

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

Meeting held: **September 19, 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, SSIFFA Lieutenant Peter Address

Recording Secretary: Sarah Shugar

Others Present: 7 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.

A member of the public expressed concern regarding whether the District would choose to downgrade the fire service level and how the decision would affect the playbook and other associated consequences. There was a question regarding how the Board of Trustees would report on personnel matters. Chair Lee advised that member compensation in excess of \$75,000 per annum is reported annually and most matters dealing with personnel are not discussed in a public meeting. A Freedom of Information request can be made and if the answer is unsatisfactory an appeal can be made to the Office of Information and Privacy Commissioner. Trustee Schlenker commented that the District’s financial reporting is all public information.

A member of the public expressed concern regarding the Request For Proposal for Seismic Review of Hall No’s 2 and 3 and asked why the District would spend the funds prior to the Master Fire Plan. There was a question regarding the recent Freedom of Information (FOI) request that was received from the Driftwood newspaper. Chair Lee advised that the request has been acknowledged and the requested material is being compiled.

A member of the public asked for clarification regarding the proposed “Public Members on Board Committees” policy and why there is no specific mechanism mentioned to invite applications from members of the public. Chair Lee responded that how applications are solicited would be at the discretion of the Board and/or staff. In the past applications have been solicited at meetings, in the Driftwood newspaper, and on the District website. The member of the public commented that in looking at the financial reporting for wages, actual expense was below budget for most of 2016 until June when it was approximately \$110,000 more than it had been previously. Trustee Schlenker advised there were three pay periods in June and each payroll is approximately \$80,000.

Assistant Chief Jaime Holmes asked if there was a change in policy for correspondence received by the Board of Trustees. There were some items that were not posted on the website. Chair Lee responded that correspondence items will be posted on the website by September 21, 2016.

There being no further questions from the floor, Chair Lee adjourned the “town hall” meeting at 7:13 p.m.

Linda Lee
Chair Board of Trustees

Andrew Peat
Corporate Administrator

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