

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
DECEMBER 9, 2020**

The Annual General Meeting of the Gabriola Fire Protection District was held on December 9, 2020 at the No. 1 Fire Hall with six Trustees present, absent was Mark Noyon. The Fire Chief, Corporate Officer, and Auditor were also present along with 2 members of the public. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairperson Sandra Rudischer.

The Gabriola Fire Protection Improvement District acknowledges that we are gathering within the traditional lands of the Snuneymuxw Nation.

Minutes of the April 24, 2019, AGM were presented. The Chair asked for any errors or omissions.

Moved by Diana Moher that the minutes be accepted as presented, seconded by Paul Giffin, carried.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT:

The Financial Statement was presented by Doug Parkhurst from KMA Chartered Accountants Ltd, he explained that their job as Auditors was to compile the Financial Statements and express an opinion on them. He noted that this statement is consistent with that of the last couple of years as was the “actual” to “budget” with the exception of Safety Equipment, which was \$20,000 higher, but stated that “equipment is not cheap”. Doug went through the rest of the pages, asked for questions and suggested that if any questions arose to send them to the Fire Department Office to forward along to him.

Sandra Rudischer moved that the Financial Statement be accepted as presented, seconded by John Moeller, carried

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

TRAINING OFFICER’S REPORT: (As per written report)

CAPTAIN NO. 1 HALL: (As per written report)

CAPTAIN NO. 2 HALL: (As per written report)

TRUSTEE’S HONOURARIUM:

The Chair noted that the Trustees have one dinner a year, although that hadn’t happened for the last couple of years, and that their usual honourarium is \$0.00.

Moved by Paula Mallinson that the Trustees have a dinner during the year and the honourarium stay at \$0.00, seconded by Diana Moher, carried.

ELECTION OF TRUSTEES:

The Chair introduced Doug Parkhurst, our Financial Auditor and Election Officer for tonight. Doug stated “As no nominations were received by the October 23, 2020 deadline, as requested in the notice in the October 7, 2020 Sounder, the following Trustees are acclaimed, Sean Lewis, John Moeller, and Diana Moher and they will serve another 3 year term.

Moved by Paul Giffin that the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Sandra Rudischer, carried.

**FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
DECEMBER 9, 2020**

Hello everyone, during 2019 we responded to 402 callouts, broken down as follows:

2019 breakdown	9	-	Alarms activated
	50	-	Burn Complaints
	2	-	Brush fires
	3	-	Chimney fires
	7	-	Structure fires
	1	-	Unclassified fire
	249	-	First Responder - medical calls
	12	-	Hydro related
	29	-	Investigations
	14	-	M.V.I.
	17	-	Other - Chief/Duty Officer responses
	2	-	Public Service
	7	-	Shutdown violations

I would like to start out with saying our condolence to the family, friends and the Community involved in the Piper aerostar airplane crash that took place December 10th2019 I am deeply sorry for your loss. I would also like to thank all the agencies that responded to that incident and others that helped after.

In 2020 we took 7 new members into the department, 5 of the 7 will be going into the two year frontline firefighter program. The other two will remain in the Auxiliary program. The department is full at 40 members and there will be no intake in 2021. We have a waiting list of applications of 8 and feel honoured to be at this place.

In the spring of 2021, we will receive our new frontline engine equipped with a 2000-gallon water tank, pump and roll feature with front mounted master stream. Other features include foam induction and smart charging system to run all auxiliary tools and equipment. The truck is designed to be operated from in cab allowing for the driver to respond alone to small grass and or bush fires if needed, improving response time to these types of calls.

Fire dispatch will be moving from Nanaimo to Surrey in June of 2021 because Nanaimo decided to close their dispatch with the hopes of saving money. I hope we get the same great service we received through Nanaimo Dispatch, the 6 fire departments within the RDN to the south, did not get much input to this decision made by the RDN.

Firesmart on Gabriola was successful this year we had over 80 assessments completed, with 600 yards of debris or fuel load being removed from the urban interface around the island.

We attended our first mutual aid call to the steel recycling plant Schnitzer in North Oyster. The worry for Gabriola was if the wind changed direction the island would have been blanketed with toxic smoke. The fire proved difficult to get under control because of water supply issue and their lack of hydrants in the area around the fire, I then decided to send 2 firefighters with a truck from Hall #2 which is a 3000 gallon tender. In a 3 hour period they delivered 24000 gallon of water, the most productive tender on scene, impressing our neighbouring departments.

I would like to acknowledge and celebrate these milestones of service in the department:

Devlin Semmler and Jessie Sherk 5 years of service

Jennifer Knight 10 years of service

A special thanks goes out to the Officers that have served and dedicated their time in the role of Officer. Now retiring from the positions Capt. Jethro Baker, who will remain as a frontline firefighter, Walter Berry, Mike Stewart and Dimitri Tzotzos. I would also like to thank the new Officers for stepping up to meet the commitment, Elisha Bandel, David Chorneyko, Jennifer Knight, Evan McIntosh and Kitt Stringer.

The platoon system has been adopted well by the membership while taking on the challenges of Covid-19. I want to thank the members and their families for their dedication of being on shift for a solid week at a time and scheduling their lives around it. Each platoon is doing a wonderful job to support the extra measures in place to keep our Department and Community safe from Covid-19.

I would like to thank the Trustee and Community for their continuing support in these challenging times.

Training Officer Report - AGM

Captain Kitt Stringer.

Jethro Baker stepped down as T.O in May, thank you for your service.

I was hired after an in-house competition and officially started June 1st, 2020. I have almost completed my Fire officer 2 level almost and am VIERA evaluator

Training is challenging during Covid, many departments have cancelled their training but we feel if it can be done safely following Worksafe guidelines and that training is safer than losing skills by taking time off. A Platoon system was developed and is helpful for training, but challenging for manpower and instruction.

We have 5 new fire certified service instructors a prerequisite for Fire officer level and ability to teach separate platoons for covid.

Ten (10) members are becoming First Responders, this is the first time offered to long term Auxiliaries as part of Covid Response.

Our training plan, developed for covid, includes zoom and online components.

Six (6) members are being trained for their Class 3 Driver's license along with one returning Auxiliary who is brushing up on the operation of emergency vehicles.

Ten (10) Member are starting recruit training for frontline firefighters. The first of two years training is exterior level firefighter.

Hall #1 Captain Report 2020

Times have been tough with the Covid 19 pandemic but morale remains high in the department. Thank you to all the department members, staff and their families for their continued dedication to protecting our community!

The new Fire Chief Will Sprogis has gone above and beyond with his leadership of operations. In my 9 years with the department it has not been running as effectively and I look forward to the future with him leading us.

We also have a new training Officer Kitt Springer who is doing an amazing Job navigating us through the pandemic while able to maintain effective safe training.

Myself and all the Firefighters are excited and looking forward to the arrival of the new frontline Engine which will replace and retire Gabriola Engine #1 early in 2021.

The old fire hall #1 Has a new roof and will continue to serve for training and other purposes.

A special thank you and acknowledgement to Jethro Baker who served as North hall's Captain for more than a decade, He has stepped down into a Frontline Firefighter position. He has been an amazing resource and will continue to serve the community. In January a new Captain will be chosen by a panel of judges to make the process fair and impartial to those who have applied.

LT. Evan McIntosh

Acting Captain Hall #1

Hall #2 Captains Report 2020

Captain David Chorneyko

I have been with the department since October of 2014, became a Lieutenant in 2019 and promoted to Captain in the Fall of 2020.

Along with maintaining the mechanical system at the North Hall and am updating our Operational Guidelines and working on creating a stronger emphasis on them within the Department. I have started with a Management of Change Guideline in order to ensure Officer input into guidelines and good communication of the changes amongst the firefighters. In October I took the Fire Service Instructor course and lead the training in Platoon One (1)

It has been a different year with a lot of challenges but morale has remained high.

I'd like to thank the membership, and their families, for all their hard work and dedication to the Community.