be continued based on structure suitability, environmental regulations and Trustee approval and added there have been no suitable opportunities for the training. Assistant Chief Holmes reported there was a live fire structure training approximately five years ago and the other homes that were assessed were deemed to not be suitable for the program.

One member of the public asked (1) Has the District received an opinion from the Capital Regional District (CRD) regarding the costs and requirements for the sewer installation at the Brinkworthy property? Trustee Forest reported the District is responsible for costs to the property line. Trustee Hill will provide the CRD requirements regarding the sewer installation to the member of the public.

One member of the public asked if there would be public process regarding the Fire Service Level Policy item on the agenda? Chair Lee advised there is a recommendation from a Committee regarding the item and does anticipate that there will be further steps.

There being no further questions from the floor, Chair Lee adjourned the “town hall” meeting at 7:14 p.m.

Linda Lee
Chair Board of Trustees

Andrew Peat
Corporate Administrator

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