



NORTH GALIANO FIRE PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE SERVICE COMMISSION COMMISSIONERS MEETING

NGVFD Hall #1
Sunday 18th May, 2025 13:00
MINUTES

Attendance

In Person: *Chair Kieran Kelleher, Rob Snape, Sarah Knoebber, Idora Scott, Ray Chouinard*

Via Zoom: *none*

Guests: *Derek LaCroix, Chief Karen Harris, AC Michael Clark*

Regrets: *Director Paul Brent, Ken Kucille*

1. Approval of Agenda (*Snape, 2nd Knoebber*)
2. Approval of Minutes (*Knoebber, 2nd Snape*)
3. Chair's Report: *Chair Kieran Kelleher*
 - a. Follow up the from last month's report; FireSmart has no need for commission involvement.
 - b. Meeting with Joint North and South Commission/Society will need to be scheduled to assist in finalizing the budget, with the understanding that the Commission will have no authority to effect change, but can outline opinions and insights to **Director Paul Brent**.
 - c. **Chair Kelleher** will create awareness in the community to inspire feedback in regards to the merger ie; community views of what the new department will look like, funding and professional levels, as well as expectations and concerns. The commission's role will be to articulate these findings to the joint commission and the CRD.
4. Financial Report & Chief's Report
 - a. Some spending had been suspended due to tariffs and can now resume due to counter tariffs being not applicable to Fire Departments. More equipment will be purchased, and those items will be reflected at the next meeting.
 - b. **Chouinard** asks if purchasing from Europe maybe an option. *Chief Harris* responded; Supply lines from Europe have not been established as they offer different standards and often different style of equipment, that may be more costly due to lack of availability.
 - c. Weekly Leadership meetings are on hold until *Chief Harris* finished her EMR course in town, and *Chief Sugden* returns from vacation.
 - d. Meeting to be scheduled in June to discuss the upcoming budget, with the NG Commission and SG Society.
 - e. Recruitment Drive: the first steps will be taken during this summer. A lot of training is taking place. Recruitment Drive BBQ (by donation) to be advertised accordingly, 1 in South Galiano, 1 in North Galiano.
 - f. Jamboree (JUL/01) NGVFD used to do impromptu CPR demos in the past to engage the crowd, and boost recruitment. While there longer is a parade, NGVFD can take an engine and R1 to the site. Other FD members will tend the BBQ in their t-shirts, and others can staff a table for engagement and recruitment.

- g. Training: NGVFD and SGVFD have both trained for Wildfire, and some members obtained recertification. SAR (Search and Rescue) training; May 24th, 2025 at SG.
- h. First Due: Region Wide Meeting was held and an estimate of 800 hours was determined for getting started and established on the program. More departments are moving toward first due. NG has been pushing really hard for implementation, with no momentum and is hoping to piggyback off of other department's work.
- i. Regional JOHSC: committed is being reformed as a Joint NG and SG committee, and will schedule a joint meeting soon. Paid training and participation.
- j. AC Clark: maintenance update - John Parfitt has been hired as contractor. \$20,000.00 has been unused due to pre-existing expansion plans. The engineer is ready to go, once approved by the commission the CRD will issue a permit. Looking for July/August date. Water; potable water should be fixed this coming week. A Proper fireproof outdoor fuel storage option could be purchased for \$5,000.00, to make this request of the Society. Alternatively, a seacan might be an option instead of an additional storage structure. Wages for the renovation crew need to be organized, *AC Clark and Chief Harris* will discuss.

5. Business Arising out of the Minutes or Report

- a. Events: Recruit Drive BBQ possible date: 23rd August at Cook Hall. Social BBQ possible date: 4th of August in Therah, organized by the society.
- b. **Idora Scott**; question about inspectors and fire investigators: as resorts are growing are there plans in place to implement safety? *Chief Harris* responded; We are a regional district and are covered by the Fire Services Act. The CRD is developing a system for inspection. As for capacity; the liquor board and *Chief Harris* do report, based on the fire code. There are no regulations that prevent people from smoking outdoors, and while large groups bring concern about fire risk, and mitigation possibilities there are no laws in place to enable the Fire Chief to police this. Bylaw enforcement is also very limited, and reactive and complaint-driven rather than proactive. The Fire Department's involvement, and capacity is limited.
- c. Forest Safety: driving motor vehicles and throwing cigarettes is a growing concern. There are "no fireworks and no campfires" signs posted, but is it the responsibility of the Fire Departments to create signs for awareness? The commission could engage the trails society and conservancy with this request, and make a recommendation.

MOTION: That Chief Karen Harris write a letter of recommendation to the Trails Society and Conservancy about fire risk, and have additional information added to trail head signs, and along trails. (*Chouinard, 2nd knoebber, motion approved unanimously*)

6. Other Business

- a. FireSmart: see above comment in **Chair Kelleher's** report. The Galiano Conservancy is now engaged in firesmart through forest management and fuel reduction. This touches on forest lots, as FireSmart deals with properties with homes. FF Bentley has organized a community FireSmart day JUN/07.
- b. CRD Relations - see above **Chair Kellher's** report
- c. Commission Group Chat: engaged and functional group text between commissioners.
- d. Request from the Commission: *Chief Harris* needs a few cheques signed

7. Next Meeting: **June 15th, 2025 at 10:00** (instead of 13:00) at NGVFD Cook Hall.

8. Adjournment: 14:15