

**East Sooke Fire Protection and Emergency Response
Service Commission**



1397 Coppermine Road, East Sooke BC, V9Z1B2; 250 642-4411
esvfd@shaw.ca

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD MONDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2012**

Present: Dick Braunschweig, Chair; John Corsiglia; Rick Lambert; George May; Chris Statham; Brian White; Valerie Braunschweig, ESFPC Admin Assistant; Peggy Dayton, CRD; and Lucille Barfield, recording secretary

Fire Dept.: Roger Beck, Fire Chief and Dave Bigelow, Deputy Chief

Dick called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and said that its purpose is to look at cost estimates that will be distributed tonight and decide if any cuts are needed. Peggy Dayton will explain what's required of the Commission in this process.

Correction of minutes per January 21, 2013 meeting.

Remove the word *all from the following sentence, noted in bold.

Malcolm Cowley, CRD, had presented some cuts but was asked that they be put back as they are ***all** needed. Options were discussed and it was suggested not to cut out anything at this time. Other comments included:

- The project is designed with built-in redundancy so not good to make cuts now
- Diesel tank vs propane – many halls converting to diesel from propane. Natural gas would be an option were it available. Like to keep such options open.
- "Cherry-pick" the procurement list; ensure we get what we need
- Shop around for better prices on items
- Site work could be reduced
- Don't reduce functionality
- Substitute the term "fitness room" for "gym"

Peggy Dayton explained the CRD's procedure per the 2007 East Sooke fire establishment bylaw (Bylaw No. 3390, attached) and said the April 2013 referendum will ask for the residents' approval for borrowing and for increasing the maximum levy. The bylaw will then be amended.

Peggy will get figures for 3% and 4% interest rates to Dick tomorrow. She said showing a lower interest rate would be more favourable to the referendum's success.

Question whether there is any flexibility with indirect costs. Malcolm Cowley would have to answer that.

HST goes away the end of March but 7%.PST will apply.

Emphasize to residents that we will get good finance costs, and show the alternative.

Suggested avoiding the issue of a community hall with the public as it would confuse the situation. This hall will remain with us.

Moved by Brian White, **Seconded** by Chris Statham, that the Commission support the \$2,534,094.08 figure with the proviso that this figure be the maximum amount, and with the further proviso that every effort be made through the use of a line item purchase assessment to reduce said cost, keeping in mind the principle that the fire hall be fully functional and meet all aspects of fire protection and community safety, and meets the Fire Underwriters' Survey requirements.

CARRIED

Further discussion included:

- We do not have to spend that amount
- If we choose a purchasing agent, have them do a purchase evaluation. This idea will be put to Malcolm.
- New pumper truck in 2015 or 2016. Peggy showed it for 2017; she will change it.

Peggy distributed and explained a financial report showing monies spent and projections, and surplus amounts carried over each year.

Moved by Chris Statham, **Seconded** by Brian White, to increase the maximum requisition to the greater of:

(a) \$500,000 or

(b) an amount equal to the amount that could be raised by a property value tax rate of \$1.18 per \$1,000 which, when applied to the net taxable value of land and improvements within the service area, will yield the maximum amount that may be requisitioned under Section 806.1 of the *Local Government Act* for the service.

CARRIED

Peggy summarized by saying that at the referendum, taxpayers will vote on borrowing and on increasing the levy to pay down the debt. She will provide the wording to clarify this for the Commissioners.

Dick will email Malcolm with tonight's decisions.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.