

**NORTH GALIANO FIRE PROTECTION
AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMISSION**

COMMISSIONERS MEETING

September 15, 2019

10 am

FIRE HALL #1

Final Draft Minutes

Present: Robin Stringer, Roger Pettit, Michael Clark, Ken Kucille, Dawn Lybarger,
Laurie Whittaker

Regrets:

Guest: Roger Allen

Staff: Karen Harris

Recording Secretary: Jeanne Erickson

Chair: Roger Pettit

The meeting was called to order at 10:07 a.m. by the chair.

1. Approval of Agenda

Approved by consensus

2. Approval of Minutes

Motion: (Robin, Michael) to approve the minutes of the June 9 2019 meeting.

Carried

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

4. CRD Update

Roger reported that David Howe and Shawn Carby are setting up a meeting of fire departments including those in the Juan de Fuca Electoral District who have similar concerns to Galiano and Pender Islands. Jonathan Reimer is the new Manager of Fire and Emergency Services the NGVFD will be working with.

Action: Robin will send his notes, as is, to Dave Howe along with the message that the NGVFD Commission would very much appreciate a follow up.

Karen reports that the 90% report on asset management has not been received and there has not been a meeting regarding this since May.

Action: Karen to follow up

Karen also reported that she heard from the Library Board there was a new commissioners meeting at CRD on Friday and asked if anyone from the NGVFD has ever attended.

Action: Roger will investigate why the new commissioners from Galiano Island were not invited and why he wasn't informed officially that Jonathan was hired.

Roger noted that there is an informal group of chairs of SGI fire boards that has met once, and is meeting again soon. Included are representatives from Galiano, Pender, Saturna and Mayne. They met last year, for a half day meeting, for a table discussion of their concerns. This group has plans to become more formal. The effort is being spearheaded by Saturna Island.

Motion: (Dawn, Michael) the chair to talk to David Howe to request that a meeting be set up with representatives of all the electoral area fire commissions and societies from the Juan de Fuca, SGI and Saltspring Islands to discuss lines of communication with the CRD and the relationship with Protective Services.

Carried

5. Chair's Report

Generator for the Health Care Centre – it ran out of fuel several times, and a larger tank is needed. Roger is hoping to be able to get the CRD, through Fleet Services, to maintain this generator, as they already service other generators on the island.

BC Ambulance has not replied to the letter, other than a promise to respond. Michael reports that the NGVFD has been getting B and C callouts, which they were not getting before. Roger feels that we should work on this with our MLA as there is no civilian oversight and in that case the MLA needs to be held responsible.

6. Treasurer's Report

Robin sent out the September detailed report to the chief and chair. He is projecting to be under budget and any surplus will be forwarded to the next year or go towards capital purchases. He noted that Karen was given only twelve days to prepare a budget projection.

Action: Karen to circulate the budget projection for next year, to be discussed at the next meeting.

Action: Karen to remind the CRD to forward the hydro bills for the hall.

7. Chief's Report

Note for all: *16 is marine rescue, police boat, coast guard

Karen reports that back pack fire response equipment is now in place.

The Crest radios have not yet arrived.

There continue to be dead zones on Galiano Island due to a lack of towers.

We discussed the different approach to equipment and supplies carried by the south and north fire departments as generated by ambulance response projections.

Benefits for Fire Fighters

Karen reported on her investigation, thus far, on the possibility of obtaining benefits for NGVFD fire fighters.

- Karen will pursue what the cost might be for fire fighters to be included in CRD benefits
- a larger pool of people, shared cost and medical or dental options are all options to pursue
- Laurie W suggested that this be discussed with the other electoral area representatives
- Pender Island offers a benefit package

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Karen reports that she has been asked by our building inspector to require sprinkler systems for certain new houses, and has refused to do so, as she has been told by the Fire Commissioners office that she does not have the authority to require them. She reported concerns regarding fire safety requirements put on south end developments that were not generated by the fire chief.

Action: Roger to raise the issue of the sprinkler system requirements with David Howe. Karen will bring it up at the Chief's meeting.

Action: Karen to ask about the date of the Crest Radio delivery so that the fire ground radio batteries can be replaced if needed.

Action: Roger to bring up the Penelekut agreement with the CRD.

8. Other Business: none

9. Next Meeting October 6th 2019 9:00 am

10. Adjournment (Michael) 12:02 pm