

Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District

Our Trustees



L. to R. - Per Svendsen, Mary Lynn Hetherington, Rollie Cook, Ron Lindstrom
Missing from picture: Andreas Gedeon, Howard Holzapfel & Jo MacDonald

KEY CONTACTS

Board of Trustees 2019/2020

- Rollie Cook
- Andreas Gedeon
- Mary Lynn Hetherington
- Howard Holzapfel
- Ron Lindstrom
- Jo MacDonald
- Per Svendsen

email: trustees@saltspringfire.com

Corporate Administrative Officer

Andrew Peat

email: corpadmin@saltspringfire.com

Fire Chief

Arjuna George

email: ageorge@saltspringfire.com

Administration Offices

Ganges Fire Hall No. 1

105 Lower Ganges Road
Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 2T1

tel: 250-537-2531

www.SaltSpringFire.com

2019/2020 Strategic Planning Priorities

In February 2019 the Board held a workshop for trustees and public members of committees to discuss and group some 137 recommendations from consultants and staff. Since that date, the Board's Strategic Planning & Policy Development (SPPD) Committee has had several meetings to prioritize tasks into a manageable list to be considered by the Board.

The SPPD Committee's recommendations will be received by the Board and when approved will be the basis or the "Annual Performance Review/Evaluation" of senior staff and the Board.

Fire Hall Advisory Working Group

In September 2018, the Board approved terms of reference and a policy statement for a select committee to develop recommendations regarding the evaluation and renewal of fire hall facilities and specifically Fire Hall No. 1 Ganges. The Advisory Working Group is envisioned to include multi agency representation, a majority of members will be from the community, and the chair will be an independent.

Mindful of past defeats for borrowings to replace Fire Hall No. 1, the Board is committed to openness and transparency in the decision-making process. The success of the eventual proposal is dependent on building and maintaining public trust by ensure public input and engagement at all stages of the Advisory Group's work.

GETTING INVOLVED

If you want to be actively involved in some of these major community decisions, the District has many opportunities for public members to serve as volunteers on select and standing committees which make recommendations to the Board. Please fill out and return an Application Form for consideration by the Board.



*A responsive, sustainable and competent fire rescue service,
meeting community needs and valued by those we serve.*



Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District



Annual General Meeting

April 29, 2019

**Report to the Community
Per Svendsen, Chair
Board of Trustees**



Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District ("District") is an improvement district incorporated by Letters Patent under the Local Government Act.

The district provides emergency response services to most of our island community and has a dedicated team of 8 career staff led by Chief Arjuna George and a 45 member paid-on-call volunteer roster.

Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue has 3 fire halls with operations based out of Fire Hall No. 1 in Ganges. In calendar year 2018, Fire Rescue responded to 816 incidents which included fire calls, and assisting with medical, motor vehicle and public-safety emergencies.

An elected Board of Trustees provides policy guidance, oversight of operations and authorizes the annual budget. In addition to assistance from staff, Board deliberations are informed by the recommendations of the standing and select committee of the Board. Volunteer public members on the various committees have provided invaluable input.

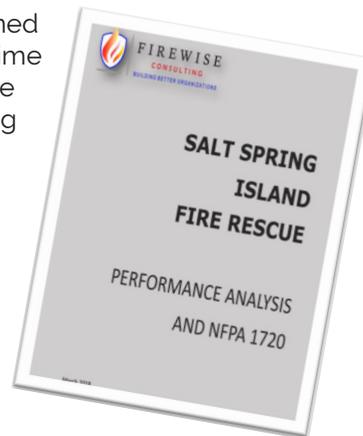
My thanks for their work and dedication to retiring trustees Howard Baker and Chris Budd whose term of office ends at the close of the Annual General Meeting and a warm welcome to new trustees Andreas Gedeon and Jo MacDonald.

Since the last Annual General Meeting your Board has been working on several initiatives.

Fire Wise Consulting Report, Performance Analysis and NFPA 1720

The Fire Wise Consulting Report released in September 2018 determined that Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue has a significantly longer turn-out time for calls that occur on the Evening/Night Shift when compared with the Day Shift. Approximately 46% of calls for assistance are received during the Evening/Night Shift when the fire stations are not staffed, and responses are reliant on the Standby Duty Officer and paid-on-call members.

The recommendations of the Fire Wise report have been considered by the Board with committees asked to cost various alternative staffing options proposed by staff that may improve turn-out time and reduce the risks of loss of life/property.



Labour Relations

Except for Chief George, career staff are members of the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Local 4467 and the existing collective agreement expired December 31, 2016. The District is a member of the Greater Victoria Labour Relations Association (GVLRA). The GVLRA is responsible for negotiating a new agreement on our behalf and bargaining began in February 2019. Labour relations have been a difficult issue for current and past Boards. Handing this responsibility over to outside professionals allows the Board of Trustees to concentrate on other business.

2019 Operating Fund Budget & Transfers to Reserves for Apparatus Replacement and New Fire Hall

Staff and Board committees have discussed the need for the District to properly plan future capital asset expenditures. The District owns capital assets (property, buildings, apparatus, and equipment) to provide "services" to our community. Sound asset management practise support sustainable service delivery. **Ideally, good asset management and sustainable service delivery means that unfunded liabilities for infrastructure renewal, if any, will be manageable for future rate payers and desired service levels match our community's willingness to pay.**

At a Special Meeting held on September 11, 2018 the Board of Trustees introduced and gave first reading of the 2019 Taxation Bylaw which proposed significantly increasing Tax Revenue to in part fund transfers to reserve accounts for replacement/renewal of apparatus and facilities (fire halls).

After an October 1, 2018 Town Hall meeting called to discuss the 2019 Budget, the Board of Trustees reconsidered and finally passed Bylaw No. 135 "Fire Protection Taxation Bylaw 2019" which increased the tax requisition to \$3,085,000 (+\$508,000) with funding for soft costs relating to a new fire hall and transfers to reserve accounts for Apparatus Replacement (+\$137,350) and New Fire Hall (\$150,000).

SUCCESSION PLANNING FOR NEW ADMINISTRATOR (CAO)

Administrator Andrew Peat has given notice of his intention to retire. The Board has adopted a policy that codifies and endorses the "One Employee of Board" model of Corporate structure and is currently negotiating with a Human Resources Consultant to undertake and assist with the recruitment process.

