

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

Meeting held: **August 21, 2017**
Lower Hall, Ganges United Church

In attendance:

Trustees: Per Svendsen (Chair), Howard Baker, Chris Budd, Rollie Cook
Regrets: Mary Lynn Hetherington, Howard Holzapfel
Staff Members: Chief Arjuna George, Corporate Administrator and Financial Officer Andrew Peat, SSIFFA Secretary Nancy Pursell
Recording Secretary: Sarah Shugar
Others Present: 19 members of the public, Driftwood Reporter

Chair Svendsen called the “town hall” meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance.

A member of the public spoke to a presentation at the June 19, 2017 meeting and expressed support for the Board of Trustees to publicly endorse a “yes” vote for incorporation and asked if the Board of Trustees would consider holding a special meeting prior to the referendum on September 9, 2017.

CAO Peat reported the Board has the option to call a special meeting that is tentatively scheduled for August 28, 2017.

Trustee Cooke noted the Board of Trustees has scheduled a Town Hall meeting following the referendum to allow an opportunity for community input and spoke to the role of Trustees regarding the Local Government Act.

A member of the public spoke to agenda item 4.2 - Correspondence N. Schlenker et al and asked why the Board of Trustees did not use social media platforms to correct misinformation that was reported in the Driftwood newspaper.

Chief George reported the Salt Spring Fire Protection District has prepared a press release regarding the District’s authority to fine although the press release is on hold pending further information from the RCMP and BC Forest Service.

Chair Svendsen spoke to the role of the Board of Trustees as a volunteer organization.

Trustee Budd expressed support for the Board of Trustees to provide an objective examination of facts regarding governance models and presented several examples of issues of concern.

A member of the public spoke to the “CRD Local Community Commission” as a governance option to provide coordination of current governance and presented a copy of CRD Bylaw No. 3452 – Burning Regulations.

A member of the public asked if the Board of Trustees would have the opportunity to fund a new fire hall if Salt Spring Island does not become a municipality.

A member of the public spoke to fragmentation of the current governance model and to limitations of Improvement Districts.

A member of the public spoke to the responsibility to represent the Salt Spring Fire Protection District's ratepayers, expressed support for presentation of facts regarding the impact to the District regarding incorporation and asked why the District did not schedule a Town Hall meeting prior to the incorporation referendum.

Trustee Baker reported CAO Peat provided a staff report regarding comment on the Salt Spring Island Incorporation Study report.

A member of the public asked why notice of the Finance Committee meetings were not posted on the Salt Spring Fire Protection District website.

There being no further questions from the floor, Chair Svendsen adjourned the "town hall" meeting at 7:36 p.m.

Per Svendsen
Chair Board of Trustees

Andrew Peat
Corporate Administrator