

Shirley Fire Protection & Emergency Response Commission
Monthly General Meeting May30th, 2023
Minutes
Approved: (Motion #)
Call to Order: 1930 Adjourned: 2030

Present: Chair B. Einarson, R. Gardiner, J. Powell, M. Taylor, S. Rafferty, A. Wickham
Ex officio:
Absent: H. Williams, A. Wickham
Guests:

Agenda & Item #	Action Taken:
1. Agenda	Motion To approve agenda, M. Taylor, R. Gardiner Carried
2. Approval of Minutes	Motion: To approve November minutes. R. Gardiner, M. Taylor, Carried
3. Correspondence	
4. Treasurer's Report	<p>A review of the April Financial Statements shows only a few expenses processed for the month. These are: CRD Vehicles - Fleet ICBC Renewal - Annual premium \$1,354.00 Gas & Lubricants - Battalion truck - \$532.39 Allocation - Corporate Overhead - Std. Monthly charge \$365.17 Allocation to Equipment Replacement Fund - Std. Monthly charge \$3,166.67 Total expenses for April: \$5,418.23 Shirley Fire Operation and Shirley Fire Admin expenses at 79% + 92% Budget Remaining. Note: No Wages expense in April or for May, as Ben has been away. Levi has now stepped in to take over these duties in the interim. Treasurer met with Chief Hill last week to review statements YTD and to discuss clarifying several Line Items. Jonathon Reimer contacted to discuss Hydro costs on water tanks, specifically as new Subdivisions are developed in the area, should SVFD be responsible for these costs?</p> <p>Motion: S. Rafferty, M. Taylor Carried</p>
5. Fire Chief's Report	<p>1) Motion: 17 Crew, two medical in Jordan River last month and one in Shirley. Two mvi's and one medical in JR, 2mvi in Shirley and bush type fir for this month. Turnout boots for 577, life fire in the fall that will cost 650/person in Otter Point. The compressors 1700 hr servicing/maintenance. Gutters replaced 1500. CRD charges 5/cheque written for honorariums. pager on 7 yr lease</p>

2000 annually for 12 pagers. We will be needing 5 more pagers. Rogers is too sketchy, will stick with pagers for now.

Motion: M. Taylor, S Rafferty **Carried**

7. Old Business

8. New Business

Grant money for new satellite hall. email thread and commission members input attached. Possible New Satellite Fire Hall.

Email thread:

Brian E <westcoasticalander@gmail.com>

to me, Leah, James, Sean, Malcolm, Howard, Rob

Hi folks,

I received an email from Chris Vrabel (Fire Services coordinator) over at the CRD this morning. He reached out to have a conversation with me re: a grant opportunity that had just serviced. I called him and had a chat about the money that was available, and what the CRD was hoping to partner with us and JR on. According to Chris there is provincial emergency protection money available for communities to upgrade existing fire protection/emergency services infrastructure etc.. Chris brought up the possibility of a satellite hall at the western end of Shirley adjacent to Sandcut beach, that would supply services to Jordan River. I indicated to Chris that Jonathan Reimer had agreed to attend our next meeting to discuss this very issue, however, there are timelines surrounding the request for proposals for this money, namely mid June sometime..... Chris emphasised they were just "brainstorming" but he floated the idea of a grant application that would cover 75% of the cost for the bricks and mortar and the land is already CRD owned, so that would be free. The residents of JR would get into some kind of arrangement to cover the costs incurred by expanding our services westward. This was a 15 minute conversation over the phone, so I am just summarizing here, but I told Chris about the Fire Commission's position on expanding west, namely the ask/commitment should come from the folks in JR before we move forward and there should be appropriate community consultation as well as a some form of independant feasibility study. The long and short is that he was going to reach out to Al Wickham and see if Al is prepared to

speak on behalf of the JR residents on this issue. If he is, then I agreed to have a short meeting to ascertain whether or not we should move forward on the conversation. If we get past that meeting I think we should attempt to meet prior to our usual monthly meeting to discuss following up on this grant or not as we don't have much time. My own thoughts on first blush is that we are not at a place to do this for a number of reasons, ie. is this the best location, impact on our taxes, impact on our service delivery, appropriate amount of time to have the community consultation to name a few. If we were "shovel ready" then I think it would be a slam dunk, but we are a long way away from shovels at this juncture. I'm anticipating hearing from Chris tomorrow if he is able to connect with AI, so I will keep you posted on any conversations and we'll go from there.

Cheers,
Brian



Malcolm Taylor <malcolmtaylor@shaw.ca>

to me, Leah, James, Sean, Howard, Rob

Hi Everyone,

I don't think this is something that can be rushed through, and still be decided democratically by the communities involved. The attachment has a few thoughts that may be useful.

One attachment • Scanned by Gmail



Rob Gardner <gard1923@gmail.com>

to me, Leah, James, Sean, Malcolm, Howard

My first thoughts

Info question

What are the tax paying populations of Shirley versus Jordan River?

Con

A lot of people don't want any action that would increase our taxes and I think there should be some cost recovery if we ever combine departments.

Pro

If a satellite station helps Jordan River with fire coverage and insurance costs I think we should move forward if it doesn't require a lot more firefighters, management time and costs or tax increases for Shirley.

Info

There has to be an agreement from Jordan River to pay all upfront and ongoing costs if they want this proposal.

Pro

It may increase our volunteer numbers if we can service JR.

Con

We may not be able to attract more volunteers.

Sent from my iPad

> On May 11, 2023, at 10:14 PM, Brian E <westcoasticelander@gmail.com> wrote:

>

>



Leah Hill <rayne332@gmail.com>

to Malcolm, me, James, Sean, Howard, Rob

I also agree that we need more time to investigate this.

I would also like to know why they shelved it until later and also to know how long this grant money is good until.

And I appreciate moving the meeting to Tuesday (if that works for everyone.).

Leah

M. Taylors notes:

I've put down a few thoughts that might help when thinking about the possible new Hall. The list isn't exhaustive, I'm sure I've missed some things.

From the perspective of Shirley

Pros:

- An increased tax base to fund the department
- An incentive for volunteers to join from Jordan River
- Shirley currently attends many calls out of district there anyway.

Cons:

- An obligation to maintain higher number of volunteers
- A larger area to serve
- The need for additional equipment, and possibly a new truck
- The new service for Jordan River is being subsidized by equipment and vehicles which were paid for by Shirley residents

From the perspective of Jordan River

Pros:

- A reduction in insurance rates
- An incentive to volunteer
- Overcomes what may be close to insurmountable hurdles to forming a new department.

It is hard to imagine a small community could find the resources - a Hall, vehicles, equipment and training - necessary to start a full fledged fire department.

It is also hard to see how an incremental approach would work. Why would the residents fund a small department if it was a) not able to efficiently fight fires, and b) did not lower their insurance rates?

Cons:

- Would make starting up an independent fire department in Jordan River in the future more complicated

- The satellite station would have to be located in a less than ideal location.

From the perspective of the larger community

Pros:

- Avoids the duplication of resources and expertise in two very small communities

Cons:

- May end up being a redundant satellite station if Jordan River late organizes their own department.

- If this does occur down the road, splitting up the combined resources fairly will be complex.

9. Next Meeting	June 26th
10. Adjournment	2030 Hrs. Motion to adjourn to 06.26.2023 M. Taylor, J. J. Powell Carried