

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

Meeting held: **March 21, 2016**

Lower Hall, Ganges United Church

In attendance:

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

Staff Members: Acting Chief Arjuna George, SSIFA President Peter Andress, Corporate Administrator and Financial Officer Andrew Peat

Others: 12 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 (1) acknowledged the Trustees for their volunteer time and service to the community and (2) expressed concern regarding agenda item 4.1 – correspondence received regarding the use of the SSI Rod and Gun Club property for training purposes and asked that the item be tabled to allow time for further information to be submitted. Chair Lee advised the District does not train at the SSI Rod and Gun Club property although there may be opportunity to do so in the future for “repelling” training.

One member of the public (1) acknowledged the Trustees for their work to create the committee structure as recommended by the consultant to provide greater clarity and transparency to the community; (2) expressed concern that the committee structure has turned into a system of silos; (3) expressed concern regarding in camera meetings and (4) asked if there should be a policy regarding when and under what circumstances is an in camera meeting required? Chair Lee advised that all discussions regarding union grievances and/or negotiations, human resource matters and legal matters are required to be held in closed session as per the Local Government Act. The member of the public (5) expressed concern regarding the late notice cancellation of a Strategic Planning and Policy Development Committee meeting; (6) that the “Town Hall” session is at the beginning of the meeting agenda and (7) asked if there could be opportunity for comment following the business meeting? Chair Lee welcomed members of the public to submit questions that arise during a regular business meeting to the Chair by email. The meeting format includes a “town hall” session at the beginning of the meeting to allow for public input prior to consideration of the business items.

One member of the public (1) asked for clarification regarding the number of fire incidents indicated on the map in the Fire Chief’s report; (2) suggested to include only actual fires on the map and indicate the false alarm calls with a different icon (3) asked for clarification regarding the “additional fire safety concerns regarding hoarding” and whether this is a priority action item. Acting Chief George advised that hoarding is a safety concern and the District has responded to a call of assistance from Island Health to

develop a plan to address the issue. Chair Lee asked the member of the public to send questions and comments to Acting Chief George.

One member of the public asked for a status update regarding the “annual review of the operational guidelines” identified in the Fire Chief’s Report and noted the “response time mapping” requirement. Acting Chief George advised he will be presenting a full report at the Annual General Meeting and noted the Operational Guidelines are reviewed annually. Chair Lee has forwarded comments regarding response time mapping to Acting Chief George to address in the strategic planning process.

There being no further questions from the floor, Chair Lee adjourned the “town hall” meeting at 7:24 p.m.

Linda Lee
Chair Board of Trustees

Andrew Peat
Corporate Administrator

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