

Mountain Fire Protection District

Trustee Meeting

April 28, 2022

In Attendance: Trustees Tony Wright, Harold Kamikawaji, Dave Stewart and Neil Nelson. Clem Remillard absent. Administrator/Financial Officer Sarah Zubkowski.

Meeting called to order @ 7:01 pm by Neil Nelson. Second by Harold Kamikawaji. MSC.

Introduction

Prior Year AGM Minutes:

- Neil Nelson noted the prior year AGM minutes and allowed attendees to read through and asked for questions. None.

Financial Report: presented by Sarah Zubkowski.

- Sarah Zubkowski highlighted items on the financial statements, in particular, accounts receivable, long term debt, the budget and the income statement.
- Sarah Zubkowski asked for questions. None.

Improvement District Report:

- Neil Nelson noted that water tanks were placed underground at the firehall. These tanks were provided a few years ago to the District.
- Tony Wright noted that the street lighting has been changed from high pressure sodium to LED. The idea is that they are brighter, easier to maintain, cost less, and last longer. The District pays more for 4 years to cover new lights and then costs will come down after that. Joe Mayzes asked how long LED lights last. Tony Wright stated they will last 20 years. Neil Nelson noted different options for lights – soft, bright or hard. District choose to go with the bright option.
- Neil Nelson noted that the super shuttle accreditation was obtained which affected the house insurance for residents. Insurance coverage for residents should go down since the District qualifies for this. Board has tried to get the word out and insurance agencies mostly know.

Fire Department Report: presented by Dave LeNeveu.

- Dave LeNeveu wanted to recognize members and past members and introduced various firefighters in attendance.
- Noted that the trustees and fire department have a good relationship.
- Dave LeNeveu noted that super shuttle accreditation required the fire department needed to have enough water storage in the District. The fire department was required to arrive on scene, pump enough water and in enough time to pass the test. Passed the accreditation during the year.
- Dave LeNeveu stated that looking forward we need to replace the 1988 fire truck. The fire department has been looking for 1.5 years for a conceivable option. Estimate of approximately \$500k and needs to be replaced in order to continue to qualify for the super shuttle accreditation. Mike Boucier mentioned that we talked about this 2 years ago. Dave Leneveu stated that they originally modifying the current truck which they realized

doesn't work. The fire department wants to spend the least amount of money for the District. Dave LeNeveu noted constraints of the third bay, the gross vehicle weight, and requirements for equipment to be carried. Neil Nelson also looked at used trucks and transporting them back to the District. Russ McCallum noted that used trucks are hard to buy as you need the money in hand and purchase site unseen which is not an option for the District. Also parts for old trucks are hard to obtain. Mike Boucier asked if there is a current new truck that can be purchased. Dave LeNeveu stated that we need to design a truck in order to meet the needs of the District. Darcy Morgan stated that if we had a full sized bay we could have purchased a truck already however the size of the third bay makes the replacement truck purchase hard. Mike Bourcier noted that the quote has doubled since we talked about it 2 years ago. Jack Van Doorn stated that his insurance has decreased by \$500. Emanuel Hajek wanted to thank the volunteers from everyone at Creekside. His insurance went down \$1200. Emanuel Hajek is concerned about access by the fire department to Creekside houses due to the parking for the park. Neil Nelson stated that it will be discussed at the end of the meeting during the RDN portion.

- Mutual aid was obtained between Lantzville and our fire department. This allows each department to respond to fires in each others area.
- Mutual aid is also being worked on with City of Nanaimo. Currently the City of Nanaimo will not respond to an MVI in the District. The third truck is what holds the equipment for MVI response which is another reason the third truck needs to be replaced.
- Fire department received 41 calls in 2021. Burning complaint calls are not included in this number. Burning complaints/burning permit calls are numerous. Noted that fire department is 100% volunteer.
- Wayne Morgan, burning permit liaison, noted that changes a few years ago for burning rules. There is now a high sensitivity index and there is a map on the website which is interactive and is green when you can burn and brown when you can't. Wayne Morgan noted that burning permits are now required all year. Wayne Morgan noted that the day you are burning, you are required to call. The fire department can then page out to the duty officers that there is burning at certain addresses. This then cuts down on all burning callouts as the fire department doesn't need to be called out for smoke calls if there is a burning permit already issued.
- Currently 31 members in the hall and this is a full roster. Very little turnover. Curtis Keen got a job at City fire department which speaks to the level of training being obtained through our fire department.

Elections:

- Clem Remillard is up for renewal in 2022.
- Neil Nelson asked for nominations.
- Neil Nelson nominated Clem Remillard. Second by Dave Stewart. Sarah Zubkowski noted that Clem Remillard stated that he would stand again via email (absent due to sickness).
- Neil Nelson asked for nominations a second time. None.
- Neil Nelson made a third request for nominations. None.
- Clem Remillard is elected for another 3 year period.

Questions:

- Dale Leathorn asked about Millstone Winery. This will be covered in the RDN report after the meeting.

- Joe Mayzes asked about price of the replacement truck and how people feel about this. Neil Nelson stated that we do have a reserve fund for these items. Sarah Zubkowski noted the ways the District can pay for the replacement truck are with the said reserve fund or through a loan with the Provincial Government. Neil Nelson noted that another one of the fire trucks is coming up for recertification in 2030 which will be another expenditure.

Motion to adjourn meeting @ 7:38 pm made by Neil Nelson. Second by Tony Wright. MSC.

RDN - Charles Pinker presentation. He can be contacted at 250-802-3618 or by email pinker.charles@gmail.com.