

**SATURNA ISLAND FIRE PROTECTION SOCIETY (SIFPS)  
MINUTES OF DIRECTORS' MEETING**

**Saturday, March 16, 2013 – 9:15 a.m. ESB#1**

**Members Present:** Bernie Ziegler, Eva Hage, Ron Hall, John Money, Ted Syverson, Wayne Quinn, Dan Thachuk

**Chiefs:** Brent Sohier, Fire Chief; David Rees Thomas, SIR Chief

**Recording Secretary:** Bev Lowsley

**1. Call to Order**

President Bernie Ziegler called the meeting to order at 0917 am.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

**Motion:** Dan Thachuk moved acceptance of the agenda. **Carried**

**3. Approval of Minutes of January 12, 2013 Directors Meeting**

**Motion:** Ted Syverson moved approval of the January 2013 minutes as circulated.  
**Carried**

**4. Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

**5. Welcome Guests & Questions from the Floor**

There were no guests in attendance.

**6. Committee Reports**

**6.A) Fire Chief's Report**

Brent Sohier reviewed his report (attached). At the Southern Gulf Islands Wildfire Protection Planning meeting Brent found that Saturna should explore an MOA with CRD for rescues as well as for firefighting. Current agreements for access related to fire fighting but not specifically for rescues. Saturna rescue operations usually occur in areas under the jurisdiction of Parks and Recreation Committee. Bernie Ziegler will contact the president of Parks and Recreation Committee for information and will invite him to the next SIFPS meeting to discuss this issue.

Also, if mutual aid is needed from other SGI fire departments, Pender firefighters cannot come unless called out by the Provincial Emergency Program. This seems to relate to an issue with the SIFPS insurance not covering other departments unless sent by PEP. Eva Hage will contact the insurance company for clarification. It was also

suggested to clarify whether our insurance would cover Saturna firefighters providing mutual aid on other islands.

Every summer as part of the South Gulf Islands Wildfire Prevention Plan a fire truck and members from various departments attend at Swartz Bay BC Ferries terminal for public awareness about fire safety on the Southern Gulf Islands during summer fire season. Only part of the expenses are covered, with some funding from the Provincial Emergency Program as well as donations from some of the other gulf islands.

**Motion:** Wayne Quinn moved, second John Money that SIFPS donate \$500 in support of the SGI Wildfire Prevention Program. **Carried**

#### **6.B) SIR Chief's Report**

David Rees-Thomas reviewed his report (attached). The grant from VIHA for SIR operations has been received for another 3 years. There has been some discussion of offering an Occupational First Aid level 3 course for local members. This will be offered in the fall.

#### **6.C) Financial Report**

Ron Hall reported that the November statement did not include the fire truck purchase from Saltspring Island. The November statement will be adjusted. Ron also noted that in printing the January and February report sfrom Quick Books there were some transfer issues. He will make all necessary corrections and re-circulate the printed statements electronically.

##### **6.C.i) Monthly Statement Jan/Feb, 2013**

Total cash and term deposits to February 2013 = \$90,786.15

##### **6.C.ii) Year-end Statement for 2012**

This will be done by Theresa Howard when she returns at the end of the month.

**6.C.ii) Budget:** Once the tax allocation is received another payment will be made on the mortgages.

#### **6.D) Operations Committee Report**

##### **6.D.i) Tanker Truck Repairs**

Ted Syverson reported that all repairs have been completed. Once they are available, Saturna Fire decals will be applied to all vehicles as well.

##### **6.D.ii) Mini-Pumper Inspection**

The mini-pumper work has been completed and it is now certified for service.

**6.D.iii) CIS Training Course** The Saturna individuals interested in this course were not available to attend on the date it was offered.

**6.D.iv) Equipment Maintenance** - The equipment van, tender and rapid 1 are all good. They all have new batteries and in-line chargers and the big truck has an on-board charger. A monthly check list is being developed to include dates when the checking was done. It was suggested that a check list of maintenance for the SIR vehicle should be done as well.

Wayne Quinn noted that Derm Carberry deserves to be commended for a great job in dealing with the above repairs.

## **6.E) Corporate & Admin. Committee Report**

**6.E.i) Renewal of MOU with Parks Canada** - Eva Hage has not been able to deal with this and the following two items as she has been away.

**6.E.ii) MOU between SIR and Parks Canada** - as above

**6.E.iii) MOU with CRD re: Parks** - as above

### **6.E.iv) Civic Address issue**

Eva Hage has confirmed that SIFPS is being paid for providing this function. This is in line with the process for the other islands.

### **6.E.v) Renewal of SIR agreement with VIHA**

Ron Hall noted that the signed contracts have been returned and VIHA will send a cheque as soon as they receive the documents.

## **6.F) Asset Management Committee Report**

**6.F.i) Water Storage at ESB#2** : Wayne Quinn reported that the additional water storage tank was installed in February. There is a gauge on that tank to show the water level. At that time a leak in the pump line was noted and this was reported to Harvey Janzen for repair. Wayne has developed a maintenance manual for the water collection systems at both halls, including a sign-off sheet to track when done. A flier has also been posted requesting expressions of interest for 2 people to take on this maintenance twice per year. Applications will be reviewed by the Asset Mgt. Committee.

Dan Thachuk reported that it will not be possible to obtain the large stainless steel tank behind the Recreation Centre so additional storage tanks at ESB#2 will need to be purchased. There is money in the cash flow budget to do this.

Also, Wayne Quinn noted that the heater within the building at ESB#2 is not shutting off. He turned it off at the breaker and has notified Bill House to check this out.

**6.F.ii) Landscaping Repairs at ESB#1**

The extra landscaping plants have been received from CRD and these will be planted soon. Repairs to the fence will be done and the deciduous trees will have protective fencing around. Kaylee Youngdahl has been hired do this work.

**6.F.iii) Outside Maintenance at ESB#1 & 2**

Eva Hage noted that two boards have blown off the fence in front of ESB#1. These need to be repaired. The front garden area and the wetlands area have weed problems which are choking the new birch trees planted there. Eva will speak with Kaylee about doing this as well. A request has been received for some visual shielding of the water storage tanks, such as lattice. This will be investigated.

**6.F.iv) Follow-up on disposition of the old tanker truck**

John Money reported that there has been no response from Saturna Beach at this point. Eva Hage has contacted ICBC relating to the insurance issues for the vehicle as a farm water tank. She will also speak to the insurance broker for advise (in writing) which can be forwarded to the Saturna Beach strata group.

**Motion:** Dan Thachuk moved that if Saturna Beach group has not made a decision relating to the offer by April 15, that the old pumper truck be posted for sale. Seconded by John Money. **Carried**

**6.G) Communications Committee Report**

**6.G.i) Article re: Policy relating to Difficult Access to some properties**

Lee Middleton was not in attendance but he has indicated to Bernie Ziegler that it may not be prudent to make a public statement in the Scribbler unless/until legal implications have been explored more fully.

**6.H) Human Resources Committee Report**

**6.H.i) Pictures of Firefighters**

This is an ongoing issue. Jim Hebert has indicated that he's having problems getting individuals to have the photos done. It was suggested that if this is not supported by the volunteers then it be abandoned.

**6.H.ii) Commemoration of John Savage**

Karen Kreiger is making a frame and Ron Hall is looking into getting a plaque to attach. There was discussion of whether others involved should also be recognized (eg. plaque naming the Board members who were involved during the

construction of the new fire halls). Ron and Bernie will modify the wording on the plaque.

**6.H.iii) Toby Snelgrove**

Brent Sohler stated this will be set up for a practice night this spring.

**6.H.iv) Medical/dental benefits for volunteers**

Eva Hage reviewed the information presented last month. She checked with the Pender Island fire chief who indicated that only the paid members receive these benefits, not volunteers.

10:55 am **Motion:** Dan Thachuk moved that this discussion be continued *in camera*. **Carried**

11:00 **Motion:** John Money moved to come out of *in camera* mode. **Carried**

**6.H.v) Support Volunteers**

There has been little response to the previous notices. Each month Eva will draft a note requesting volunteer support for a specific function (eg. general vehicle maintenance, yard work, etc).

**6.I) Nominations Committee**

**6.I.i) Search for potential new board members**

There was discussion of need for new Board members as Theresa Howard and Tom Johnstone are not planning to return. The treasurer function is particularly important for accurate records. Several suggestions were made including whether or not to consider hiring a bookkeeper. Ron Hall will put out some feelers about possible bookkeepers and anticipated costs. Other members will approach possible candidates who have the skills to fill vacated board positions. The nominating committee is Ron Hall, Bernie Ziegler, Tom Johnstone. John Money said he will also assist.

**7. New Business**

**8. Date of next Directors Meeting** - Saturday, April 20, 2013, 9:15 a.m at ESB#1.

**9. Adjournment** The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 am.

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Bernie Ziegler, President

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Eva Hage, Secretary

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Bev Lowsley, Recording Secretary

**SIFPS Monthly Board Meeting**  
**March 16, 2013**  
**Fire Chief's Report**

**Operations:**

Captain Rob Kendall has run a couple of practices in the absence of Hubertus which were very well received. We have a few new recruits so it was decided to start a new training session starting at the basics and working our way to the more advanced strategies and tactics of structural fire fighting. The seasoned veterans of the fire dept are also benefiting from some basic training that gets forgotten. I attended the (sgiwfpp) southern gulf island wild fire protection plan meeting in Sannich.

**Financial:**

There are some receipts that have been paid from the petty cash.

**Training:**

In-house training is all that is planned for now

**Other Business:**

Mou – Parks Canada

- Crd Parks and public access
- Native Reserve

Mutual aid agreement with other gulf Island fire Dept.

**Brent Sohler**

**Saturna Island Rescue**  
**Unit Chief's Report**  
**March 2013**

**Incidents**

Four calls in January, one in February, and none in March (well, the pagers did go off the other day, but the call was or 105 North Saanich - wrong button). 53 calls in calendar 2012, and 51 in the VIHA fiscal year...and the really good news is that we have our VIHA grant for another three years.

**Training**

BCAS will be offering an International Trauma Life Support (ITLS) course in Ganges on March 11th, however it is limited to 10 seats, all of which are taken. If and when ITLS reaches Mayne we may have a chance at it. March training night looked at effects of alcohol abuse and alcohol addiction.

**Equipment**

No issues.

**Ambulance**

Well, in the really cold weather we've needed the SureStart switch to get going in spite of using the block heater at night (2200-0200). Derm had a quick look at the engine compartment battery and found the terminals were not as tight as they could have been. Doesn't seem to be a complete fix, but worth further exploration.

**Station**

No issues.

**Crew**

No issues, but it will be a relief to be back at full strength. Tony Simmonds has successfully completed his EMALB licensing exams; Andrew Money has done his written and will do his practical at the end of the month.

David Rees-Thomas  
Unit Chief  
Saturna Island Rescue