

## **Mountain Fire Protection District 2013 Annual General Meeting**

The annual General Meeting of the Mountain Fire Protection District was held on April 18<sup>th</sup> 2013 in the East Wellington Fire Hall. Trustees Clem Remillard, Charles Pinker, Donna Argyle, Dean Kauwell Gord Shoquist were in attendance. Also present was Maureen Young RDN area C Director and Doug Parkhurst from Gary Ruffle Ltd.

There were 27 area residents in attendance. The meeting was opened at 7:00 P.M. by Trustee Charles Pinker who was in the chair. He then introduced the Trustees, Maureen Young and Doug Parkhurst. Charles went over the agenda for the meeting.

### **Minutes**

All are residents present and the Trustees were given a copy of the minutes from The 2012 Annual General Meeting.

It was moved by George Baker and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Merle Proteau that the minutes of the 2012 AGM be adopted.

### **Financial Report**

A copy of the financial statement for the year up to December 31, 2012 was given to all in attendance. Doug Parkhurst from Gary Ruffle Ltd. introduced himself to the residents and explained his role and procedures as the auditor for Mountain Fire Protection District. Doug went through each section of the report. He then asked if anyone had any questions regarding the report. Clem Remillard asked Doug to go over the new policies on standards of accounting, which he did.

Wayne Morgan wanted to know what the balance of \$140,000 was in the general fund for. Doug said most of it was for equipment replacement and reserves. Tim Miller asked what the \$9,000 for volunteer recognition represented. Charles explained that it was given to the Fire Department as a social fund to be used for such things as Fire works for the annual Guy Fawkes nights, annual department golf tournament, work parties etc.

It was moved by George Baker and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Audrey Ellis to adopt the auditor's report.

## **Report on the District**

Trustees Honorarium: Trustee Charles Pinker explained that the Trustees do not get paid. Charles reported that it took two years to decide on the generator and we now have one. He also reported that the lighting for the Fire Hall had all been changed and was now more energy efficient. Bruce Erickson asked if the generator was hooked up to the big propane tank on sight. Charles explained that it was more efficient to run it on diesel. Wayne Morgan wanted to know if we got more than 1 quote to change the lighting, he mentioned that Costco was cheaper. Gord Shoquist addressed the question by letting us know that we would be getting a \$1,000 rebate from BC Hydro by going through a certified company.

## **Fire Department**

Deputy Fire Chief Wade Pile reported that as of December 31<sup>st</sup> there were 30 callouts. They consisted of 6 alarms, 2 assists, 8 burning complaints, 1 bush fire, 1 hydro line fire, 7 MVA's, 2 structure fires and 3 other. There are now 25 members in the Department. The new foam system works very well and they are happy with the new truck. They are expecting the new gear to arrive soon. As there are many MVA's, Wade Pile would like to see training in extraction for the Firemen and have a new level of equipment that would provide safety for the public as well as the Firemen. Clem suggested that Deputy Fire Chief Pile introduce the Firemen in attendance, which he did. Joy Hunter asked Wade how she would go about having a controlled burn of her blackberry and thistle bushes. He suggested that she could hire an excavator and make a pile then burn it. Merle Proteau mentioned that maybe the firemen should be reimbursed for attending fires etc. Wade explained that it was a volunteer fire department. Dale Fulton asked about the foam system versus a tanker system which they have on Gabriola Island. Wade pointed out that we do not have a big enough water supply to accommodate the tanker system plus Gabriola has water tanks all over the island. Dean Kauwell let us know that we now have a web site and it was [mountainfireprotection.ca](http://mountainfireprotection.ca). Wayne Morgan wanted to know if the monthly minutes would be available on the site. Charles Pinker replied that they would.

Deputy Chief Pile mentioned that there have been changes to the burning regulations and will let us know in detail when he gets more information.

### **Maureen Young RDN area C Director**

Maureen introduced herself and wanted everyone to know that they were welcome to attend the meetings for parks and open spaces. There will be an open house for a new park of 6 acres donated by Andres Dorset. The date of the meeting will be announced and the area residents need to consider whether the house on the premises should be saved or preserved as part of the park. She also mentioned that we should let her know what we would like to see done with Benson Creek Park, our opinions are needed. We have available funding from the community gas fund which has accumulated over the years. She suggested we could perhaps build a trail along Jingle Pot Road which has been on the agenda for a while. Again our input is important.

We now have transit service in the area on a 6 month trial period. Maureen needs feedback on ridership. There is a significant tax increase if it stays. The residents brought it to Maureen's attention that the stops have not been well thought out and gave her some suggestions of where they would be more appropriate. Most of the stops were in the ditch with nowhere to stand and safety was an issue. Maureen promised to look into changing some of the stops. It was also noted that the area residents were not using the route and instead was used by college students etc. Bruce Erickson asked about the amalgamation of Ranch/Alsop/Andre. He was reminded that as stated in the past, the residents of that area needed to start a petition.

### **New Business**

Deputy Chief Wade Pile asked if he could address the residents with the proposal to buy a new tanker truck at a cost of about \$200,000. He pointed out that ours was 25 years old and no longer insurable by the underwriters. He suggested we convert the old truck to a tool truck. George Baker asked if we could build our own and Merle Proteau asked if we could fix up the old one. Russ McCallum said that legally the underwriters would not insure it. Wade Pile wanted to know what the options were for buying a truck. Doug Parkhurst mentioned we could lease or we could have short term borrowing as two options. Audrey Ellis and Wayne

Morgan both suggested that we use the capital works and renewal fund instead of borrowing.

It was moved by Wayne Morgan and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Marilyn Whitworth that the Trustees and Fire Department look into buying a tanker truck.

### **Election of Trustees**

Trustee Charles Pinker announced that the positions of Trustee Donna Argyle who has given up her position and Trustee Clem Remillard were up for election. Charles called for nominations. The nominations were residents Anne Judson, Audrey Ellis and Dale Fulton. Karen anchor asked Audrey Ellis if she was willing to not vote for issues regarding the Fire Department. She replied that she would. Charles Pinker mentioned that it is a conflict of interest when firemen/and or their spouses serve on the board of Trustees and is a concern with the Government and auditors who had brought it to our attention. Charles then asked if there were any further nominations three times. Hearing none he closed the nominations.

Ballots were given to each resident to vote for the position of trustee. Merle Proteau and Doug Parkhurst were scrutinizers for the ballots. The ballots were counted. Anne Judson was asked to stand for 3 years and she accepted. There were no nominations for Clem Remillard's position. He was asked if he would be willing to stand for another 3 years and he accepted.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:17. The adjournment moved by George Baker and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Debbie Remillard.