



NORTH GALIANO FIRE PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE SERVICE COMMISSION COMMISSIONERS MEETING

NGVFD Hall #1

Sunday 13th July, 2025 10:00

MINUTES

In Attendance: *Kieran Kelleher, Ken Kucille, Idora Scott, Rob Snape*

Guests: *Chief Karen Harris, Derek LaCroix*

Via Zoom: *Raymond Chouinard*

Regrets: *Sarah Knoebber*

1. Approval of Agenda (*Scott, 2nd Snape*)
2. Approval of Minutes (*Snape, 2nd Scott*)
3. Chair's Report
 - a. **Chair Kelleher** would like the board to provide ongoing support for budget review and approval based on Chief Harris's perspective to ensure the budget reflects the department's appropriate needs. Requests for all board members to thoroughly review the budget presented.
4. Financial Report & Chief's Report
 - a. Financials

Changes can be found in Salaries, by removing Chiefs' salaries from honoraria, showing a reduction in that budget line. Small increase in group accident insurance. Positive Change: greater contribution to ERF (emergency replacement fund) in order to support the 30-year plan. Budget remains separate between North and South Galiano FDs with a 70-30 split, until the budgets can be appropriately combined on the CRD end. Interest on purchases is charged in the first half of the year prior to the application of the new budget. The commission can identify this as an agenda item to bring forth with the CRD, if the question of interest proves to be an issue.
 - b. Chief's Report

CISM was engaged in order to support a difficult call this month. An item that was brought up as a significant discrepancy pertains to some lanes/laneways not being recognized by maps and dispatch, creating issues with Incident location. ECOM and dispatch are being contacted to get these corrected.
 - c. New licensed FRs
 - i. FRs will be reimbursed for CRC.
 - d. Maintenance
 - i. AC Clark still continues work on expansion plans for Cook Hall, ie; Storage Shed, enclosing mezzanine, etc.

ii. Potable Water System Update: Most of the work has been done; issues that arise will need to be tended to by a professional Well Digger (Williams).

Chair Kelleher: When does this become a Health and Safety Issue, as this is a significant problem? External support could be necessary. The commission requests that AC Clark be present at the next meeting (SEP/21/2025) for a review and follow-up prior to moving this to Health and Safety. A need to review the water reports after Williams' involvement will. Safety minutes may need to be presented for the CRD to "action", if problems persist.

e. Chief Tom Darby (ret.) Celebration of Life: FD members should attend in uniform, and Chief Darby's gear brought for display.

f. Request the society:

i. Fiesta AUG/02/2025: for commissioners and FD members to be present.

ii. BBQ Social: for commissioners to attend.

5. Business Arising out of the Minutes or Report

a. CRD Fire Services Bylaws Review: CRD is moving forward

b. 2026 Budget

i. Chief Harris requires a vote on this preliminary budget. The commission can review and go back for a vote on the final budget, reflecting any necessary changes. The CRD financial report will be provided before the end of the month.

ii. Budget: Commission votes on preliminary budget approval

MOTION to approve the preliminary budget for 2026 (*Snape, 2nd Scott, carried unanimously*)

c. Fiesta: Galiano FD will have a combined booth and take part in the parade.

d. Recruitment

i. Members of the community should have more exposure of the need for recruits, the dangers, fire hazards, increase in wildfire risk as enticement for joining the FD.

ii. High school Outreach: career-day type engagement for awareness at Salt Spring High School.

iii. Awareness Flyers for Distribution on ferries and island businesses: item for discussion in future meeting.

iv. Subject should be moved to the Society meeting as it falls under Society business.

e. FireSmart & WildFire Mitigation

i. Forest Wildfire Mitigation does not fall under fire department jurisdiction. FireSmart applies to individual properties. The Galiano Conservancy Association has developed a program for fuel reduction and forest management in conjunction with GEFA, the fire departments and FireSmart Galiano.

ii. FD is trained for wildfire yearly with the use of the Structure Protection Unit Trailer. North Galiano FD currently has a wildfire skid that could be put in service, but needs a truck.

iii. Event proposing training for wildfire mitigation and forest management for property owners, and awareness and outreach to be considered. Commission to liaise with the Galiano Conservancy Association to get a project going. Item should be added to next meeting's agenda.

6. Other Business: none
7. Next Meeting: Sunday, September 21st at 10:00 at North Galiano Fire Hall #1 (Cook)
8. Adjournment: 11:18