

GABRIOLA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT GENERAL MEETING

A General Meeting of the Gabriola Fire Protection District was held October 6, 2021 at the No. 1 Fire Hall with five Trustees in attendance (Penelope Bahr and Chris Windess had contacted the Corporate Officer and informed her they were going to be late). The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chairman Paul Giffin.

Sean Lewis gave the opening greeting “The GFPID acknowledges that we are gathering within the traditional lands of the Snuneymuxw Nation”

The Chairman asked for any errors or omissions from the September 1, 2021 minutes, Fred Apstein asked that the minutes be tabled until the late members were in attendance, accepted.

CORRESPONDENCE: N/A

COMMITTEE REPORTS: N/A

FIRE CHIEF’S REPORT: (As per written report)

After the report was read the following topics were discussed:

- With Silva Bay closing down did we lose a water source? No, they never had one.
- The poster for the EMR donations should mention charitable donations.
- EMR - Is there a change in service levels? Yes, EMR is a Paramedic Qualification.
- EMR - who will do the training? We will once we have taken the Trainers course.
- It was noted that there is already \$4500.00 in the fund which is enough to train the Trainer.
- Once trained we could offer First Aid course to the public, either for free or charge and keep building up the fund.
- There was a load of training for the ladder will this interfere with other training? No, it’s a fairly short course.
- How long is the course? 16 hours.
- The benefits of EMR training is that they recognize patient contact as training which is different from the FR which you have to re-cert every 3 years.
- What is the ratio of medical calls? 70 - 75%

The Chair thanked the Chief for his report.

TRAINING OFFICER REPORT: (As per written report)

The Training Officer noted he would like to enter into an Agreement between the Vancouver Yacht Club and the Improvement District for the use of the clubs boat, free of charge, for emergency purposes which should make it legal for the ambulance to transport in.

- Sounds like t great asset.
- Would need insurance and liability.

The Chair suggested that we put this on a future meeting’s agenda.

ASSOCIATION:

- The Open House was a big success.
- Jethro Bake has stepped down after 20 year, he will be missed.
- The Halloween fireworks have been postponed until possibly New Year due to covid.

Derek, from the Sounder, asked if the fire department would be participating at the drive through trick or treating at the school? In discussions.

OLD BUSINESS:

Bylaw 98:

The Chair noted that this had been discussed at the last meeting but needed three readings to pass it and asked for motions to accept.

Sean Lewis moved that Bylaw 98 be accepted, seconded by Fred Apstein, carried.

Penelope Bahr moved that Bylaw 98 be accepted, seconded by Diana Moher, carried.

John Moeller moved that Bylaw 98 be accepted, seconded by Sean Lewis, carried.

Code of Conduct:

Penelope Bahr moved that the Code of Conduct be accepted and that it be included in the package to the Library, seconded by Fred Apstein, carried.

Bios:

The Chair noted that the Communication Committee and the Web Master agreed that the bios should be kept to 50 words, of the ones submitted 2 had 50 words, 1 at around 90 and 1 well over 100, and one did not really fall under the definition of a bio. I asked Paula to hang on to them so we could discuss it at this meeting.

It was agreed that the Communications Committee would meet and discuss the length of the bios and bring their decision back to the Board.

NEW BUSINESS:

Bylaw 99 - Provincial Levy:

John Moeller stated that since 2016, the Fire Department budget has only increased by \$46,000, which is a 7.2% increase. During that same period the Consumer Price Index (CPI) has increased by 10.8%, leaving us with a 3.6% shortfall even if the population had stayed static. However, the population also grew during that period by 589 people, or 15%. Also during that period the number of dwellings increased by 310, or 10%.

2016-20213

Total FD budget raise = 7.2%

CPI increase = 10.8%

Population growth = 15%

building growth = 10%

- Who is on the Budget Committee? Paul Giffin, Paula Mallinson, John Moeller, Sandra Rudischer and Will Sprogis.
- What is the difference between capital and maintenance? Capital is for new purchases.
- Where is the income side? That's what this is the Provincial Levy.
- Seems like a reasonable budget.

Bylaw 99 - Provincial Levy, cont.:

The Chair complimented the Chief for his contribution of expected expenses and the committee as a whole for having all the answers when asked, he also thank Sandra Rudischer and Paula Mallinson for their participation. The Chair asked for motions to accept Bylaw 99.

Moved by Diana Moher that Bylaw 99 be accepted as presented, seconded by Fred Apstein, carried.
Moved by John Moeller that Bylaw 99 be accepted as presented, seconded by Fred Apstein, carried.
Moved by Sean Lewis that Bylaw 99 be accepted as presented, seconded by Penelope Bahr, carried.

Don Elkington Challenge:

The Fire Chief asked that the Trustees endorse the above-noted challenge to support the upgrade of the department from FR status to EMR certification? (The following is an except from his report earlier in the meeting.)

Don Elkington came to me with an offer to find ways to support our First Responder program. He told me about his history with Arthritis Canada and how he helped lead their fund-raising campaigns and is currently the Chair of the organization. The reason Don wanted to get involved was when he saw the articles in the Sounder of the newly donated ladder truck to the community, and the increasing call volume of serious medical calls and the need for a second ambulance, he asked how he could make the departments medical program stronger. I discussed the advantages of training our members to Emergency Medical Responders (EMR) over the First Responder level 3 and how the level of care would vastly improved by being able to better determine vital signs, plan of care needed, and transport needs i.e., helicopter, harbour authority or ground ambulance. The other big difference is being able to give some medications that could make the difference to patient out come if the ambulance is delayed.

Another big advantage would be our EMRs could provide a medical standby at a fire to add an extra level of safety for all members on scene. The EMR would save money over the FR 3 program in the area of licencing and re-certification and in the long run save money overall. Don's fundraising goal would be to raise \$40,000 toward the upgrade in services, Hhe has come up with a graphic and a plan to use the ladder truck as an iconic symbol of the fundraiser on social media. I would like to endorse the idea of going EMR and the idea of letting the community decide if they want the service upgraded through donations. I would like to ask the Trustee to endorse switching to EMR and endorse the Don Elkington fundraiser.

Discussion:

- How would people contribute, come to the Hall with a cheque?
- Like this idea.
- Who is he? A property owner who witnessed a bike accident on the ferry hill and was impressed with the Departments response, he saw the article in the Sounder about the donation of a ladder truck and thought this might be a great way to fund raise for the medical side.

Fred Apstein moved that the Trustees support and endorse the fund raiser's effort to upgrade to EMR as presented and authorize the staff to issue charitable donation receipts, seconded by Sean Lewis, carried.

Martin Road Pond:

The Fire Chief explained that he has a property on Martin Road that has a pond on it. Silva Bay needs to find a water source for their property, which could be hugely expensive for Silva Bay. I

have been in discussions with regarding improving my pond to supply Silva Bay and that side of the island with water. In order to do this the GFPID would have to enter into an agreement with them. Obviously, I have a conflict of interest on this topic, so I am bringing it up to the Trustees as a topic to consider.

Discussion:

- Would there be any cash benefit for you? No, but they could possibly offer me a Charitable Donation Receipt.
- Some red flags here.
- Would need to see something in writing.
- Would it need an environmental assessment? No, it is not in a riparian area, I have looked into it.
- Would like to see a basic proposal before agreeing to anything.

Letters Patent:

Sean Lewis brought up some questions around the Letters Patent, such as why is Turtle Rock excluded, should this clause be removed? Why is the Elections act mentioned and the fact that it differs from the Letters Patent on who is entitled to vote, i.e. landowners.

Discussion:

- If we remove Turtle Rock and Islets and Islands the fire department would be taking on a lot of liability, the department doesn't have the ability to respond to most of these places.
- Nothing in the Letters Patent allows renters to vote. (This is a Provincial requirement Trustees have no say.)

The Chair noted that Sean Lewis had identified two items he is concerned about and requested that this be researched and brought to the next meeting.

Hiring Committee:

Paula Mallinson's retirement date? It was agreed that the Hiring Committee pick a date to meet and come up with a plan.

Accepting the September Minutes: (Asked to be tabled at the beginning of the meeting, by Fred Apstein, to ensure Penelope Bahr and Chris Windess were at the meeting for these revisions).

Fred Apstein noted that he had made some corrections to the minutes.

- The Corporate Officer noted that his suggestions are revisions not corrections. She stated that she had worked very hard on these minutes due to the heated conversations by some of the Trustees and had deliberately not mentioned names so as not to embarrass anyone. She also noted that some of these changes were hearsay and assumptions.
- The Chair noted that Fred Apstein's revision to write the Chair ignored Mr. Lewis is inaccurate.
- J.M. - Find these changes to be opinion based.
- F.A. - When I asked the question about the time it took the Web Master to respond, I had been talking to Sean at the table.
- F.A. - I'll change my revision to read Trustee was not recognized by the Chair.
- P.B. - I would like to see the original minutes with the revised one side by side.
- J.M. - Certain things with the revisions don't sit well with me, it makes assumptions which are not relevant to the minutes.

- D.M. - I agree with John you should leave emotions out of responses stick to what the subject is about.
- F.A. - I understand what you are saying about the language but I have supported everything the Fire Chief has brought forward, he was the one who stated what I said was negative.
- S.L. - I second it but take out the Chair ignoring me. And it was me talking to Fred about the two years obviously it had nothing to do with Evan McIntosh he wasn't even involved with it back then.
- Fire Chief to Fred Apstein - Your comments at the original meeting was that it took two weeks to respond and now it is two years.
- P.B. - When the question was asked about how long it took , the intention wasn't to blame anyone.

The Chair stated there was a motion and a seconder, question who accepts the revisions?

Opposed: Paul Giffin, John Moeller, Diana Moher.

For: Fred Apstein, Penelope Bahr, Sean Lewis and Chris Windess.

Carried.

Kitt Stringer was acknowledged by the Chair and stated that if you wanted to be accurate what Fred said about me saying the fire department plates are Provincial plates was wrong, what I said was we are doing the same as other departments. Fred Apstein apologized and said he had misunderstood.

Moved by Penelope Bahr that the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Sean Lewis, carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30.