

**GABRIOLA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
GENERAL MEETING**

A General Meeting of the Gabriola Fire Protection District was held Thursday, November 5, 2020 at the No. 1 Fire Hall with seven Trustees in attendance. The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m. by Chairperson Sandra Rudischer.

Chairperson Rudischer asked for errors or omissions from the minutes of September 30, 2020 General Meeting?

Penelope Bahr said she had used “could” rather than “should” on page 3 under Budget.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Thetis Island (will be discussed under Old Business)

FIRE CHIEF REPORT: (As per written report)

C Sean Lewis asked what the Hazmat responses were - propane leaks.

D Diana Moher asked when would the Fire Department evacuate? The Chief stated that as these were only small leaks it is easier to control the scene when people stay in place.

TRAINING OFFICER REPORT: (As per written report)

C Penelope Bahr asked why the Fire Chief’s Association would contest the F.R.s being sent down to Victoria for testing? The Training Officer replied the cost, there is travel time, fuel, paying the FF’s, rather than continue doing the testing in-house.

D Diana Moher asked if someone were interested in joining what do they do?
1. They should download the application and drop it off at the Office.

E Sean Lewis enquired about the 8 new members? The Training Officer explained that they are existing members, just the newest.

ASSOCIATION REPORT:

C Trying to figure out Christmas, i.e. party and toy drive. The Food and Toy drive will definitely be happening.

D Halloween turned out fantastic, great fun for the kids and lots of compliments from the attendees.

E A huge thank you to Chris Manning and his wife for being instrumental in arranging this.

OLD BUSINESS:

AGM:

C No nominations received from email, phone, or in-person by the deadline of October 23.

D AGM date - December 2 at 7:00 p.m.

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C The Chair, Sandra Rudischer, mentioned that she had received a call from Keith Rush, the Chair of the Thetis Island Improvement District, and they had discussed the AGM and how we are handling our meetings, he also sent a copy of their advertisement for the AGM.

As there were no nominations received the standing Trustees will be acclaimed.

50 person limit and confirm by RSVP.

Should send out an email for the people coming and include a Co-Vid declaration to be returned the day of the AGM along with contact tracing information.

Remind people to dress for the weather as it is being held inside the Bay with the doors open.

No walk ins.

Should hire a Returning Officer for the election portion of the meeting, even though it will just be an acclamation.

Acknowledgment:

C Paul Giffin brought up a point of order noting that this subject had already been discussed and a decision made.

D The Chair noted that there had been a motion passed that the topic would be put on this meetings agenda.

E The Chair also noted that even though there was a Point of Order on this topic that the Chair has decided to allow the discussion to continue (she explained the rules behind this decision.)

F The Chair asked for votes to allow this topic to be discussed, topic passed with four Trustees agreeing.

A lengthy discussion ensued with the following topics being brought up:

C Has a political spin to it.

D Spent hours on the phone to the local and provincial government to find out how this acknowledgment got started, no one knows.

E The GFPID's role is overseeing the fire department not political, can re-visit this when the Federal and Provincial governments have made a decision.

F Have First Nation friends who say this acknowledgment makes the people saying it feel better, not the First Nations.

G Have served the country for 41 years on all three coasts, this is not meant to be disrespectful, just don't believe the District should be going there.

H This land has been occupied by humans for a long time.

I This is not taking anything away from the Fire Department it's a sign of respect.

J Not taking sides.

K A lot of organizations do this.

Penelope Bahr moved that the Gabriola Fire Protection Improvement District open all their meetings with "The GFPID acknowledges that we are gathering within the traditional lands of the Snuneymuxw Nation", seconded by Sean Lewis, carried.

Mark Noyan moved that the meeting be adjourned, seconded by John Moeller, carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.