

Mountain Fire Protection District

Trustee Meeting

September 16, 2021

In Attendance: Trustees Harold Kamikawaji, Clem Remillard, Dave Stewart and Neil Nelson. Administrator/Financial Officer Sarah Zubkowski. Deputy Fire Chief Dave LeNeveu and firefighters Zak Dunn, Joe Mayzes, Darcy Morgan and Wayne Morgan. Residents Charles Pinker.

Meeting called to order @ 6:59 pm by Neil Nelson. Second by Harold Kamikawaji. MSC.

Correspondence:

- Coastal Fire opened burning as of noon September 16, 2021.
- Dave LeNeveu has received questions regarding the flag at half mass. The firefighters continue to have the flag at half mass per the guidelines from the government.
- The firefighters have received Telus bills and overdue notices. Clem Remillard has since changed the address and Sarah Zubkowski has paid the outstanding bill.
- Clem Remillard received bylaw information for budget of 2022 from the provincial government.
- Clem Remillard received an email from ICBC new contact who has requested the bill from the police incident.
- Sarah Zubkowski received the Pope & Sons annual inspection notice. Passed on to Clem Remillard.

Financial Report: presented by Sarah Zubkowski.

- List of bills noted and discussed.

Fire Department Report: presented by Dave LeNeveu.

- 3 calls in July - 1 motor vehicle incident, 1 wild fire mutual aid, and 1 burning complaint.
- A burning complaint has caused an issue as there was a fire which was against the current regulations. The board can decide on whether to move forward with billing the resident.

Old Business:

- Nothing new on fire truck replacement. Dave Stewart knows a guy who assisted the Smithers fire department on getting a new fire truck. He will pass along the information. Dave LeNeveu stated they already have the design and are now just waiting on quotes.

New Business:

- The firefighters were able to get some slightly used air bottles for a better price than had been previously quoted so they were purchased.
- The firefighters stated there is an issue that is coming up at the fill spots for the water tanks. The gravel is getting in the hoses when they are filling up the trucks. They would like the gravel around the fill stations for the water tanks to be paved. Clem Remillard suggested talking to John Gregson to see if Hub City will pave again for free. There is

also a company in the District that is paving may be able to come pave the spots. There are 3 spots to be filled. Dave Stewart suggested using paving stones as well.

- Wayne Morgan said they is a dammed water source in the District and the owner has contacted Wayne suggesting that a line be put in from the property to the road. There is approximately 1.2 million gallons. It is about 300 feet from property to road. The school bus stops there as well. Dave Stewart asked how much water you need coming through the pipe. Wayne Morgan said it would have to be at least a 6 inch pipe. Neil Nelson is concerned with tampering. Zak Dunn stated that there would be a box with key access. Harold Kamikawaji asked about legal aspect. Neil Nelson stated that the board would have to look into this. Dave LeNeveu said that the owner is willing to have an easement on the property potentially. Dave LeNeveu said the firefighters have been discussing this internally and would like to have this looked at or explored further.
- Firefighters provided there budget for 2022. Dave LeNeveu calculated the budget was about \$75,000 last year for all categories related to the fire department. The firefighters are asking for a 20% raise for 2022 based on the residents reaction at the AGM. The biggest items are highlighted. In particular a drone. More than half of calls are burning complaints and a drone on a day when the weather is bad would be helpful. This will help spot and identify fires in the District. The firefighters stated that the truck maintenance budget for 2022 needs to increase due to increasing truck repairs. Uniforms budget would like to include badges for 2022. The firefighters have written out information for this. Training also needs to increase for 2022 as well so they can do some live fire training at \$750/firefighter. They would like to do this twice a year but realistically once a year. Hopefully with the new firefighter with the training certificates will be able to assist in training however this won't be with regards to live fire. The live fire in Nanaimo is now run privately and is double the cost so they will be doing this in Comox. They are also sourcing other spots. Detailed budget provided with all other items. Neil Nelson said not to train to many guys to pilot a drone because it will become a toy. Dave LeNeveu said it would be officer group only. The board asked about the refit of the old pump. Dave LeNeveu said that it is a good pump and is worth being refit. The inverter which has been budgeted I the past still has yet to be purchased. Office lease was an estimate by the firefighters. Harold Kamikawaji clarified what Dave LeNeveu meant when he stated that he spoke to residents about the budget increase. Dave LeNeveu stated this was at the AGM. Dave Stewart asked about training a trainer. Dave LeNeveu stated that they have a new firefighter that they are planning to do this with after his probation period is over. Some training cannot be done by new firefighter yet. Dave Leneveu suggested potentially having a seacan brought to the firehall and doing live fire training here at the hall however this has not been looked into further.

Questions:

- Neil asked for questions.
- Charles Pinker will be attending a meeting for the RDN regarding concerns with the roads in the District. Will report back with what happens. Charles Pinker is hoping to have a drive around with someone.
- Montessori school wants a liaison regarding having a farm at the school grounds. Dave LeNeveu stated that Russ McMann has been in contact with them. They are planning on putting in water tanks to supply the farm. They had the second reading of the school's mandate. Dave LeNeveu asked who makes the decision. Charles Pinker stated that the RDN does and that the school should be discussing fire protection with the fire department. No contact with the board per Neil Nelson. Also, the school provides a

concern from a traffic perspective. Dave LeNeveu has limited information and the board has not been contacted.

- Ministry of Forestry has lifted the fire ban. Charles Pinker asked if they will be allowing burns or staying with the Oct 15th deadline. Wayne Morgan asked Clem Remillard about the issue with information on the website for the RDN that had differing info regarding the burning restrictions of the District. Wayne Morgan stated that the officers will discuss when the burning permits will start to be issued. Darcy Morgan stated that he just watered down a fire in which a resident stated he had permission from the RDN. Dave Stewart stated that it appears there is a go around. Wayne Morgan stated that it is unclear. Charles Pinker asked if the conservation officer can be called as a consequence.
- Nanoose Fire Department Society closed and RDN took over.
- Charles Pinker asked why all 3 fire trucks were out of the District at the Milner pit? Dave LeNeveu stated that it was a mutual aid and there was a pep number. Charles Pinker asked why did the City of Nanaimo leave? Dave LeNeveu stated it was because EWFD were on scene and it was not the City's area. The press stated that it was our District which was misinformation. Dave Stewart asked what happened? Dave LeNeveu stated that the City called the fire department and it was stated that there was a fire that went into the trees to beyond. Darcy Morgan made the call to have all 3 trucks to go there to get ahead of the fire. The EWFD deemed it to be safe and Milner took over. If there is a pep number will the government reimburse the District for the foam? Darcy Morgan stated that there is a value per truck however consumables are not included. Zak Dunn asked about the contract in the District and what parts of the District they City covers. Charles Pinker stated that it is a contract with a price to cover the certain areas. Harold Kamikawaji asked if we can charge the City? Dave LeNeveu said we have to be careful as the city responds to all mvi's in the District. Clem Remillard suggested we apply for the contract. Charles Pinker stated that the truck would be quite a ways out of the District. The boundary lines would have to be changed which is a nightmare. Neil Nelson stated that we should be talking to Milner about covering the cost of the foam since this is the second time we have attended there.

Motions Adopted by E-Mail:

- Motion to pay Sarah Zubkowski made by Tony Wright Sept 1, 2021. Second by Neil Nelson Sept 1, 2021.
- Motion to pay bills made by Neil Nelson Sept 3, 2021. Second by Harold Kamikawaji Sept 4, 2021.
- Motion to pay bills made by Neil Nelson Sept 7, 2021. Second by Harold Kamikawaji Sept 7, 2021.
- Motion to pay bills made by Neil Nelson Sept 16, 2021. Second by Harold Kamikawaji Sept 16, 2021.
- Motion to pay Sarah Zubkowski made by Harold Kamikawaji Sept 16, 2021. Second by Clem Remillard Sept 16, 2021.

Motion to adjourn meeting @ 7:53 pm made by Neil Nelson. Second by Dave Stewart. MSC.

Next meeting October 21, 2021 @ 7 pm.