

NORTH GALIANO FIRE PROTECTION COMMISSION
BOARD MEETING
Retreat Cove Fire Hall
July 24, 2012

Minutes

Note technical requirement of 4 for quorum

Present:

Roger Pettit
Julie Gardner
Susan Phillips
Robin Gregory

1 ***Special meeting called to address new fire hall taxation method***

Called on short notice, due to the need to communicate to the CRD the choice of taxation method to put to the referendum on the new fire hall.

Four board members were available, able to meet quorum.

The agenda was developed collaboratively.

2 ***Fire hall taxation method***

2.4 Lead-up:

At the meeting on July 2nd no decision was reached on the preferred taxation method of taxation – see the draft minutes for the record of the discussion and the summary of some of the pros and cons. Much discussion had taken place since that meeting. There was email correspondence between board members, and with CRD staff. Board members also discussed pros and cons of the taxation options with many community members. Julie also did some research on census data.

This July 24th meeting was held to make a decision based on these communications and the resulting information.

In short, we have heard from residents expressing support for both methods of taxation, and strongly feel that the combination approach would satisfy the greatest number of voters and have the best chance of being approved.

2.5 Decision:

The following motion was made by Roger Pettit, seconded by Julie Gardner and passed unanimously. Board members believe strongly that this combination tax method, clearly communicated with its rationale, will increase support in the community for passing the referendum.

The taxation approach to be used for funding the new fire hall should raise half the necessary funds through the ad valorem method, and half through the parcel tax method. Both should appear as separate line items in the tax

bills sent to property owners, making clear the targeted and time-limited nature of the taxes.

3 *Follow-up to the referendum:*

Board members also discussed priority topics on which they feel more progress needs to be made. Due to the large amount of work needed to get through the referendum the focus needs to be on the new fire hall for the remainder of the year.

Other priority topics will continue to be monitored and actions taken as needed up to the referendum. More strategic planning and activities to move forward on these issues (engaging the board, the Management Committee and other relevant parties) will gear up after the referendum. These high-priority topics are:

- amalgamation with the south end fire department
- training of the volunteers
- implementation of the CWPP

4 *Succession planning:*

Board members agreed that new volunteers need to be recruited to the board to replace those who cannot attend meetings on a regular basis and with a view to filling executive positions vacated in the not-too-distant future.

All board members should be on the lookout for suitable new recruits.

5 *Next meetings:*

The policy of holding meetings the first Sunday of the month will be adhered to over the coming months unless availability of board members for quorum warrants a re-scheduling.

The next meetings, at the Retreat Cove hall at 10:00 a.m. will be held:

September 2

October 7

November 4

December 2