



NORTH GALIANO FIRE PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE SERVICE COMMISSION COMMISSIONERS MEETING

NGVFD Hall #1

Sunday 12th January, 2025 13:00

MINUTES

In Attendance: Ken Kucille, Kieran Kelleher, Rob Snape, Ray Chouinard, Sarah Knoebber

Guests: Wayne Bairstow, Derek LaCroix, Chief Harris

Regrets: Idora Scott, Paul Brent

Zoom: none

1. Approval of Agenda (*Chouinard, 2nd Snape*)
2. Approval of Minutes November Meeting (*Chouinard, 2nd Snape*)
3. Approval of Minutes AGM - (*Knoebber, 2nd Kucille*)
4. Chair's Report - AC Clark, FF Ted Bentley, **Idora Scott** and **Chair Kelleher** have formed a sub-committee to organize cohesive strategies to firesmart to high risk forested areas. As per AC Clark's report there are talks on the Galiano Conservancy Association's decommissioning of roads and how to intergrate this with the Fire Department and Emergency Response Team's plan of creating dedicated emergency egresses.

Knoebber: "In regards to Cook rd and the acces to Therah, the department of highways doesn't cover those roads, it is up to private residents. The risk is increasing and we would love to find ways to include this in the conversation of emergency egress. Chief Harris: "MOTI is responsible for the Cook rd easement into Therah. The MLA should be contacted."

5. Financial Report & Chief's Report
 - a. Presented on paper. There is a \$54,000.00 surplus. The suggestion from Chief Harris is that we carry \$10,000.00 forward to buy needed safety equipment in February. Chief Harris requests that \$44,000.00 be split between Equipment Replacement Fund and Capital Reserve Fund.
 - i. MOTION: That we carry foward \$10,000.00 for the purpose of purchasing safety equipment in February. (*Chouinard, 2nd Knoebber* - motion carried)
 - ii. MOTION: The we divide the remainder (\$44,000.00) between Equipment Replacement Fund and Capital Reserve Fund (*Chouinard, 2nd Snape* - motion carried)
 - b. The age group of people the NGVFD has responded to during call-out has been noted. **Chair Kelleher** asks if there are support groups assisting the elderly or monitoring those with vulneraibilities on Galiano. Chief Harris notes that we have access to Comunity Paramedics, the Better-at-Home program. We should be looking for additional resources, and creating awareness, and systems for eighbourhood assistance. Item to be revised in June 2025.

- c. **Knoebber** asks if there are mental health supports in place for our first responders. The SGI has established, through training, a CISM network, and it can be deployed and made available. AC Clark and FR Patterson have taken a course on mental health counseling. The regional JOHSC is working on developing a program. Otter Point FD has created a thorough assistance program that could be accessed for evaluation. There is a need to refocus the NGVFD into performing regular debriefs. The CRD also offers assistance with debriefs and diffusion.

6. Business Arising out of the Minutes or Report

- a. Amalgamation: In 2025 we move forward with the existing North Galiano commission, and the existing South Galiano society. We will have meetings with both in preparation for the larger AGM to establish an island-wide commission in 2026. An article about the amalgamation will be included in February's Active Page.
- b. Acknowledging Tom Darby's contribution to the NGVFD: Sarah Knoebber will take this on, with the help of the North Galiano Fire Protection Society's financial assistance.
- c. Safety Items: certain areas in each hall don't meet requirements. Areas open to the bays need to be reevaluated. AC Clark will draft a plan to enclose spaces in both Halls. Hall 1 is CRD building and will require additional planning. A fuel shed should also be planned.

7. Other Business

- a. Elections of Commissioners

Chair: *Kieran Kelleher*, by acclamation

Vice Chair: *Robert Snape*, by acclamation

Treasurer: *Ray Chouinard*, by acclamation

Commissioners: *Idora Scott, Sarah Knoebber, Ken Kucille*

8. Next Meeting: Sunday, February 16th 2025 at 13:00, NGVFD Hall #1 (Cook)

9. Adjournment: 14:03