

# **Minutes of the “Town Hall” Meeting of the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District**

Meeting held: **June 19, 2017**  
Lower Hall, Ganges United Church

**In attendance:**

Trustees: Per Svendsen (Alternate Chair) Howard Baker, Chris Budd, Rollie Cook, Mary Lynn Hetherington, Trustee Howard Holzapfel

Staff Members: Corporate Administrator and Financial Officer Andrew Peat, SSIFFA Lieutenant Peter Address

Recording Secretary: Sarah Shugar

Others Present: 17 members of the public, Driftwood Reporter

Regrets: Mitch Forest (Chair), Chief Arjuna George

Alternate Chair Svendsen called the “town hall” meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance.

A member of the public presented a written submission dated June 19, 2017 and spoke to the benefits of Salt Spring Island becoming an island municipality and requested the Board of Trustees to publicly endorse a “yes” vote for incorporation.

A member of the public spoke to funding opportunities for the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District if Salt Spring Island was to become a municipality and expressed support for the Board of Trustees to publicly endorse a “yes” vote for incorporation.

A member of the public expressed concern regarding fire hydrants and asked if the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District and various water service areas work together on hydrant maintenance and cost recovery for water usage.

CAO Peat reported the current hydrant maintenance budget is zero.

Assistant Chief Holmes reported the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District monitors usage of hydrants and currently there is no cost for water usage. The Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District is in negotiations with North Salt Spring Waterworks District (NSSWD) regarding hydrants.

Trustee Budd expressed support for the Board of Trustees to publicly state a position regarding incorporation.

Trustee Holzapfel expressed support for the Board of Trustees to remain neutral on the subject of incorporation.

One member of the public presented an update regarding fire hydrant negotiations between North Salt Spring Waterworks District (NSSWD) and the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District (SSIFPD) and advised that the SSIFPD has requested NSSWD to conduct a fire flow study.

One member of the public expressed support for the Board of Trustees to publicly endorse a “yes” vote for incorporation.

One member of the public asked for clarification regarding agenda item 7.8 - Update regarding Petition to amend Letters Patent (Conflict of Interest) UBCM Resolution and agenda item 7.14 - Update regarding Policy statement "Joint Consultation Committee" and requested Trustee Hetherington to provide clarification regarding whether the Joint Consultation Committee would address collective bargaining issues.

Trustee Hetherington and Assistant Chief Holmes spoke to the Joint Consultation Committee. The Joint Consultation Committee is regulated by the BC Labour Relations Code and is a venue for the District and Union to discuss issues before they become grievances. Actual grievances are dealt with under the terms of the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

There being no further questions from the floor, Alternate Chair Svendsen adjourned the "town hall" meeting at 7:39 p.m.

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Per Svendsen  
Chair Board of Trustees

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Andrew Peat  
Corporate Administrator

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