

Gabriola Fire Protection Improvement District
General Meeting, 4:00pm
June 5, 2024
730 Church Street
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

TRUSTEES PRESENT: Chairperson Giffin
Trustee Moher
Trustee Johnson
Trustee Appel
Trustee Moen

REGRETS: Trustee Moeller
Trustee Wells

STAFF: Acting Fire Chief Goodall
Corporate Officer Dow

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: Trustee Moher

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Giffin, 4:02pm

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: Trustee Johnson motioned to accept May 1, 2024, minutes. Trustee Moen seconded, CARRIED. **MOTION #24-G40.**

CORRESPONDENCE: Corporate Officer reports none.

REPORTS:

FINANCIAL REPORT: Chairperson Giffin reports on First Quarterly (1Q) Financial Statements in Trustee Moeller’s absence. Trustee Moher motioned to accept 1Q Financial Statements. Trustee Appel seconded, CARRIED. **MOTION #24-G41.**

COMMITTEES:

COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE: Trustee Moher provides thoughts on a new communication policy and possibly hiring a new communication officer.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: was not presented because Trustee Moeller was absence.

WEBSITE COMMITTEE: was not presented because Trustee Moeller was absence.

LONG-RANGE PLAN COMMITTEE: was not presented because Trustee Wells was absence.

FIRE CHIEF’S REPORT:

The current Wildfire Fire Danger Rating as of 5Jun24 is Low. Forecast to change to Moderate tomorrow.

Incident Report 2024

Incidents by Type	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Burn Compliant		2	2	4	7							
Hydro	2	1	1									
Explosives												
Chimney Fire				2								
Boat												
Vehicle					1							
Airplane												

HazMat												
Brush Fire					3							
Structure Fire												
Miscellaneous Fire*	1	1	1		2							
Alarm(s)	3	3	3	1	2							
Assistance*	7	1	5	1	4							
Motor Vehicle Incident	3	1	1		1							
Rescue												
Medical/First Responder	42	30	25	20	31							
Total Calls:	58	39	38	28	51							

*Assistance refers to helping B.C. ambulance, the public, hydro lines, RCMP, gas spills, etc.

*Miscellaneous fire are fires of known causes that cannot properly be classified into the eight standard causes of fire.

Training Report:	
May 7 2024	FR/EMR Life Safe/Fire Safety
May 14 2024	Engine Boss Refresher Wildland WWPP – 1 Refresher
May 15 2024	Deployment Training
May 21 2024	PreFire Plan Water Supply
May 28 2024	Wildfire Scenario

Additional Notes:

May Operations:

We had a very successful FireSmart/Open House on May 11th with members of the public enjoying a number of activities throughout the day as well as a chance to meet members of the fire department and other agencies such as RCMP, BCEHS, ESS, Growls. We are preparing for Wildfire Season not just on Gabriola but across British Columbia. Our membership and equipment are ready for the challenges that wildfire season brings! We have also seen a significant increase in First Responder calls in May, we strongly believe this trend will continue.

The Gabriola Chief was invited to attend an RDN council meeting last month. One item that was discussed was for RDN to distribute further FireSmart funding to GVFD as not all departments in our electoral area have an active FireSmart program. These funds would allow additional home assessments and more market presence and awareness.

The garbage truck fire on May 30 was likely caused by disposal of combustible materials, possibly lithium batteries. Please ensure that such items are correctly disposed of or recycled.

Prevention:

The Coastal Region of B.C. Wildfire Service has banned barrel burning in our region. The only fires permitted on Gabriola right now are small campfires (0.5/0.5/0.5 meter). The GVFD annual Brush Fire event will be on June 15 and 16 from 8am to 12pm on both days. The location is near Fire Hall 2 at the Degnen Pit. FireSmart Coordinator Carol Waldo will have crew managing the flow of traffic into the pit. In addition, we assisted B.C. Wildfire Service with some maintenance of fire access roads that run through the 707 park on May 28 & 29.

Training Report for May:

- 1) We are primarily practicing and preparing for Wildfire season. The membership attendance has exceeded expectations as almost every member is attending each week. On May 28 from 6:00pm to 9:00pm, the GVFD participated in a multi-agency Wildfire Training Exercise in the Malaspina Area. Participating agencies include: GVFD, North Cedar Fire department, Cranberry Fire Department, BCEHS, RCMP, ESS, Cerca (Ham) and BC Wildfire. Malaspina residents participated in evacuation procedures with RCMP extricating residents by boat. GVFD provided assistance to BCWFS to extinguish hotspots caused by ember cast in the mock scenario, and our mutual aid partners practiced Bump and Run and Anchor and Hold techniques and set up Structural Protection systems while working with GVFD crews. Supervisors from BCWFS were on hand to evaluate our effectiveness in wildfire activities.
- 2) Recruit class of 2022 wrote their final exam last night, some practical exercises to be completed to finalize their NFPA 1001/1002 fire fighter program

Upcoming Training in June:

We will be ramping up our FR and EMR training and scope to meet with the new B.C. Provincial Standards throughout June. FR/EMR gap training is scheduled for June 29 and 30. This is required to bring GVFD to the newly updated provincial standards. We thank our members for giving up their July 1 holiday weekend to attend

Message to Membership and Public:

Our current membership drive resulted in a number of applications for new membership, specifically for the Hall 2. Interviews with these applicants will begin next week. We would like to thank our membership for their hard work and dedication to protecting and serving the Gabriola Community! We would also like to thank the Gabriola Community for all their efforts in making our community safe. With the summer season fast approaching we ask all members of the community to be diligent in preventing forest fires.

OLD BUSINESS: Privacy Report. During the month of May there were no further FOI requests received. Work continues outstanding OIPC investigations as well as preparation for the upcoming inquiry. Fees for the month of May were: \$1509.38. May's Total = \$22,637.73. Trustee Johnson motioned to accept latest Privacy Report. Trustee Moen seconded, CARRIED. **MOTION #24-G42.**

NEW BUSINESS: Chairperson Giffin asks for a motion to repeal FOI Policy #23-03 and replace it with new FOI Policy #24-11. Trustee Moher motioned to accept the repealing of FOI Policy #23-03 and accept new FOI Policy #24-11. Trustee Johnson seconded, CARRIED. **MOTION #24-G43.**

LATE ITEM: Chairperson Giffin states the Gabriola Volunteer Fire Department needs \$45,000 to cover their expenses till the Levy comes in July 2024. Trustee Johnson motioned to borrow \$45,000 dollars from the Capital Reserve and transfer it into Gabriola Volunteer Fire Department’s Operational Chequing Account. Seconded Moen, CARRIED. **MOTION #24-G44.**

QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD:

Audience questions: What has Chairperson and Trustees passed Levy bylaws differently throughout the last three years? What are also the number of readings different? Why is there no bylaw concerning the capital reserve? What does the Safety Committee report on? Will the number of calls come down for the Fire Department now that B.C. ambulance has full time staff? Why is there no bylaw for Gertie lease and Mallet Creek works agreement?

ADJOURNMENT: Chairperson Giffin asks for a motion and resolution for the public portion of the meeting to end and to start a in-camera meeting for Legal reasons. Trustee Moher seconded.

RESOLUTION CARRIED, 504pm. **MOTION #24-G45.**

DATE APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: July 3, 2024

Chairperson of the Board of Trustees

Corporate Officer