

SATURNA ISLAND FIRE PROTECTION SOCIETY

Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, September 12th 2022, 4:30 pm @ ESB #1

PRESENT: Stephen Hardy, Ron Monk, Tony Marchigiano, John Wiznuk, Keith Preston, Tex McLeod, Ian Gaines, Peter Clark (Fire Chief), Vanessa Verbitsky (SIR Chief)

ABSENT: Melanie Watson, Peter Stolting

1. Tony Marchigiano called the meeting to order at 4:50 pm.
2. **Moved** to approve the agenda. **Carried.**
3. **Moved** to approve the board meeting minutes from May 9, 2022 and July 18, 2022. **Carried.**

4. Business arising Last Minutes

(a) class 4 driver's license status

No changes.

5. Correspondence

Barb Hicks sent a thank you note and donation to SIR for the service to her husband.

6. President's Report

(a) Special Committee Update on Volunteer Compensation

The Special Committee has met a number of times and considered various options for looking at some form of volunteer compensation while keeping in mind certain recommendations made in the SIR Futures report and the Fire Chief's Special Report issued in July. The Special Committee came up with an option to provide some form of payment to SIR Volunteers who are on shift and also pay SIR Volunteers when they get called out for a minimum number of hours. Also, if the Fire Department is dispatched for medical calls, to include compensation for that. The Committee has not yet had the opportunity to discuss any details with the two chiefs, but plan to schedule a meeting to present the option they came up with.

The board approved \$30,000 to be included in the 2023 budget as a placeholder for volunteer compensation. After a meeting with the Chiefs, the Special Committee will bring it back to the board at the November meeting for approval.

Thank you to Stephen and Ron for working hard on finalizing the BC Emergency Health Services Collaboration Agreement.

7. Fire Chief's Report

- Peter discussed the new truck search.
- SIVF could be eligible for a grant of up to \$30,000—the deadline is October 21st.
- Critical areas that need to be addressed are fire hose testing and officer training.
- Discussed making compensation available for hose testing.

8. (a) COVID Vaccination Policy

Moved by John Wiznuk that the board rescinds the current COVID vaccination policy. **Carried.**

9. SIR Chief's Report

(a) Recruitment Status Update

- There are seven new members willing to do training with one more rejoining the team.
- Discussed the cost of gaining and retaining new recruits.
- Vanessa expressed the need for the board to move quickly on approving the budget for training as it is urgent that the new recruits be trained.
- The HR committee will meet September 15 to make decisions regarding a budget for EMR training, uniforms, tools and total cost for successfully recruiting an EMR.

10. Operations/Asset Management Report - JW / PS / IG / DH

- Deputy Chief Sohler is due for a bar for his Fire Services Exemplary Service Medal.
- The committee has requested more money for the tanker replacement as everything Peter and Ian have found is out of the \$100,000 budget. Another \$30,000 would be helpful.

11. Finance Committee Report - SH

(a) Review January to August Financial Statements

- The financial statements were reviewed.
- Stephen reported that the annual property tax funds were received from the CRD on the last day of August.
- The CRD deducted some amounts that they had paid direct to vendors on behalf of SIFPS.
- A rebate from ICBC was received.
- Some funds are invested in redeemable GICs to take advantage of increasing interest rates.
- **Moved** by Stephen Hardy to accept January to August 2022 financial statements. **Carried.**

12. Communications Committee - TM (Tex)

(a) Doug Hayward's plan for new website design

Tex has not been able to make contact with Doug yet.

(b) Responsibility for updating existing website

- Peter C. suggested contacting Tyler to get access to edit the website.
- Tex suggested hosting a firehall open house.

13. Human Recourses - RM / TM

Nothing to report.

14. Occupational Health & Safety Joint Committee - TM / KP

(a) Draft Emergency Response Plan

Moved by Tony to implement the Emergency Response Plan that the volunteers/board members of the OHS committee came up with. **Carried.**

15. Health Spending Account Committee Report - TM

(a) HSA/CRA implications on volunteer compensation

Stephen noted that Health Spending Accounts are normally taxable benefits and this could possibly change because volunteer compensation will be offered.

16. Nominating Committee

(a) Maintaining the membership roster

Nothing to report

17. New Business

No new business.

18. Next Meeting Date - November 21st, 2022 at 4:00 pm at ESB #1. Ron Monk to chair the meeting.

19. Meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm.