

THETIS ISLAND IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
(Volunteer Fire Protection and Emergency Response Services)
Thetis Island, B.C. V0R 2Y0

Forbes Community Hall, 9:40 a.m., Saturday April 24, 2010

2010 Annual General Meeting

Minutes

Officials attending: Ken Youds (chair), Stephanie Cottell (trustee), Tom Anderson (trustee), Graeme Shelford (Deputy Chief).

Public attending: approximately 20 local residents/landowners

Opening Remarks:

Public was welcomed. Apology was given for the late start of the meeting – a delay caused by an sudden personal event causing one trustee to be unable to attend.

It was noted that this is the 26th AGM of the Thetis Island Improvement District. The purposes of this AGM were recorded as:

Review and adoption of the minutes of the previous AGM

Presentation of audited financial statements of the TIID for 2009

Decision on remuneration of the trustees for 2010

Report from the fire department, representing the operations of the TIID.

No election this year due to no terms expiring and no trustees stepping down.

Service Acknowledgements

Chief, Deputy Chief, Captains and other volunteers and the trustees of the board were thanked by the Chair.

Minutes of 2009 AGM

The minutes had been posted to the Thetis Island website. They were presented by the Chair. Motion by John Stadt to adopt as written. Seconded by Alex Rozewicz. No discussion. Carried unanimously.

Review of the Audited Financial Report

Youds presented the report on behalf of Treasurer Pardee. The Treasurer's notes emphasized that the accountant's report states that "in our opinion these consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Thetis Island Improvement District as at December 31, 2009". In 2009 our assets increased by a value of \$28000 and our liabilities decreased by the same amount. An operating account surplus of \$56, 589 was identified, and this will be used to reduce the need for revenue from property taxes in 2010 and the following one or two years. The surplus arose simply through prudent monitoring of expenses and various savings being achieved.

Discussion points were raised and answered as follows:

Is the Health and Welfare Fund different or in lieu of insurance? That fund was established several years ago as an additional benefit to members/volunteers in the event of injury. It is intended to

fund household costs for injured FD members, costs that would not be covered by the insurance we carry for members.

Are the Chief and Deputy Chief on salary now rather than being paid honoraria? Yes, the Board budgeted in 2010 to pay \$20,000 (split 60/40) to the two positions. This move was considered necessary in order to sustain the department. The positions demand many hours per week and the community depends on there being trained, capable people willing to take on these highly responsible positions.

In regards to the item in last year's minutes concerning the calculation of volunteer hours, was this undertaken? Not by the Trustees. The FD tracks volunteer member hours and were advised by the FD executive on the number of hours required of the executive each week. From this information evolved the decision to provide modest salaries to the Chief and Deputy Chief.

What is the meaning of "deferred tax revenue" in the statements? The District receives its tax-based revenue in two allotments, one in January and the second in June. The accountant's phrasing seems to refer to the latter.

Discussion concluded on the financial statements with no further questions.

It was noted that the 2010 budget was approved for approximately \$130,000, with \$32,000 of this being unspent funds in current accounts. The balance, approximately \$98,000 will be raised from property taxes.

Fire Department Report: D/C Shelford, summarized the report prepared and submitted by Chief Caldbeck. The report as presented by Shelford to the meeting is attached to these minutes.

Discussion:

What is the current membership in the department? 17, with 10-13 being fully active and one member on leave.

Noted that some of the new members are younger, and this is a good trend.

Remuneration of Trustees

Motion by Alex Rozewicz to keep the trustees' remuneration at zero. Seconded by Lucy Mooney. Discussion ensued around the problem of attracting people to serve on the board. It was noted that the decision of last years' AGM to allow the trustees to budget for a special event in 2010 has not yet been undertaken. One person stated a preference to see the trustees paid a stipend or honorarium of, for example, \$500 if this would encourage participation. One person suggested that it was a requirement that the remuneration be zero, but others thought that this would make the annual need for a resolution on the matter illogical. One suggestion was that perhaps a per diem "gift" be provided. Call for the vote on the motion. In favour of the motion: 19. Opposed 1. Motion carried.

Subsequent discussion: the members of the audience agreed that the Board should continue the practice of budgeting for a special event as a benefit to serving, with the same limits as defined at the 2009 AGM.

Election:

No positions are vacant this year.

There will be two positions available for filling next year.

Question: *Are trustee terms staggered?* Yes, all terms are 3 years, but from the initiation of the board these were staggered so the terms would not all end the same year. If a board member resigns before the end of a term, the Board may appoint a replacement, who could then stand for election at the next AGM.

Improvement District Issues Discussion

In 2009 the Board approved an updated version of the Fire Regulation Bylaw. This updated bylaw was approved in November and is available on the community website. One of the elements that was updated was the fine for violations – raised from \$500 to \$2500. It was noted that the fine is intended as a warning, since prosecution is not a desirable avenue unless persuasion fails. The practice would be to issue warnings to individuals who do not comply with the bylaw, say, by having fires when they are banned.

In the coming year we hope to improve upon driveway address signage: There are three options to be considered:

1. Continue to urge the public to adequately post their addresses
2. Provide standardized driveway numbers for the entire community
3. Provide acceptable, visible driveway numbers for the driveways that are presently unsatisfactorily unmarked, as well as for those addresses where the owners so request.

Much discussion ensued regarding driveway addresses. The general consensus was that option 3 was the best choice, and that the Board should commence the initiative by advising the whole community, and then advising those whose driveways are inadequately addressed.

Alex Rozewicz raised the issue of the number of fire department calls to Capernwray Harbour incidents. He noted that his tax contribution to the operation of the fire department was about \$1000 each year. He recommended that Capernwray be advised of the number and cost of calls to attend to their incidents. John Stadt suggested that Capernwray would likely be interested in receiving such information. Discussion with various contributions ensued. Chairman Youds asked Stadt and Rozewicz to confer and to develop the information through the Fire Department so that Capernwray had an accurate base from which it might make a voluntary contribution to support the department.

Meeting adjourned at 11:07 a.m.