

A General Meeting of the Gabriola Fire Protection District was held September 30, 2020 at the No.

1 Fire Hall with five Trustees in attendance, absent was Mark Noyon and John Moeller. The meeting was called to order at 4:08 p.m. by Chairperson Sandra Rudischer.

Penelope Bahr asked about accepting the agenda as she had a late agenda item she wanted on, the acknowledging of the Snun-ay-muxw. Short discussion regarding the amount of things to get through on the agenda. Moved by Penelope Bahr that this topic be put on the next meeting agenda, seconded by Diana Moher, carried.

Chairperson Rudischer asked for errors or omissions from the minutes of September 2, 2020 General Meeting?

Paul Giffin moved to accept the minutes as amended, seconded by Diana Moher, carried.

The Chair moved Steve Earl, Chair of GERTIE, forward on the agenda so he could address the Trustees and then leave the meeting.

Steve Earl explained that he had been in talks with the Fire Department for about two years in regards to housing the trucks in the old Hall. He noted that a pandemic is not a good time to operate a transit system and that they had lost approximately 60% of last years ridership.

Steve asked the Trustees the following questions:

C Do you plan to go ahead with the roof replacement without a commitment from GERTIE to use the space? (a) Yes

D What is the fire department using the building for, and how often?

1. Training / Auto X. (q) Would this require the buses to be taken out of the building? (a) sometimes but not often, and the fire department could do this.

E We understand that the ambulance service will be using a part of the building for storage. Will there be any other users? (a) Not at this time.

C We understand that GERTIE will be able to store 3 buses inside, and will have the dedicated use of an office, access to a kitchen and bathroom, and bi-weekly access of space to hold board meetings, is this correct? (a) The office and bathrooms - yes, kitchen isn't really set up for use. (q) How many people on the Board? (a) 9, public doesn't come to these meetings, but they could.

D We need to know what the electrical bills might amount to. Will has shown me a recent bill, but that may not be typical, so it would be useful to know:

1. how the different parts of the building are heated, and  
2. is it necessary to maintain a minimum heat level in any area?

1. The building is heated mostly by propane, no need to a minimum heat level but a dehumidifier would be requested.

E Does the building have a ventilation system? (a) No.

F Which areas of the old Hall are currently covered in the snow-removal contract, and will this continue? (a) The roads and parking lot will be attended to.

Other items that were brought up:

C GERTIE would have to sign an agreement with the department to help the fire department

during an emergency, i.e., transport of citizens to evacuation centres.

C The Hall could not be used as a bus stop.

D Bus washing to be done outside but small truck maintenance could be done in the Bay.

E Would have to keep one bus outside as a disaster bus (as per an agreement).

F Not sure about having the public attend meetings in the building.

Steve mentioned that he was in favour of an agreement for GERTIE but at this point cost could be an issue.

The Chair thanked Steve for his time and questions, and he left.

**Fire Chief Report:** (As per written report)

C Department going back to pre-pandemic FR calls.

D Sent a truck and two personnel over to Cedar for mutual aid with a large fire at a metal recycling plant. (Cedar had offered to send their Councillors over after the plane crash.)

E Have 50 GVFD supporter masks for sale, proceeds will go to PHC.

**Association Report:**

C Campaign for “supporter masks”, asking for \$15.00 but it’s by donation so anything that you can afford.

D Halloween fireworks have been cancelled due to the pandemic.

E Christmas party will be modified.

F Hope Centre is doing a drive through “Trick or Treating” for the kids.

**New Business:**

**Minutes:**

C Discussion on putting up draft minutes, it was agreed that only approved minutes will be posted.

D Discussion on when the minutes should be distributed, will get out to Trustees within a week of the meeting.

**Budget:**

Sandra Rudischer explained the changes and increases in the budget from last year, with the final increase coming in a .7%, short discussion.

The Fire Chief thanked the Finance Committee for their work on the forecasting of the budget.

The Chair thanked the Chief on his breakdown of the budget numbers.

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C Penelope Bahr suggested that the public could come to the budget meeting and that Salt Spring Island was doing it.

It was noted that Salt Spring was having a lot of trouble trying to get financing for another new Hall.

Paul Giffin stated that he thinks the Fire Department has strong support in the Community, and sometimes you don’t have to beat the drum.

Penelope Bahr said he agrees that the Fire Department has the respect of the Community but doesn’t think the Trustees do.

The Chair gave first reading of the Bylaw 95 (budget for 2021).

Moved by Paul Giffin to accept Bylaw 95 as presented, seconded by Sandra Rudischer.

The Chair gave the second reading of the Bylaw 95.

Moved by Paul Giffin that Bylaw 95 be accepted as presented, seconded by Diana Moher.

Bylaw 95, all in favour, carried.

## AGM:

A lengthily discussion on the AGM during a pandemic:

The AGM needs to be done before the end of the year and limited to 50 people in attendance.

Three candidates are up for re-election, all three are happy to stand again, it has been suggested that an advertisement be posted in the paper asking for anyone wishing to run against the sitting Trustees to put their name forth before October 23, 2020. This way if there is going to be an election it gives time for an interview with the Sounder to introduce themselves and give some background.

C Need a minimum of 4 weeks.

D Suggest we don't do anything until the Ministerial Order comes out.

E Trustees term, regardless of when they start this year, will begin from April 2020.

F Does a person have to be at the meeting to run? Yes.

G If there is to be an election bring in independent Election personnel and scrutineers.

H We have meeting procedures that the Trustees passed after the election dispute.

I Could we have groups come in and vote and then a break for cleaning and then have more come in?

J The Chair asked Derek Kilborn, owner of the Sounder Newspaper reporting on the meeting, what his thoughts were. Put it out to the public and see if there is a need for an election, the public isn't going to come back at you.

K Does the AGM happen before the election? Yes.

It was agreed to modify the notice with a date, and wait until the Ministerial Order comes in before setting a date for the election. Moved by Diana Moher that the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Paul Giffin, adjourned 4:48.