

Mountain Fire Protection District 2012 Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Mountain Fire Protection District was held on April 19th 2012 in the East Wellington Fire Hall. Trustees Charles Pinker, Gord Shoquist, Donna Argyle and Clem Remillard were in attendance. Also present was Maureen Young, RDN Area C Director and Doug Parkhurst from Gary Ruffle Ltd.

There were 33 area residents in attendance. The meeting was opened at 7:00 by Trustee Charles Pinker who was in the chair. He then introduced the Trustees, Maureen Young and Doug Parkhurst.

Minutes

All area residents and the Trustees were given a copy of the minutes from the 2011 AGM. It was moved by George Baker and 2nd by Steve Ellis that the minutes of the 2011 AGM be adopted.

Financial Report

A copy of the financial statement for the year up to December 31 2011 was given to all in attendance. The format of the financial statement was explained by Doug Parkhurst of Gary Ruffle Accounting and he went through it page by page. There were no questions.

It was moved by George Baker to adopt the Financial Report and 2nd by Steve Ellis.

Fire Department

Fire Chief Ellis is pleased with the new truck. It has made a difference. There were 16 calls last year. He explained the distribution of calls by response type. A resident asked him if the response times were better. Fire Chief Ellis said that they were in a more central location and yes, they were better. Bruce Erickson asked Steve if he was happy with the foam system and if he has enough of a supply. Steve replied that he was happy with the system and that it was more effective and is being replaced as it is needed with a pallet system. There are now 22 members. He let us know that two have stepped down. An open house will be held on the 26th of May.

Trustees Honorarium

Trustee Charles Pinker explained that no one gets paid except Trustee Gord Shoquist (\$500.00/mth). Audrey Ellis asked why Gord was being paid as there are many volunteers that have never been paid. Charles Pinker replied that it was because of the extra administrative work load. Doug Parkhurst also added that an Improvement District needs an Administrator. If the work was contracted out it would cost between \$500.00-\$1000.00 per month and that was only for a bookkeeper. If we were to hire an Administrator, Doug Parkhurst suggested that we would pay a cost of approximately \$40,000.00 per year and Charles Pinker added that if we became part of the RDN or City we would lose our status as an Improvement District.. Debbie Avender asked how many transactions does Gord take care of per month and what has changed that we need to pay someone now. Clem Remillard explained that we have more bills, more expenses; we are larger and more sophisticated. Doug replied that Gord does anywhere from 20-50 transactions. Debbie asked if there is a T4 issued, she also asked what qualifications Gord has. Doug Parkhurst replied that there is not a T4 issued as, this is considered an allowable expense. At this point Gord Shoquist explained all that he does and what his qualifications are. Debbie Avender wanted to know if the decision to pay Gord Shoquist was ever brought up at an AGM. Charles Pinker explained that we have letters of patent allowing the Trustees to make this decision. Fire Chief Ellis wanted to know if the firemen will be getting paid too. Gary addressed the question by comparing Lantzville to us and the cost would be about \$40,000.00 in wages per year. Bruce Erickson pointed out that Gord Shoquist is the 1st person ever to be paid and was against paying volunteers. Randy O'Donnell thanked the Trustees for doing their job. He asked what would be the alternative and asked if anyone else would be willing to do the books and said that we do need an administrator type person. Debbie Remillard suggested that perhaps other Trustees could take over some of Gord's duties as he seems to be doing all the work. Steve Ellis also asked if the Trustees could split the work up. Charles Pinker explained what each Trustee's duties were and that they were all responsible for making the decisions. The Trustees agree that splitting up Gord's work would not work as there would have to be too much communication to even do the simplest tasks. Charles suggested that Gord Shoquist could step down as a Trustee and continue to do the paid administrative duties. Gord Shoquist spoke up and said that the job entails many responsibilities and he was more than willing to step down. He does not want to cause dissension. He has been happy doing his job and serving the community to the best of his ability for many years he has established strong relationships within the community and the Government. Charles asked the residents if there was anyone willing to take over the job. Nobody offered to take on this responsibility. Wendy McQueen came forward. She told us that she has been a bookkeeper since 1978 and recognizes Gord on doing a good job. She said that Gord does not only do" Bookkeeping," it goes way past that responsibility. Mathew Borelli asked, can a committee be formed by volunteers to split up the work. Clem Remillard recognized that we obviously need to come up with a solution. Audrey Ellis thought the committee

idea was good. As did other residents. Charles Pinker asked those who would like to be part of a committee to please leave their name and/or email addresses before they left. Bruce Erickson asked if we had bought a generator. Fire Chief Ellis said that it still needed to be discussed. Charles Pinker mentioned that Fire Chief Ellis still has expenses that need to be taken care of first. Wayne Morgan asked if the generator could be bought from the CWRRF. It was explained that no it could not as the fund was not meant for this purpose. He asked the Trustees to find out from the Government if this was truly the case. The Trustees said they would.

Jack Van Doorn took the opportunity to thank and acknowledge Wayne Morgan and Steve Ellis for all the hard work they put into helping to build the Fire Hall.

Street Lighting

Trustee Clem Remillard reported that we have 54 streets lights in our area. He explained how to report a problem by 1st noting the serial number on the pole and to let himself know or go onto the website.

Maureen Young RDN area C Director

Maureen thanked us for inviting her to our AGM and complemented us on the new Fire Hall. Meadow Drive Park has now been fully equipped, including a washroom. A new 6 acre property has been gifted to the community from the Olesons . The address is 3734 Jingle Pot Road. A resident asked Maureen if there was any word on the improvement of shoulder conditions on Jingle Pot Road. Maureen replied that this involves lots of work and discussion with the RDN which might also require letters or a petition to get an approval for. Wayne Morgan asked if she had talked to the RDN to have the Andre Rd , Ranchpoint and Aesop area to be amalgamated into our area; which is estimated at 85 homes. Maureen had not heard back from them concerning the amalgamation. He also mentioned that the roads in East Wellington have many very bad pot holes. Maureen has emailed MOT and is still awaiting a reply. She suggested that we call Emcon (the local highways contractor) and it would be beneficial to mail a copy to MOT.

Election of Trustees

Trustee Charles Pinker announced that Trustee Gordon Bush's position was up for election. Charles passed on that Gordon Bush is not well. He is willing to go for another 3 years. Charles Pinker called for nominations. Steve Ellis nominated Dean Kauwell for Trustee, Wayne Morgan nominated Bruce Erickson for Trustee at which time he declined. Trustee Charles asked for any further nominations three times and hearing none closed the nominations. Merle Proteau asked if Gordon Bush could be an honorary Trustee and Charles Pinker said yes.

There were ballots given to each person to vote for either Dean Kauwell or Gordon Bush for the position of Trustee. Joan Pile and Merle Proteau were scrutinizers for the ballots. The ballots were counted and they were 24 to 7 in favor for Dean Kauwell. Dean Kauwell was asked to stand for 3 years and he accepted.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07