

SATURNA ISLAND FIRE PROTECTION SOCIETY

Monday 20 Sept, 2021 4:00 via ZOOM

PRESENT: Eva Hage, Stephen Hardy, Ron Monk, Deb Simpson, Tony Marchigiano, Melanie Watson, John Wiznuk, Peter Stolting, Doug Hayward, Ian Gaines, Peter Clark, Vanessa Verbitsky

1. Eva Hage called the meeting to order @ 4:02 pm.

2. No Guests

3. **Moved** by Ron Monk to approve the agenda. **Carried.**

4 **Moved** by Stephen Hardy approve the BOD JULY 19, 2021 minutes amended as follows: add to Finance Committee (Item #10): at end of sentence, “*statement not available due to bookkeeping changeover*”, and under New Business (Item #14) at 4th bullet point: strike Stephen Hardy’s comment and replace with: “*Stephen Hardy will draft a travel policy to present at the next board meeting*”. **Carried.**

5. Business Arising From Minutes

- Vaccinations: Doug Hayward confirmed that all Directors are fully vaccinated and among the thirty (30) volunteers including the Chiefs, twenty-nine (29) are fully vaccinated with one person waiting for a second dose.
- CRD solar grant application for ESB#2 has been submitted but requires a signature, reported John Wiznuk. Melanie Watson asked for a copy of the ESB #1 application if available.
- Status of purchasing jackets for SIR volunteers: **In-camera discussion.**
- Replacement of side mirror Car #1: The part has been procured and just needs installation.
- Third water tank at ESB #1: The work is underway with the construction of a concrete pad.
- Fire training containers: Melanie reported the MOU has been signed and filed with the insurance company. Melanie Watson will follow up re: the cost of the containers and a timeline for land clearing.

6. **Correspondence.** None

7. **Fire Chief’s report: Moved** to accept the Peter Clark’s report as submitted. **Carried.**

8. **SIR Chief’s report: Moved** to accept Vanessa’s report as submitted: Going forward, it was requested that both Chiefs indicate average yearly call volume, and to include statistics on medical-assist calls carried out by Fire Dept volunteers. **Carried.**

9. Operations/Asset Management Committee

- Replacement of window in SIR training room: Tabled until next regular board meeting.
- Replacement of Tender One: Tabled until next regular board meeting.
- Damage to roll-up door at ESB 1: John Wiznuk reported that possibly all 3 panels require changing but at this time only the bottom two are necessary. All agreed.
- Status of IR7 clean-up: Peter Stolting reported that after his meeting with the interim band chief and touring the area with him, he feels optimistic about clean-up this winter.

10. Finance Committee

- **Moved** to approve the Actual to Budget Jan-Sept 10 2021 statement as presented by Stephen Hardy. **Carried.**
- **Moved** by S. Hardy to accept the Draft Budget for 2022 as presented. **Carried.**
- **Moved** by S. Hardy to approve the Draft Internal financial policy as amended: “*For an item not anticipated in the budget, both signatures will be required*”. **Carried**
- **Moved** to approve Draft Investment policy. **Carried.**
- **Moved** to approve Draft Travel policy. **Carried.** S Hardy offered to formulate the required travel expense form.

11. Corporate/Administration Committee

- CGL and Property insurance due Nov 3 2021: Ongoing.
- Renewal of contracts due in December: Ongoing.
- Renewal of auto insurance: Ongoing.

12. Communications Committee

- Doug Hayward will submit a new SIFPS website concept to the board at the next meeting. He suggested the new site could include metrics, ie: a zone map, or a call volume comparison chart.
- Website administration: Eva Hage has offered to maintain the current site.

13. Human Resources Committee

- The Fire and SIR Chief job descriptions have been completed by Deb Simpson and Ron Monk.
- Personnel planning for Fire and SIR teams. Ongoing.
- Tony Marchigiano reported there are no issues at this time with the Health Spending Account.
- Occupational, Health and Safety Committee: All committee members have completed the mandatory OHSC Part 1 of the course. The committee meets once a month, two board members are required and John W. is stepping down.
- Update on Red Cross Community Resiliency grant: D. Simpson informed all that things are on track although there is a delay for the trailer.

14. New Business

- D. Simpson has offered to write future proposals for training or equipment if required.
- D. Simpson thanked SIR first responders for attending at her home this past summer and expressed her gratitude.

15. Next Meeting: Nov 22, 2021 @ ESB #1 @4pm

16. Moved to Adjourn. Adjourned at 6:18 pm.

President: Eve Hage _____

Corporate Secretary: Melanie Watson _____

Recorded by: Sandy Nelson _____



Fire Chief's Report

TO: Saturna Island Fire Protection Society

September 13, 2021

Since May 11, 2021, SIVFD has had 4 calls: 1 structure fire, and 1 burn complaint, 2 smoke sightings, 1 missing person/water rescue, 1 hydro line incident, and 5 medical assists. SIVFD has responded to 32 incidents thus far in 2021, and we are thus likely headed for a record year.

Today the local Fire Danger Rating dropped to moderate for the first time since June this year. It is a welcome event.

We have a busy training schedule this fall, with training happening generally every second weekend. Most of that is recruit training, but we also have 2 courses for a larger group of FFs: one on Emergency Scene Traffic Control (taught by Linda Cunningham), as well as an Automobile Extrication course taught by instructors from Metchosin Fire. We also have a Firefighter's Association event next Saturday: it is a BBQ / disc golf tournament to celebrate Brent Sohier's term as Fire Chief, and to do some much needed teambuilding. 2 firefighters are doing individual training this fall as well: one is doing a rope rescue course, and another will be doing his class 3 driver training.

We received some of our grant-funded sprinkler trailer equipment last month, and more is presently enroute. Unfortunately, the trailer itself is months away, but will be in service by next wildfire season.

A team from CREST came to reprogram/upgrade our radios last month. There were some welcome surprises about our portable radios.

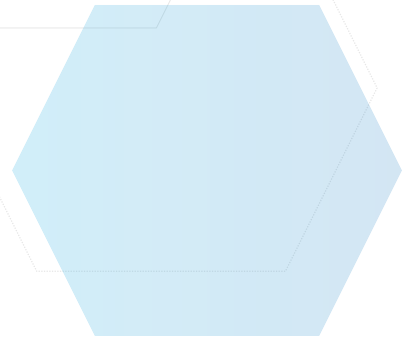
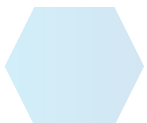
DC Sohier, Linda Cunningham and I met with the people in charge of our transition to our new dispatcher (Saanich Fire) recently. It looks like it will be a good opportunity to iron out the kinks with our dispatch services, particularly in terms of mapping.

I wrote a long email to the Operations Committee last month concerning the search for a replacement for Tender 1. I have put out feelers looking for a used truck to replace it. I only had a response from one board member on the topic. I am still looking for the budget for this purchase, as well as comments from board members. There has been discussion for

some years as to whether or not we should be simply financing new trucks instead of buying used ones with high yearly repair bills. Unfortunately, this discussion is bogged down by lack of knowledge about the cost of new fire trucks. Last week, I asked Fort Garry Fire Trucks for some rough prices on a new 3000 gal tender, as well as a new engine for perspective. Both trucks were around \$350,000. They could probably be amortized over 15 or 20 years at a low rate. One bonus is that it could boost our insurance rating with the FUS. After some basic calculations, the cost appears considerable, though. This chief wonders: if the money is available, where else could it go.

In discussion with Deb Simpson about volunteer retention, and the perks required, it occurred to me that many Board members may not realize how unique SIVFD is in the local SGIs. Mayne Island Fire has 2 full-time, career firefighters on salary, and all their volunteer firefighters are paid an hourly wage for calls and training. Pender Fire Rescue has 3 career firefighters on salary, and their volunteer firefighters and First Responders are also paid for calls and training. Clearly these are larger communities, with larger tax bases and higher call volumes. I thought it very important that SIFPS board members had this knowledge, though.

Peter Clark
CHIEF, SIVFD



Saturna Island Rescue
Report for SIFPS
September 2021

The issue SIR will be looking at over the winter is around succession as a new Deputy Chief will need to be found in the next year or so. I took several vacations off this summer to deal with personal and family issues and one of the conclusions I have from that is the need for a Deputy who can step in if I could not attend to the duties of Chief. Tied to that is recruiting two new crew members. SIR currently has 13 members although one of those members, Ryan Dentry, has stepped back from duties for at least several months as he assesses his role with SIR. As mentioned to SIFPS previously, we have an expectation of three members retiring in the future.

I can report that 12 of 13 members of SIR are double vaccinated and the 13th member has one dose and will be getting their second dose.

SIR traditionally does not schedule large training sessions in the summer at the request of its members and complete the large sessions in the fall. I am currently trying to schedule multiple sessions, including the previously mentioned pediatric training as well as a community-wide naloxone training in collaboration with the health clinic.

Attached is the sir emergency call statistics from January to September. I wrote those statistics at the beginning of September as I was off on a vacation and would like to add that since September 1st we have had 8 patient contacts, putting us over 50 calls for the year.

Submitted for your consideration

Vanessa Verbitsky