

Mountain Fire Protection District

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

April 16, 2015

In Attendance: Trustees Charles Pinker, Anne Judson, Dale Fulton and Clem Remillard. Dean Kauwell was absent. Administrator/Financial Officer Sarah Zubkowski. Deputy Fire Chief Wade Pile, Captain Russ McCallum and Training Officer Jack Van Doorn from the fire department. Attendance sheets were used to sign in residents and guests.

Meeting called to order @ 7:03 pm by Charles Pinker.

1st Order:

- Introductions of the board, administrator, fire department officers in attendance and Martin Drakely from the City of Nanaimo fire department.
- Minutes from the April 24, 2014 AGM were provided for review. Charles Pinker asked if there were questions - none from the attendees. Motion to adopt the April 24, 2014 AGM minutes made by Deb Remillard. Second by Anne Judson. MSC.

Financial Report: presented by Sarah Zubkowski.

- Financial statements and audit report discussed. Sarah Zubkowski asked for any questions.
- Leo Boon questioned the cost of the new fire truck as Sarah Zubkowski noted that it cost \$399,796.32 however the AGM minutes from April 24, 2014 stated that it would cost \$349,867. Sarah Zubkowski stated the difference was due to the quote not including GST and PST. As well there were changes/additions made to the truck which also added to the cost.

Improvement District Report: presented by Charles Pinker.

- LED lights have been put in to reduce costs of electricity at the hall.
- An AirMation unit was installed in the 3rd bay in order to store the old fire truck in there. It is required in order to reduce the exhaust fumes to a reasonable level.
- The new sign structure is up and the District is currently waiting on the final sign to be constructed and installed. The mock up sign was displayed at the meeting.
- Honorariums are currently not taken by the trustees for their service however they can be paid by the District. The trustees are not requesting an honorarium.
- Dean Kauwell has served 3 years on the board of trustees and his term is currently up. The board of trustees would like to thank Dean Kauwell for his service to the district.
- Bruce Erickson questioned whether there is an issue with the sign and the Ministry of Transportation? Charles Pinker stated there is no problem.
- Bruce Erickson questioned whether the trustees receive mileage payments? Charles Pinker stated that they do not.
- Clem Remillard stated that the website has been updated and has useful links, comments on current events, minutes from the meetings, and bylaws in effect. He also plans on adding more information going forward and asked any residents to email any input they have on the website.
- Karen Anker asked who maintains the website. Clem Remillard stated that he and Anne are currently doing this.

Fire Department Report: presented by Wade Pile.

- The distribution of calls was discussed per the printout received from the City of Nanaimo - 5 alarms activated, 4 assistance, 6 burning complaints, 1 bush fire, 4 other fires, 2 hydro line fires, 7 motor vehicle incidents, 1 motor vehicle incident extraction, 1 motor vehicle incident minor, 1 rescue, and 1 structure fire.
- There are currently 30 firefighters which range from junior members to members with 30 years of experience.
- 2015 Fire truck arrived on January 31st. The fire department recently travelled to the Errington for a meet up with other fire departments to test out the new truck which went well.
- There are new requirements for training in order to comply with WCB standards which the fire department is currently working on.
- The fire department is currently working on vehicle extraction.
- First Aid and driver training are almost complete.
- Randy O'Donnell wondered if there is a difference with other districts after attending the meet up in Errington. Wade Pile stated that there is a significant difference in water consumption in the new truck. It can suck up water at a faster rate. Russ McCallum stated that it took approximately 20 seconds to start filling the new truck and other districts were spending 5-6 minutes to start filling their trucks.
- Jack Van Doorn stated that our District was previously in a similar situation prior to having this truck. Wayne Morgan stated that this helps bring the District closer to the Super Shuttle Service status which will help reduce insurance.
- Dori Mowbray wanted to thank the fire department for their service.
- Bruce Erickson questioned what the liability is when the fire department is called out of the district? Wade Pile stated that they are checking into that and that the usual process is to call the organization in charge to respond to the area if it is outside of the District.
- Charles Pinker stated that the trustees on behalf of the District would like to thank Jim Avender, who recently retired from the fire department, for his 25-30 years of service.
- Charles Pinker stated that many of the firefighters are not from the District and that we need to get more residents involved in the fire department.
- Dori Mowbray stated that she tried to join the fire department and was refused. Also women have been discouraged from joining. Jack Van Doorn stated that there is no restriction on women joining the fire department and the only restriction is based on where you live as you cannot be too far outside of the district. Wade Pile also noted that the number of firefighters is currently maxed out so they do turn people away.
- Wade Pile noted that as of April 15, 2015 residents need burning permits and that you can phone the hall and be patched through to the duty officer who can provide a permit. Wade Pile also noted that the venting index is important to consider when burning. Deb Remillard asked what happens if the venting index changes while you are burning? Jack Van Doorn stated that test burn should be performed in order to test where the smoke is going.
- Debbie Avender questioned what rules apply to an industrial burn as she is being smoked out by a neighbor who has permits in place? Debbie Avender also questioned whether the board can update the burning bylaws and questioned how long that would take? Charles Pinker explained that the board could draft new burning bylaws however it then gets sent to Victoria for approval and there is no time line on how long it would take. Dale Fulton also stated that they will need to get input from the community prior to drafting a new policy.

Election:

- Charles Pinker stated that there is one 3 year term up for election and asked for nominations.
- Anne Judson nominated Harold Kamikawaji.
- Charles Pinker asked for any further nominations a second time - there are none.
- Charles Pinker asked for any further nominations a third time - there are none.
- Charles Pinker asked Harold Kamikawaji if he will stand. He stated he will.
- Charles Pinker states that the new trustee is Harold Kamikawaji is the new trustee.

New Business:

- Debbie Avender stated she wants a new burning bylaw in place and asked how long it will take? Charles Pinker stated that they cannot say for sure. Anne Judson said they will work on it. Debbie Avender stated that there may be a conservation issue due to the smoke and maybe the board can work on the bylaw update in conjunction with them? Clem Remillard stated he will ensure that burning bylaw is updated as he feels it is old and outdated. Deb Remillard said there is an issue when smoke comes down into the valley and that health issues need to be considered. Bruce Erickson questioned whether there are restrictions on size, type, etc of fires in the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN)? Charles Pinker stated there is not. Bruce Erickson questioned whether we need a motion to have the burning bylaws redrafted? Charles Pinker stated that yes we do. Debbie Avender made a motion to redraft the burning bylaw as soon as possible. Second by Bruce Erickson. MSC.
- Wayne Morgan stated there is a disconnect between the firefighters and the board as he has witnessed by attending some monthly trustee meetings. Wayne Morgan noted that Steve Ellis, fire chief, obtained a quote for used and new jaws of life and the board did not approve the purchase and detrimental comments were made by the board. The trustees then attended a firefighter practice meeting in January 2015 which was great and was going well until another comment was made. Wayne Morgan thinks that the board should reconsider the purchase of the jaws of life and quickly as it helps save lives. Anne Judson stated that a business case needs to be made for the purchase of the jaws of life and asked Martin Drakely what the process is for mutual aid? Martin Drakely stated that the BC Ambulance, RCMP, or local fire department can request the jaws of life the City of Nanaimo will respond as long as the 2 sets of jaws of life are not in use. Anne Judson asked what the average response time is? Martin Drakely stated it is about 9.5 minutes and was longer than usual as they had to wait for a PEP number in order to enter the District with no liability. Bruce Erickson questioned whether Search and Rescue have jaws of life. Wade Pile stated they do not as they mostly respond to hiking, etc calls where they are not needed. Wayne Morgan stated that there is an additional 10 minutes before the call to the City of Nanaimo is made for the jaws of life. Anne Judson asked how many calls for the jaws of life the District has made? Martin Drakely stated there has been 1 in the last 5 years which they responded to. Anne Judson asked how much training is involved? Martin Drakely stated that there is an initial 30 hours and then continual/maintenance training is ongoing in the future. Wayne Morgan asked what Martin Drakely's opinions on in house training? Martin Drakely stated that he cannot give his opinion on the matter. Anne Judson questioned whether newer types of vehicles require additional training? Martin Drakely stated that yes they do as there is new technology. Randy O'Donnell would like to see the fire department equipped as possible but there has only been a few motor vehicle accidents in the last year and there was only 1 call to the City in the last 5 years so it seems like an

expensive item for the district to purchase. Russ McCallum stated that most residents pay for insurance and never use it which can be compared to purchasing the jaws of life and not needing it. Anne Judson stated that there have been a lot of big expenses lately including the new truck, 3rd bay expenses, anticipated costs on the old fire truck, etc. Debbie Avender asked whether there are any statistics on the motor vehicle incident increase/decrease in past years? Wade Pile stated that there are statistics on hand but there has been a general increase in motor vehicle incidents. Dori Mowbray stated she is 100% behind the purchase. Wayne Morgan asked what is in the capital reserve fund and whether this can be used to purchase the jaws of life? Anne Judson stated that there is approximately \$100,000 in the capital reserve fund. Anne Judson stated that the board is not saying that the District can't afford the purchase but they believe the expenses will be high going forward even after the initial purchase. Miles Hensel noted there is a difference between the jaws of life and what they are currently doing for vehicle extraction and that \$35,000 is not a lot of money spread out over the residents. Dale Fulton stated that the board is not saying that the jaws of life will never be purchased, that they are just not being purchased at this time as they want to wait and see what the costs for the year are. Debbie Avender questioned whether the jaws of life protect the firefighters when they are attending fires? Jack Van Doorn stated that they can assist. Charles Pinker stated that the jaws of life involves other parts that must also be purchased which is also an additional cost. Russ McCallum stated that right now the firefighters are using a saw which can cause problems. Gord Shoquist asked to give a quick explanation of the capital reserve fund as he is a former trustee. He stated that it was set up for saving for new fire trucks which need to be purchased every 20 years and was not initially intended for other capital purchases. Russ McCallum asked what the leftover budget was from 2014 and specifically what applied to the fire fighter equipment budget. Sarah Zubkowski stated it was approximately a \$35,000 surplus and did not have the figures for how much applied to the fire fighter equipment budget specifically. Rhonda Libbus stated she is married to a full time firefighter and knows how much training is required and asked if there is a cost to the District for the City of Nanaimo to respond with the jaws of life? Martin Drakely stated there is no cost. Wayne Morgan made a motion to investigate the purchase of the jaws of life further. Second by Dori Mowbray. MSC.

Motion to adjourn meeting @ 8:29 pm made by Anne Judson. Second by Gord Shoquist. MSC.