

**GABRIOLA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
GENERAL MEETING - October 04, 2023**

A General Meeting of the Gabriola Fire Protection District was held October 04, 2023 with five Trustees and the Fire Chief in attendance.

Attendees: Paul Giffin (Chair), Erik Johnson, Diana Moher, John Moeller, Kent Moen, Will Sprogis (Fire Chief)

Regrets: Chris Windess and Charleen Wells

At 4:52 p.m. Chris Windess joined via Zoom.

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m. by Chairperson Paul Giffin

Kent Moen gave the opening greeting, "The GFPID acknowledges that we are gathering within the traditional lands of the Snuneymuxw Nation"

The Corporate Officer was attending a workshop in Nanaimo on FOI's and was absent. Trustee Moher took minutes.

Kent Moen motioned to accept minutes from September 06, 2023. John Moeller seconded. Carried

Correspondence: N/A

Financial Report: N/A

Communications Committee: Will call a meeting to look at streamlining media responses and questions; incoming and outgoing.

Planning Committee: N/A

Finance Committee: N/A

Business Email Committee: N/A

Fire Chief Report:

Calls for the month: 47

False Alarms – 1

Brush Fire – 1

Burn Complaints – 13

First Responder – 27

Hydro Related – 1

Other – 4

FireSmart update. Collaborating with GALTT to host another vegetation drop off weekend at the Degnen Pit.

I have Oliver Bussler working on the UMBC grant application, we will be applying for new auto extrication equipment.

I have been working with the Fire Safety Net to produce fire safety resources to be distributed to the children of Gabriola during fire safety week October 8-14. I would like to thank the business sponsors that support this initiative; Nesters Market, Surf Lodge & Pub, Nature Spirit Earth Market, Velsen Homes, Gabriola Historical & Museum, Silva Bay Resort & Marina, Arbutus Home Building Centre, Woodfire Restaurant & Catering, Gabriola Optical and Island Meat & Deli. The fire department will be at Gabriola Elementary on October 11 distributing and teaching fire safety. Please remember to change out smoke detector batteries and test twice a year and check to make sure your fire extinguisher is ready for use. Mass Casualty Incident Training is happening October 22 along South Rd. The plan is to practice with the emergency services of Gabriola Island. The stakeholders involved in the event are Gabriola Fire, RCMP, BC Ambulance, Gabriola Doctors, RDN, RDN Emergency Support Services, GERTIE, CERA, PALs and Gabriola Fellowship Church.

7 New Candidates and one longtime member coming back on the Department bringing us back up to 40 members. They did their new firefighter orientation last night.

Recruits wrote their first NFPA 1001 Exam and have completed 6 Chapters of practical. The class is progressing nicely.

Training Schedule

Oct. 3 MCI

Oct. 10 Build Construction

Oct. 17 Ladders

Oct. 24 SCBA/RIT

Oct. SOP/OG's

Association: Planning annual Toy Drive. Fireworks on the 28th, Ferry lines with boots.

Old Business:

Deputy Chief: On the table 12 months plus - moving forward.

Accountants Position: Movement on this position.

New Business:

Fire Protection Taxation Bylaw 2024:

Trustee Moeller went through the draft budget line by line, some of the following points were made:

Deputy Position - Old jobs eliminated which will pay for the deputy position, the deputy will cover those old jobs.

Insurance - Building, vehicles, equipment and members.

Firefighting equipment etc. - Price of equipment has doubled. In addition there are new recruits, plus station and wildfire uniforms.

Professional Fees - Annual audit, H.R. and Legal costs. ie. FOI, HR matters, Legal

EMR/FR Training - \$16,000.00 trains 5 members. GVFD has 2 trainers which means GVFD can offer training to other Fire Departments. This should help reduce training costs in the future.

Annual Capital - Items purchased that last longer than 1 year.

Capital Reserve Fund increased by \$40,000.00. This fund is for the purchase of trucks and maintaining both fire hall buildings.

Debt is maturing this year, which will decrease budget items by about \$30,000.00.

Question from the public, Cost of Deputy Chief?

It was advised the salary is from amalgamating parts of other line items. Such as prevention, training, duty officer and on-call.

First reading of Bylaw 103 - Erik Johnson motioned to pass Bylaw103 - Fire Protection Taxation Bylaw2024. Ken seconded. Carried.

Second reading of Bylaw103 - Diana Moher motioned to pass Bylaw103 - Fire Protection Taxation Bylaw2024. John Moeller seconded. Carried.

Late Items:

Chairperson Giffin apologized as the report by John Moeller should have been presented in the Financial Committee and Chairperson Giffin entered it as a late item.

John Moeller brought forward results of talking to the Credit Union and TD re: interest rates. TD's interest rates were higher.

John Moeller motioned to move the financial institution to Toronto Dominion from the Credit Union, maintaining the same structure, for the purposes of investment. Erik Johnson seconded. Carried.

The Credit Union account will remain open as well.

Erik Johnson motioned to adjourn. John Moeller seconded. Carried.

Adjournment 5:08 p.m.

Minutes approved at the November 01, 2023 General Trustee Meeting