

**GABRIOLA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
GENERAL MEETING**

A General Meeting of the Gabriola Fire Protection District was held January 22, 2020 at the No. 1 Fire Hall with seven Trustees in attendance. The meeting was called to order at 4:45 p.m. by Chairman Sandra Rudischer.

Chairman Rudischer asked for errors or omissions from the minutes of December 4, 2019 General Meeting, none forthcoming, moved by Penelope Bahr that the minutes be accepted as presented, seconded by Diana Moher, carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** N/A

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** N/A

**FIRE CHIEF REPORT:**

The Chief noted that there will be an Open House on January 22, from 10:00 - 3:00 for Emergency Preparedness. Recruitment for the department as well as other services, such as ESS, PALS... will be sought.

We have set up some Social Media accounts, Twitter, Instagram, as well as Facebook, they will all be linked to our GabriolaFire.ca webpage.

On Tuesday, January 22, the department passed the annual Commercial FUS testing needed to upgrade our records.

At our last Officer's Meeting we went over OFC self audit.

Updated the Burning Bylaw to include the new regulations.

Fire Smarting - Canso area will be the first neighbourhood to receive the Red Bin for clean up.

We have appointed two new Officers, Elisha Bandel No 1 Hall and Dave Chorneyko No. 2.

**Q.**Do you need a policy for the media accounts? We have an O.G. regarding talking to the media.

**TRAINING OFFICER'S REPORT:** Reported by Jethro Baker

Training topics for January are:

F.R. bleeding/shock  
Pre-incident planning at the Gabriola Garden  
Homes Superior Tanker Shuttle Service  
accreditation Low angle ice/water rescue

In the upcoming months we will:

Co-ordinate monthly training nights  
Evaluate long term training needs  
Continue reviewing our OFC Playbook compliance

I have completed our 2020 training schedule for our frontline recruits and auxiliaries. The list of skills we need to be proficient in is massive. The training is co-ordinated by myself and the Chief. The Officers play a large role in delivering the weekly training. These Officers take additional training to be able to manage fire scenes, assist and lead training sessions. We have three groups of firefighters to train including frontline, new recruits, and auxiliary firefighters, it takes a team to provide training our almost 40 FF's.

The recent plan crash showed us that our work in the area of critical incident stress is necessary and has helped our members. The department holds mental health at a highest level of importance. Strategies we have learned at our yearly critical incident stress workshop were used on scene and in the days following.

I look forward to working with our firefighters to provide a professional level of response to the people of Gabriola for 2020.

**ASSOCIATION REPORT:** N/A

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Bylaw 95 - Burning**

The new rules from the Provincial Government have been incorporated into the Bylaw.

Changed 1m X 1m to .5 X .5g

Need to develop Community Wildfire Reduction plan.

An Officer will have to inspect a burn site before a permit is issued.

Discussion:

Take out the word oral permission? Define campfire rules better.  
Put the permit on the website.

John Moeller moved that the topic be tabled until the next meeting, seconded by Mark Noyon, carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**UBCM:**

The Chair brought up the UBCM grant application, explaining that the last thing that is needed is that the Trustees show that they are in agreement to applying for this grant as well as providing overall administration until the project is complete.

Moved by Paul Giffin that the Trustees support this application. Seconded by Penelope Bahr, carried.

### **Trustee's Website**

A discussion ensued on the topic:

Link Trustee website with GVFD.

Agenda and meeting information posted here instead of GVFD site. To be decided, contributors, authors, or editors. How many pages need to be created?

Email access for Trustees only. - Discussion on whybypass the Corporate Officer? It was decided that the emails would go to a separate email, rather than the GVFD one.

Penelope Bahr thanked Dimitri Tzotzos for all his help and support.

Committee will report on progress at the next meeting.

### **OFC Self Audit:**

There were six areas the Officer's identified:

As of January 9, 2020 the following steps have been taken to address these areas:

A policy has been included into the Operational Guidelines that addresses our service level and training requirements as outlined by the Play Book

Health and Safety committee has been formed and has met and developed an appropriate fitness test designed for our frontline firefighters. This will take place for all frontline firefighters in the spring of 2020. In addition preparatory training has been implemented on a weekly basis in order to prepare frontline firefighters for this test.

Currently we are in talk with Nanaimo Fire Communications and developing an agreement to use their reporting software with no extra cost to the GVFD.

In addition to these there are three more areas that will need to be addressed on a monthly basis at our Officers Meetings:

1. Near miss reporting.
2. Continual training in all existing and updated Operational Guidelines.
3. Organization chart of the current chain of command.

These areas are already being addressed by:

- Monthly Officers Meetings now include a section for near miss reporting and review of such.
  - In addition to the training schedule that the Officers create there will be a line item to include relative and specific Operation Guidelines into each training night.
- C** An adjustable organizational chart of the Chain of Command is being created by the

Officers and a local sign maker. This will be placed at the front entrance to the Fire Hall 1

**Election Procedures:**

Penelope Bahr requested that a committee be formed to improve election procedures.

Discussion:

Only two voting  
booths. Extend time  
for voting.

Have just recently updated the procedures, haven't heard any complaints since implementing it.  
Independent Returning Officer. Can't accommodate everyone.  
No problem with increasing the amount of tables.

**Q.** What Trustees are up for re-election? Sean Lewis, John Moeller, Diana Moher.

**Trustee's dinner:**

Would like to have the dinner before the next AGM, please email Paula best dates for you before mid April.

**QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR:**

- C Fitness testing just for frontline FF's? Yes.
- D FUS - need to do each year? Yes, for the paperwork.
- E AGM elections, can you extend the closing period for voting.
- F Can an email be sent out to people letting them know the date and agenda of meetings?

Moved by Mark Noyon that the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Paul Giffin, carried.  
Meeting went in-camera.

A General Meeting of the Gabriola Fire Protection District was held March 4, 2020 at the No. 1 Fire Hall with six Trustees in attendance, absent was Paul Giffin. The meeting was called to order at 4:45 p.m. by Chairman Sandra Rudischer.

Chairman Rudischer asked for errors or omissions from the minutes of January 22, 2020 General Meeting?

Penelope Bahr noted that her questions on the Fire Department having a policy on its Social media accounts hadn't been addressed. The Corporate Officer said she had inserted the word "media" into Penelope's question to make it clearer to what she was asking, and that it was answered by the fact there is an O.G. on the handling of such.

Short discussion, It was agreed that the Department will upgrade their O.G.'s to include all Social Media.

Sean Lewis brought up the Fire Department's Service Level and that it had to be approved by the Trustees. This item was put into old business to be discussed.

### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

Gabriola Emergency Communications (GEC) Annual Report

### **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

2019 books have been sent to the Auditor.

### **FIRE CHIEF REPORT:**

C 33 Fire calls in February broken down.

D Replacement truck - to be discussed under Old Business.

E RDN policy on homeless camping in RDN public parks. I have met with Vanessa Craig to discuss this policy. I strongly oppose the camping in the 707 and Cox parks due to poor access and extreme fire hazards during the summer. I suggested that these parks be added to the list of exemptions, or at the very least a seasonal Spring to Fall ban. Today all the Emergency Services met with the RDN staff to discuss enforcement of the Bylaw, while it was a productive meeting more concerns were assessed.

F The Department recruitment drive was another success, we are bringing on another 5 or 6 Auxiliary members, some of them will move forward to the Frontline class in November. This brings our number of firefighters to 40, which is full in accordance to the FUS recommendations. There are still some candidates on the waiting list.

G There will be another Fire Smart Champion course on March 15, 2020.

**TRAINING OFFICER REPORT:**

Jethro Baker Training Officer

**1. Training for February 2020:**

First responder-Disease Prevention/Rcmp presentation on interpersonal violence

Low Angle Technical Rescue Auto Extrication

**Training schedule for March 2020:**

First Responder- Spinal management

Live Fire Low angle rescue Scenario

Live fire stations Live fire scenario

C Domestic violence course.

2.CoVid-19

Diana Moher asked about WCB coverage for the Covid virus. (C.O. checking into it.)

C Limit the amount of FRs going into calls.

D Requested more information from FireComm before responding to a call.

E Added an O.G. for this topic.

**ASSOCIATION:**

C Voted 5 new members in.

D Will have the AGM in April.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

C AGM April 29, will have 3 tables. The Chair noted she will remind any new Trustees that there is a meeting directly after the AGM.

D Penelope Bahr asked if there could be a set closing time for the election? Discussion.

Moved by John Moeller that meeting stay the way it is, with no set closing time, seconded by Diana Moher, carried. (P.B. wanted it to be recorded that she cast a dissenting vote.)

**Trustee orientation package:**

Penelope Bahr suggested that all new Trustees get paper copies of any relevant information, a tour of the Hall, and introductions to the Chief and Officers.

The Corporate Officer noted that new Trustees are sent a link or the Improvement District Manual, and sent Bylaw 76 - the Meeting Procedure Bylaw, she stated the reason for using the

link was the amount of paper it saved, the manual itself is 246 pages.

Diana Moher stated that as a new Trustee herself she found the email links very helpful, and she was told if she wanted a paper copy to let Paula know and she would print one off.

**Bylaw 95 - Burning:**

- C 10.01.1: took out - oral or written permission
- C 13.1.1.2: took out - or a properly constructed camp fire
- D 13.1.1.3: took out - permit holder or some competent person appointed by him and changed .5 X .5 to .5 cubic metres

**Trustee Website:**

- C Needs some tweeking, will meeting with Dimitri Tzotzos next week along with Will S.
- D Sean Lewis asked if everyone had received their confirmation request - yes.

**Truck Purchase:**

The Chief explained the options for the purchase of the new truck, and suggested the Trustee go with Option #1.

Discussion:

- C How will it get here? It will be delivered
- D References? - Attached to the options and specs
- E Time frame? 1 year after agreement is signed
- F What will happen to the old truck - would like to turn it into a heavy duty rescue vehicle.

Moved by Penelope Bahr that the Trustees accept option 1, seconded by Sean Lewis, carried.

**Service Level firefighting:**

Sean Lewis noted that although he was happy that the GVFD was operating a full service department that it is up to the Trustees to determine the level.

Discussion.

Sean Lewis moved that the Fire Chief maintain the Department at the Full Service level with an annual review by the Board, Fire Chief, and senior Officers, seconded by Penelope Bahr, carried.

**Questions from the floor:**

- C A person from the floor complimented Sean Lewis at noticing a possible legal liability in the Burning Bylaw.
- D Are the Bylaws available on the website? Yes.

E Is there a blanket permit available for burning? No. Looking into Wildfire reductions  
F plans, but these will still have to be approved by the Province.  
G How do you recruit Trustees? Do you identify skill sets that you would like them  
to have?

- H Have put Advertisements in the paper stating how many positions will be voted  
on at the AGM.
- C Open election.
- D Incumbents still run
- E Shouldn't be the Board asking people to run for election
- F It is nice if someone has some expertise in a field

Mark Noyon moved that the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Sean Lewis, carried.

6:00 p.m.



## **GABRIOLA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT GENERAL MEETING**

A General Meeting of the Gabriola Fire Protection District was held June 17, 2020 at the No. 1 Fire Hall with six Trustees in attendance, absent was Mark Noyon. The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. by Chairman Sandra Rudischer.

Chairman Rudischer asked for errors or omissions from the minutes of March 4, 2020 General Meeting?

Sean Lewis mentioned a few typos and the need to add, under discussion of service level on page 3 after the words review by the Board... "with the Chief, and Senior Officers."

Moved by Penelope Bahr that the minutes be accepted as amended, seconded by Sean Lewis, carried.

### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

Bowen Island report has just been received, will email out to Trustees.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Provincial Levy will be coming in at the end of the month.

### **FIRE CHIEF REPORT:** (As per written report)

Discussion on following topics:

**C** Camping is allowed in Cox park but it is safer than 707 as it is wetter and about a fifth of the size.

**D** Penelope Bahr mentioned she had attended the Fire Smart course and said it was very good and thanked the department for putting this on.

**E** HAM radio team is not training with the fire department but will be a part of the GVFD, because of Provincial regulations this makes it faster for us when we need the HAM team, we can call them directly.

**F** Selection of Officer process.

### **TRAINING OFFICER'S REPORT:**

Kitt Stringer introduced himself and gave some background of his training and discussed the following:

**C** Recruits' training and certification: 3 more certificates done and 3 pending- VIERA New edition Jones + Bartlett of training manual

**D** Re-signed First responder agreement with VIERA- changes to evaluator system

**E** New auxiliary program- 6 more for wild land trained via Zoom and in person- waiting for ICBC for driving

- C Hazmat course mutual with Cherry Creek
- C Joint training exercise with BC Forest Service, HAM, RCMP (RCMP not able to attend)
- D Training with RCMSAR Marine- Interagency Restrictions
- E New First Aid instructor course
- F New Fire Service Instructor Course
- G New Officer course being offered with VIERA
- H Video library for Gabriola specific skills development now online
- I Future development in platoon system
- J Future development of training documentation for liability mitigation- ie TIC- O.Gs sent out
- K New recruit class to start after covid - Training budget for live fire- hope to do in house
- L New training facility will be great - use of old hall has been an asset for training as well

The Fire Chief thanked Kitt for stepping up and getting the members through training to receive their NFPA 1001 Level 1 & 2 certification.

Kitt noted that some of the members had taken time off work to complete this.

**ASSOCIATION:**

- C Morale has been really good throughout the Co-Vid pandemic
- D The Platoon competition has received 5000 views on Tik Tok
- E Platoon 1 “Plunge for PHC” was a big success for a fund raiser.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**AGM**

- C Has to be limited to 50 people, including Trustees...
- D AGMs can not be conducted by Zoom or on-line.
- E All 3 Trustees have agreed to run again.
- F Need to have it by the end of the year, but possibly defer it to September / October.
- G Victoria is trying to get a guideline together for Improvement Districts.
- H Possible advanced voting if more than the 3 incumbents run?

Paul Giffin moved to table the AGM discussion until the next meeting, seconded by Sean Lewis, carried.

**BYLAW 95**

Short discussion on a couple of small changes regarding incinerator size.

Paul Giffin moved that Bylaw 95 be accepted with amendment, seconded by Sean Lewis, carried.

**OLD HALL ROOF**

The Fire Chief stated that the consultant had come over and inspected the building and said it was worth investing in a new roof, and that flat was the way to go - waiting for a report.

Discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

**BUSINESS THAT WAS CONDUCTED THROUGH EMAIL**

C Passed a motion to accept the Auditor's report, moved by Sean Lewis, seconded by Penelope Bahr, carried by rest of Trustees. (This still needs to be passed at the AGM to make it official.)

D 707 letter of support for no camping.

E Burning Bylaw changes.

Moved by John Moeller that the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Diana Moher, carried.

5:30 p.m.

(Meeting went in-camera)

A General Meeting of the Gabriola Fire Protection District was held July 22, 2020 at the No. 1 Fire Hall with seven Trustees in attendance. The meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m. by Chairperson Sandra Rudischer.

Chairperson Rudischer asked for errors or omissions from the minutes of June 17, 2020 General Meeting?

Penelope Bahr noted that she had thanked the department for the Fire Smart course at the last meeting.

Diana Moher moved to accept the minutes as amended, seconded by Penelope Bahr, carried.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Provincial levy is in.

**Chief's Report:** (As per written report)

C Can the communications committee work with Evan McIntosh on the new website format?

D Does the FUS cover farms? Farms don't carry commercial insurance but will look into it.

**Training Officer's Report:** (As per written report)

Chair thanked Kitt for his report.

**Association Report:**

C Things have been quiet as the Platoons are not mixing during or after practices. Although we did have a small party for Walter Berry when he left, had three separate tables for the three Platoons.

**New Business:**

Chairperson, Sandra Rudischer noted that herself and Paula Mallinson were the signers on the GFPID account and asked Diana Moher if she was still willing to be a signer, Diana agreed that she would be.

**Old Business:**

Discussion on re-roofing the old Hall's roof:

C Lot more to do than just the roof, should we get rid of the building?

D There's the Gertie aspect of renting out space for the busses.

E Building considerations, could remove mezzanine and become a 1 storey and be grandfathered.

- 2 -

C Could put on a new roof and slowly start fixing the building up.

D Agreed with putting on a new roof if the mezzanine is removed.

E Let's start the process and get quotes from on Island.

F If we rent to Gertie would it interfere with practices? No.

G Would the Office have to be removed? Yes.

**Approval of Officers:**

Short discussion on the Fire Chief and Officers picks for new Officers and the process around it:

C Who was in the running? Felix Amuir, Elisha Bandel, Hayley Bennett, Geoff Goodall, Jenn Knight, Evan McIntosh, Chris Manning, Devlin Semmler, and Jessie Sherk.

D Done by Secret ballot, the Fire Chief noted he abstained from voting as his wife was on the list with having 11 years experience.

E Is there a probationary period? No.

F Ran an in-house Ad for the Training Officer position, no one but Kitt Stringer applied.

G Elisha has a beard, how does that work? Elisha shaves to fit mask.

H Jenn Knight and Evan McIntosh were selected as Lieutenants, and Dave Chorneyko is Acting Captain of No. 2 Hall.

I We have also created three new positions for acting Lieutenants and we will see who performs well.

J Will this affect the budget? No.

K In the past the selection of Officers were always accepted by the Trustees as they knew the firefighters better than the Trustees and respected their opinions.

Moved that the Chiefs and Officers picks for the positions be accepted, seconded by Sean Lewis, carried.

John Moeller moved to adjourn and to In-Camera, seconded by Mark Noyon, carried.

Meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

**GABRIOLA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
GENERAL MEETING**

A General Meeting of the Gabriola Fire Protection District was held September 2, 2020 at the No.

1 Fire Hall with seven Trustees in attendance. The meeting was called to order at 4:07 p.m. by Chairperson Sandra Rudischer.

Chairperson Rudischer asked for errors or omissions from the minutes of July 22, 2020 General Meeting?

John Moeller moved to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by Paul Giffin, carried.

**Correspondence:**

**C** Tugboat Island - RVYC

**Treasurer's Report:** N/A

**Chief's Report:** (As per written report)

**C** When you are on a call and the ambulance is in attendance is it stuck there if they get another call? No - they attend the call.

**D** Vancouver have ambulances in their Halls.

**E** For a fire department member to drive the ambulance they need a Class 4 licence, Kitt or Jenn could drive it.

**F** Dave Lorette decided to pull his permit after the neighbours became upset.

**Training Officer's Report:** (As per written report)

Chair thanked Kitt for his report.

**Association Report:**

**C** Not doing a Halloween fireworks show this year, didn't seem like a safe thing to do with CoVid, but the department will do something.

**D** The Association will advertise the "supporter mask" to the public.

**New Business:**

Kitt Stringer addressed his letter to the Trustees requesting assistance on Tugboat Island should there be a fire.

**C** A few firefighters would respond Code 3 in the bush truck to Silva Bay were they would transfer the FF equipment to a boat and be ferried across to the Island.

**D** Any contractors working on the Island are covered under the RV insurance coverages.

**E** Tugboat is 18 acres with a small Club House and the boat docks.

**F** Docks have electric marine fire pumps with lots of FX located around them.

**GABRIOLA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
GENERAL MEETING**

The Trustees asked that their lawyer draw up something with details for them to look at.

**Old Fire Hall Roof:**

The Fire Chief explained he had called over 14 roofers and had only received two quotes and that he was suggested the Trustees go with Elite Roofing who would be putting on a torch on, use our existing insulation, and slope and re-sheet using plywood.

Discussion:

- C Time limit on quote? A) They have a time slotted for us should we use them.
- D Works out to be under \$10.00 p/sf.
- E Been prepping the roof, have already taken down the tower.

Moved by John Moeller that the Trustees go with the Chief's suggestion and use Elite Roofing, seconded by Sean Lewis, carried.

Paula Mallinson suggested that the money for the roof be taken out of the Contingency Fund, short discussion on budget.

Diana Moher moved that the money for the roof be taken out of the Contingency Fund, seconded by Paul Giffin, carried.

**AGM:**

Paula Mallinson stated that the Government's AGM CoVid plan was now in the hands of WCB and once in would be emailed to everyone and hopefully a date could be set at the next meeting.

Tabled until next meeting.

**Communications:**

Penelope Bahr ask for permission to set up a meeting with the Association's website people in order to explain the Trustee's needs for their area.

After a short discussion it was agreed that a meeting was definitely O.K. and to arrange one with Jenn Knight.

Moved by Paul Giffin that the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Sean Lewis, carried.

Meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

A General Meeting of the Gabriola Fire Protection District was held September 30, 2020 at the No.

1 Fire Hall with five Trustees in attendance, absent was Mark Noyon and John Moeller. The meeting was called to order at 4:08 p.m. by Chairperson Sandra Rudischer.

Penelope Bahr asked about accepting the agenda as she had a late agenda item she wanted on, the acknowledging of the Snun-ay-muxw. Short discussion regarding the amount of things to get through on the agenda. Moved by Penelope Bahr that this topic be put on the next meeting agenda, seconded by Diana Moher, carried.

Chairperson Rudischer asked for errors or omissions from the minutes of September 2, 2020 General Meeting?

Paul Giffin moved to accept the minutes as amended, seconded by Diana Moher, carried.

The Chair moved Steve Earl, Chair of GERTIE, forward on the agenda so he could address the Trustees and then leave the meeting.

Steve Earl explained that he had been in talks with the Fire Department for about two years in regards to housing the trucks in the old Hall. He noted that a pandemic is not a good time to operate a transit system and that they had lost approximately 60% of last years ridership.

Steve asked the Trustees the following questions:

C Do you plan to go ahead with the roof replacement without a commitment from GERTIE to use the space? (a) Yes

D What is the fire department using the building for, and how often?

1. Training / Auto X. (q) Would this require the buses to be taken out of the building? (a) sometimes but not often, and the fire department could do this.

E We understand that the ambulance service will be using a part of the building for storage. Will there be any other users? (a) Not at this time.

C We understand that GERTIE will be able to store 3 buses inside, and will have the dedicated use of an office, access to a kitchen and bathroom, and bi-weekly access of space to hold board meetings, is this correct? (a) The office and bathrooms - yes, kitchen isn't really set up for use. (q) How many people on the Board? (a) 9, public doesn't come to these meetings, but they could.

D We need to know what the electrical bills might amount to. Will has shown me a recent bill, but that may not be typical, so it would be useful to know:

1. how the different parts of the building are heated, and  
2. is it necessary to maintain a minimum heat level in any area?

1. The building is heated mostly by propane, no need to a minimum heat level but a dehumidifier would be requested.

E Does the building have a ventilation system? (a) No.

F Which areas of the old Hall are currently covered in the snow-removal contract, and will this continue? (a) The roads and parking lot will be attended to.

Other items that were brought up:



- C GERTIE would have to sign an agreement with the department to help the fire department during an emergency, i.e., transport of citizens to evacuation centres.
- C The Hall could not be used as a bus stop.
- D Bus washing to be done outside but small truck maintenance could be done in the Bay.
- E Would have to keep one bus outside as a disaster bus (as per an agreement).
- F Not sure about having the public attend meetings in the building.

Steve mentioned that he was in favour of an agreement for GERTIE but at this point cost could be an issue.

The Chair thanked Steve for his time and questions, and he left.

**Fire Chief Report:** (As per written report)

- C Department going back to pre-pandemic FR calls.
- D Sent a truck and two personnel over to Cedar for mutual aid with a large fire at a metal recycling plant. (Cedar had offered to send their Councillors over after the plane crash.)
- E Have 50 GVFD supporter masks for sale, proceeds will go to PHC.

**Association Report:**

- C Campaign for “supporter masks”, asking for \$15.00 but it’s by donation so anything that you can afford.
- D Halloween fireworks have been cancelled due to the pandemic.
- E Christmas party will be modified.
- F Hope Centre is doing a drive through “Trick or Treating” for the kids.

**New Business:**

**Minutes:**

- C Discussion on putting up draft minutes, it was agreed that only approved minutes will be posted.
- D Discussion on when the minutes should be distributed, will get out to Trustees within a week of the meeting.

**Budget:**

Sandra Rudischer explained the changes and increases in the budget from last year, with the final increase coming in a .7%, short discussion.

The Fire Chief thanked the Finance Committee for their work on the forecasting of the budget.

The Chair thanked the Chief on his breakdown of the budget numbers.

- C Penelope Bahr suggested that the public could come to the budget meeting and that Salt Spring Island was doing it.

It was noted that Salt Spring was having a lot of trouble trying to get financing for another new Hall.

Paul Giffin stated that he thinks the Fire Department has strong support in the Community, and sometimes you don’t have to beat the drum.

Penelope Bahr said he agrees that the Fire Department has the respect of the Community but doesn’t think the Trustees do.

The Chair gave first reading of the Bylaw 95 (budget for 2021).

Moved by Paul Giffin to accept Bylaw 95 as presented, seconded by Sandra Rudischer.

The Chair gave the second reading of the Bylaw 95.

Moved by Paul Giffin that Bylaw 95 be accepted as presented, seconded by Diana Moher.

Bylaw 95, all in favour, carried.

**AGM:**

A lengthily discussion on the AGM during a pandemic:

The AGM needs to be done before the end of the year and limited to 50 people in attendance.

Three candidates are up for re-election, all three are happy to stand again, it has been suggested that an advertisement be posted in the paper asking for anyone wishing to run against the sitting Trustees to put their name forth before October 23, 2020. This way if there is going to be an election it gives time for an interview with the Sounder to introduce themselves and give some background.

C Need a minimum of 4 weeks.

D Suggest we don't do anything until the Ministerial Order comes out.

E Trustees term, regardless of when they start this year, will begin from April 2020.

F Does a person have to be at the meeting to run? Yes.

G If there is to be an election bring in independent Election personnel and scrutineers.

H We have meeting procedures that the Trustees passed after the election dispute.

I Could we have groups come in and vote and then a break for cleaning and then have more come in?

J The Chair asked Derek Kilborn, owner of the Sounder Newspaper reporting on the meeting, what his thoughts were. Put it out to the public and see if there is a need for an election, the public isn't going to come back at you.

K Does the AGM happen before the election? Yes.

It was agreed to modify the notice with a date, and wait until the Ministerial Order comes in before setting a date for the election.

Moved by Diana Moher that the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Paul Giffin, adjourned 4:48.

## **GABRIOLA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT GENERAL MEETING**

A General Meeting of the Gabriola Fire Protection District was held Thursday, November 5, 2020 at the No. 1 Fire Hall with seven Trustees in attendance. The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m. by Chairperson Sandra Rudischer.

Chairperson Rudischer asked for errors or omissions from the minutes of September 30, 2020 General Meeting?

Penelope Bahr said she had used “could” rather than “should” on page 3 under Budget.

### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

Thetis Island (will be discussed under Old Business)

### **FIRE CHIEF REPORT:** (As per written report)

**C** Sean Lewis asked what the Hazmat responses were - propane leaks.

**D** Diana Moher asked when would the Fire Department evacuate? The Chief stated that as these were only small leaks it is easier to control the scene when people stay in place.

### **TRAINING OFFICER REPORT:** (As per written report)

**C** Penelope Bahr asked why the Fire Chief’s Association would contest the F.R.s being sent down to Victoria for testing? The Training Officer replied the cost, there is travel time, fuel, paying the FF’s, rather than continue doing the testing in-house.

**D** Diana Moher asked if someone were interested in joining what do they do?

1. They should download the application and drop it off at the Office.

**E** Sean Lewis enquired about the 8 new members? The Training Officer explained that they are existing members, just the newest.

### **ASSOCIATION REPORT:**

**C** Trying to figure out Christmas, i.e. party and toy drive. The Food and Toy drive will definitely be happening.

**D** Halloween turned out fantastic, great fun for the kids and lots of compliments from the attendees.

**E** A huge thank you to Chris Manning and his wife for being instrumental in arranging this.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### **AGM:**

**C** No nominations received from email, phone, or in-person by the deadline of October 23.

**D** AGM date - December 2 at 7:00 p.m.

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**C** The Chair, Sandra Rudischer, mentioned that she had received a call from Keith Rush, the Chair of the Thetis Island Improvement District, and they had discussed the AGM and how we are handling our meetings, he also sent a copy of their advertisement for the AGM.

As there were no nominations received the standing Trustees will be acclaimed.

50 person limit and confirm by RSVP.

Should send out an email for the people coming and include a Co-Vid declaration to be returned the day of the AGM along with contact tracing information.

Remind people to dress for the weather as it is being held inside the Bay with the doors open.

No walk ins.

Should hire a Returning Officer for the election portion of the meeting, even though it will just be an acclamation.

**Acknowledgment:**

C Paul Giffin brought up a point of order noting that this subject had already been discussed and a decision made.

D The Chair noted that there had been a motion passed that the topic would be put on this meetings agenda.

E The Chair also noted that even though there was a Point of Order on this topic that the Chair has decided to allow the discussion to continue (she explained the rules behind this decision.)

F The Chair asked for votes to allow this topic to be discussed, topic passed with four Trustees agreeing.

A lengthy discussion ensued with the following topics being brought up:

C Has a political spin to it.

D Spent hours on the phone to the local and provincial government to find out how this acknowledgment got started, no one knows.

E The GFPID's role is overseeing the fire department not political, can re-visit this when the Federal and Provincial governments have made a decision.

F Have First Nation friends who say this acknowledgment makes the people saying it feel better, not the First Nations.

G Have served the country for 41 years on all three coasts, this is not meant to be disrespectful, just don't believe the District should be going there.

H This land has been occupied by humans for a long time.

I This is not taking anything away from the Fire Department it's a sign of respect.

J Not taking sides.

K A lot of organizations do this.

Penelope Bahr moved that the Gabriola Fire Protection Improvement District open all their meetings with "The GFPID acknowledges that we are gathering within the traditional lands of the Snuneymuxw Nation", seconded by Sean Lewis, carried.

Mark Noyan moved that the meeting be adjourned, seconded by John Moeller, carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

**GABRIOLA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
GENERAL MEETING**

A General Meeting of the Gabriola Fire Protection District was held Wednesday, December 9, 2020 at the No. 1 Fire Hall with seven Trustees in attendance. The meeting was called to order at 7:20 p.m. by Corporate Officer, Paula Mallinson.

The C.O. asked for a nomination for a Chairperson? Diana Moher nominated Paul Giffin, seconded by Sandra Rudischer, Paul was asked if he accepted the nomination - yes, carried.

The Trustees agreed to stay on the same committees as 2019, except John Moeller who stepped down from the Communication Committee.

The Chair asked the Fire Chief what he had wanted to discuss.

The Fire Chief gave a brief explanation of how the department was going to be selecting Officers in the future, more competitive rather than just seniority and once selected bring it to the Trustees for approval.

John Moeller gave an update on the Dam explaining that progress on completion is slower than

expected because of the amount of rain and the fact that the pipe needed to be dug up and joints welded.

He noted that the Ministry had transferred the Water Licence to the GFPID without having any signatures from the Trustees, he said that they are now trying to say it's a condition transfer. John stated that there is no problem with this as long as Bob Rooks finishes the improvements and Brian Henning registers the easement.

Sandra Rudischer asked if there was any update on the insurance aspect of the Dam, John replied not within our budget.

The Fire Chief spoke to the Islands Trust regarding the zoning of Hall 1 property. The Islands Trust said it's Institutional and that GERTIE could use it as a base as long as there is a Land Use Policy. He said that he had spoken to Steve Earle and told them they would have to sign a service agreement with the GFPID as well as practice rescue procedures with the Department.

The Fire Chief asked when the Trustees were planning on doing his one year review, the Trustees said they would put it on the next agenda and come up with a date, hopefully before the end of January.

**GABRIOLA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
GENERAL MEETING**

Chairman Paul Giffin asked if there was a motion to adjourn, moved by Sandra Rudischer that the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Diana Moher, carried.