

GABRIOLA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT GENERAL MEETING

A General Meeting of the Gabriola Fire Protection District was held September 1, 2021 at the No. 1 Fire Hall with seven Trustees in attendance. The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chairman Paul Giffin.

Penelope Bahr 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 August 4, 2021 minutes, moved by Diana Moher that the minutes be accepted as presented, seconded by Chris Windess, carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Chris Windess read the report on the meeting between Evan McIntosh, Penelope Bahr, and himself.

A discussion ensued with the following points being brought up:

- Public Alerts, what do the Trustee feel they would like to have sent out?
- Alerts vrs notifications, i.e. alerts Fire rating, MVA that may effect travel, notifications Trustee meeting, agenda.
- Linking one post to others.
- Trustees should take a step back from the website and focus more on the overseeing of the department.

Trustee Apstein asked a question about the length of time it takes for the people in charge of the website to get back to the Trustees. (Trustees had reported no action for up to two years) He noted that the person in charge is extremely busy, expressed his appreciation for all the work that person is doing, and wondered if it is fair to ask him to do the website.

The Fire Chief took offense at Trustee Apsteins words, and noted that this was done by the firefighters free or charge for the Trustees on their own time, taking them away from work and family, and he was not happy with any criticism being directed at them. Discussion.

The Chair suggested that the report be emailed to the Trustees and the discussion could be continued up at the next meeting.

At this point some of the Trustees were getting heated and the Chair said he would adjourn the meeting for 10 minutes, a few of the Trustees disagreed with this, the Chair asked for a motion.

Moved by John Moeller that the meeting be adjourned for 10 minutes, seconded by Diana Moher, carried. (Meeting adjourned from 4:25 - 4:35 p.m.)

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

Kudos were given to the Chief, by Trustees Lewis and Apstein, for his acquisition of the ladder truck.

The Chief, in his report, had asked for up to \$6,000 for the purchase of a ride on mower and trailer so the fire department could do their own lawn maintenance.

The Chair asked if the Trustees wished to discuss it at this time, agreed.

Moved by Fred Apstein that the Fire Chief be authorized to spend up to \$6,000 in funds to purchase a ride on mower and trailer, or pursue donation or other options at the Chief's discretion, seconded by Chris Windess, carried.

TRAINING OFFICER REPORT: (As per written report)

- Is the department going to have to go back to individual platoon training? (No, we just have to follow Worksafe policy.)
- Does the department have a vaccination policy? (No, we have told the firefighters vaccinations are requested and most of the department has been double vaccinated but one or two have health issues that have stopped them from getting them.)
- Noticed that the pond at FLV has dried out, what happens there? The Fire Chief stated that the department keeps an eye on the firefighting aspects at the Mall, and noted that the FLV is going to upgrade to a 30,000 tank.

ASSOCIATION REPORT: N/A

OLD BUSINESS:

Bylaw terminology Special vrs Extraordinary:

The Chair noted that an email from Municipal Affairs was in the Trustee package explaining that typically Local Governments refer to any meeting that is not a General one as Special and as our Bylaws doesn't refer to either terms and notes that Robert's Rules is to be used for unprovided cases, using Special would be considered best practice.

Chair asked for any discussion?

Moved by Fred Apstein that the minutes of the July 28, 2021 meeting be accepted as presented, seconded by Penelope Bahr, carried.

Fred Apstein moved to strike a committee to consider clarifying the terminology in the by-law.

The Chair noted that the Trustees had just passed that bylaw in May of 2021 and asked for a seconder, non forthcoming. Trustee Apstein said he accepts that there is no appetite for this issue.

Bios:

Evan McIntosh recommends Bios should be 50 words or less to be sent to the Office by September 15, 2021, at which point Paula will forward to Evan to be posted on the website.

Fred Apstein asked when it should be put on the website, Jenn Knight stated that if the page has been created it could go up right away otherwise it would take a little longer. It was agreed that a month from the date of receipt would be ample time.

Bylaws to library:

As the Letters Patent will be discussed at the October meeting it was agreed that putting the package together could wait until any changes had been made.

Orientation for new Trustees:

The present package is good but should add a link to the Playbook.

Thank you letter to Anon for Ladder Truck:

Fred Apstein moved that the Chair sign the letter as presented and send it out, seconded by Diana Moher, carried.

The Chair told the Trustees that there were thank you cards on the table for ex Trustees Noyon and Rudischer.

NEW BUSINESS:

Bylaw 98 to replace Bylaw 48:

Moved by Sean Lewis that the new Bylaw 98 be reviewed, seconded by Penelope Bahr, carried.

Discussion:

- Trustee Lewis asked if it would be consistent to call the Department Gabriola Fire Rescue consistent with the wording on licence plates and T shirts?
- Should the fire department's name contain volunteer? Yes as what distinguishes us as Volunteers is that we volunteer to carry pagers 24/7.
- The Trustees thanked the Training Officer. Trustee Apstein suggested that the people involved should be able to choose what they are called, the other Trustees agreed.
- Point #6 - mutual aid outside of boundaries. The Fire Chief noted that a lot of Improvement Districts has adopted bylaws allowing mutual aid outside their boundaries at the Fire Chief's discretion.
- The Fire Chief has done a great work in getting agreements with Cedar and Tugboat.
- The Fire Chief can respond with a written request, text or email, or recorded.
- The Fire Chief noted that in the future he would like to send a truck out to Inter-Provincial calls, it's good training and good money.
- Changes to be made #6, #28.

The Chair asked the question, Bylaw 98 carried.

Moved by Sean Lewis that the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Diana Moher, carried.