

GABRIOLA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT GENERAL MEETING

A General Meeting of the Gabriola Fire Protection District was held December 1, 2021 at the No. 1 Fire Hall with six Trustees in attendance, absent was Chris Windess. 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 November 3, 2021 minutes, Diana Moher moved that the minutes be accepted as presented, seconded by John Moeller, carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Nola Johnson

COMMITTEE REPORTS: N/A

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

TRAINING OFFICER REPORT: (As per written report)

- When might the EMR be up and running? - The Province is just now putting a push on having all FR departments do this, so we are ahead of the curve.

ASSOCIATION REPORT:

- The toy drive will be a “drive through” event this year, and GERTIE will be carrying a bin for toys and donations prior to it happening.
- The Association is going to try to hold a Christmas party this year.

The Chair thanked the Association for all they had done this year during the pandemic.

OLD BUSINESS:

Bios - if anyone has a new one they would like on the website please get it in.

Book for library:

- Waiting for Bylaw 98/100 to come back from Victoria and then will compile it.
- Book will be a live document - updated when necessary.
- Should have a table of contents.
- Should have the same information in the book as what is on the website.
- Have a communications meeting in the new year.
- Harassment & discrimination policy and procedure - should be reviewed.

Audit/Worksafe: To be discussed with the Fire Chief.

Website:

- Are the Trustees asking too much from the volunteers for this website?
- How do we get to where we want to be?
- Make a list of what we want to add and change and then make a decision.
- John Moeller is going to co-ordinate this list.

Advertisement for upcoming vacancy:

Discussion around the advertising, interviewing, and hiring date.

- It was agreed to stay with the old time line, of :
February 4 Ad in
March 16 Ad closes
April 15 Interviews
May 1 Hire
June 15 Start date
June 30 Paula's last day

(All the Trustees agreed on the above dates, Fred Apstien opposed wanted an earlier time line.)

- Some discussion around duties of Corporate Officer.

Service Level of Fire Department:

- It's the jurisdiction of the Board what the service level of the department should be and should meet annually with the Chief and Senior Officers to discuss it and chose that level with the advice of the Fire Chief.

Officers David Chorneyko, Elisha Bandel, Chris Manning, Jen Knight and Kitt Stringer and the Fire Chief were at the meeting to discuss the Service Level, absent was Evan McIntosh.

The following were comments from the Officers:

- Happy with the service level and think it's appropriate.
- The Playbook is changing in 2022 and quite happy with the level right now.
- Like the idea that we always push ourselves to the highest level.
- Pleased with the fact we are moving to EMR.
- Might need to go high angle rescue sometime in the future.
- 70% of our callouts are F.R. with the EMR the department can offer better support to the public.
- In order to meet the requirements for EMR what % of FFs need to be trained? - Min. 10.

Trustee Lewis thanked the Chief and Officers for their input and requested the Board direct the Chief to maintain present Service Levels, subject to review if any regulatory changes. TO Stringer said that the Playbook was to be revised in 2022.

Climate Change:

- What I as a rate payer and a firefighter would like to see is for the Trustees to make a proclamation /statement to commit to long term plans in the handling of climate change within the Gabriola Fire Department.

A discussion followed around measuring emissions, fuel types, best practices on how to make calculations.

Fred Apstein moved that the Trustees of the GFPID support that climate change is real and go forward with the calculation of direct emission and calculation mitigation, seconded by Sean Lewis, carried.

10 Year Plan:

The Fire Chief suggested that Albert Reed's 10 Year Plan continue to go forward especially now Climate Change will be included.

- What's the next step? - Suggest Trustees form a committee.
- Do we need any money for this? - Believe we have the skills to do this in-house.
- It's a big job, not going to happen over night.

Policies & procedures:

- The Trustees should start putting together more policies, could start with a simple one such as "access to the building", could go through the Trustee Handbook and see what's recommended.
- How many policies do we have? - Very few.
- We should look at what we know and don't know, go through the Handbook then look at what we have and then come up with a list of what we do need. Suggest instead of a January meeting we could meet a few times and do our homework for the February meeting.
- Should have a few of them to bring to the next meeting.
- I would like to suggest we have a break from a meeting in January, we have had a lot of them and I could work on this instead and bring them to the February meeting.
- We have revisions to do we have a lot of stuff to do, I want a meeting in January.
- I would prefer that we have a working meeting instead.

Moved that the January meeting be changed to February, seconded, 3 - 3 tie, motion defeated.

Questions from the public:

- Looked at the website the other day, hadn't visited it in two years, took me 20 minutes to find the Trustee contact. Should be updated weekly you can't neglect a website, ask for more volunteers or put some money towards it. I don't think a Trustee should be in on the re-designing it. (Trustee - I'm not the one doing the website I just offered to get the information that the Trustees want on it together.)
- We received a lot of emails from the public, none of them saying they couldn't find the Trustee contact on the web.

- Where are things at with the “review” that was being discussed at the Special meeting? - It hasn't been put to bed, there is going to be more discussion on the subject and what the next steps should be.
- If there is a public forum can the public speak? As long as the Trustees agree.
- The public are never not allowed to speak at a meeting, we appreciate input.
- Speaking for myself the topic is not dead, things will evolve.

Fred Apstein moved that the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Sean Lewis, carried. 6:10 p.m.