

MOVED: Ed

SECONDED: Bruce

CARRIED

c. **Finance report**

Service fees for Silver Spray coverage was estimated and budgeted as \$69,000 but the actual amount is \$7,800 more due to assessed values and mill rate changes since the budget was prepared.

The propane is over budget and should be budgeted more accurately for next year.

MOVED: Bruce

SECONDED: Mike

CARRIED

d. **Community Hall report**

As per Addendum.

There are no new renters, and just the regular events are booked throughout the summer.

A new contract provides more stability so improvements are being made to the hall.

A heat pump has been installed at a cost of approximately \$8,000.00.

The Hall Group is looking for a new janitor. The new janitor will work under a CRD contract with WCB coverage paid by the Community Hall. The janitor will need to provide own liability insurance. The time commitments are about 2 hours/week.

MOVED: Mike

SECONDED: Vicki

CARRIED

5. Old Business

a. Appreciation Dinner

Anita Preto will update attendance closer to the date. Wendy Herring has confirmed the caterers, flowers, and hall.

b. Update on Governance change

The CRD Board of Directors agreed to the change of the Fire Commission role to one of mainly Advisory. The CRD adopted a new By-Law that reflects the change.

6. New Business

None.

Meeting adjourned at 21:10 hours.

MOVED: Bruce

SECONDED: Mike

CARRIED

Next meeting, Wednesday, June 26th 2024.

Chair's report – 2024 May 20

Chair's Report East Sooke Fire Commission May 20, 2024

New Reporting Structure

Due to the increased complexity associated with managing a paid Fire Chief, the Commission has decided to accept the offer of the CRD Manager Emergency Services (Chris Vrabel) and hand over the operational oversight of our Fire Chief to him. Since April 24, Chris Vrabel acts as operational supervisor and coach to our Fire Chief. Beside operational questions, Nathan will also discuss issues such as strategic planning, budgeting, long-term capital asset planning or employment law and work safe matters with his supervisor and will inform the commission of the results of these discussions.

It is planned to extend this reporting model to all CRD Fire Chiefs.

Deployment for Wildfire

At our April 15 meeting the fire department asked the commission to approve the possible deployment (has to be requested) of Tender 2 + a crew of two for fighting wildfires in other parts of British Columbia. The main argument for East Sooke Fire to send resources out of the district during the peak of the wildfire season was the opportunity for our firefighters to get "real life" training and experience.

The commission followed the argumentation of its Fire Chief and carried the following motion:

Moved to approve the deployment of Tender 2 for BC Wildfire, with the expectation that no more than two volunteers at a time will be deployed, and that the Fire Chief deploys for a maximum of one term (14 days).

In addition to the approval of the commission, our fire department also requires the approval of the CRD administration, represented by the Manager Emergency Services Chris Vrabel. Chris informed me a few days ago that he has given approval for one term (14 days) and, if another term was requested, will discuss additional deployment directly with the Fire Chief based on an existing contingency plan.

Falk Wagenbach,

Chair East Sooke Fire Commission

Chief's report – 2024 May 20



East Sooke Volunteer Fire Department Fire Chief's Report May 2024

Membership

Roll Call

Interior FFs on pagers:	13
Exterior FFs on pager:	0
FR/Support on pagers:	5
FR/Support not on pager:	1
Recruits not on pager:	2
Total =	21

** Currently 3 interior or higher qualified firefighters live outside of district**

Hours

Membership hours for calls from November 1st 2023 till May 16th 2024:

Calls: 338 hours = 12.1 hours weekly

Training 2024 from January 1st 2024 till May 16th 2024:

approximately 1,877.5 hours = 93.9 hours weekly

Chief's hours January 1st 2024 till May 17th 2024;

Total: 758.5 hours = 55.2% of the 1375 maximum yearly contracted hours. Approximately 38 hours weekly

Anita's hours January 1st 2024 till May 15th 2024;

Total: 407 hours = 203.5% of the 200 annual hours required for the Volunteer tax credit

These hours continue to show two full time hour positions being occupied by two volunteers with only on quarter being compensated.

Training

- 4 members achieved interior level
- 5 students enrolled in Hazmat Operations in November which should depending on other testing give us 5 more Full-service members.
- 1 Member completed Evo Training for all apparatus.
- First responder scope upgrades are underway for all department members
- BC Training officers conference took place May 11-16 unfortunately East Sooke could not send a representative.
- BC Fire Chiefs Conference June 2-6 so far no one is able to attend.

Hoping to try work on some officer training this year but we will have no funding for 2024 to put towards officer certification.

Callouts

Till November 1 st 2023 till May 16 th 2024	
Alarm Bells	8
Duty Calls	8
Hydro	4
Medical	38
MVI	4
Rescue	4
Structure Fire	9
Wildfire	2
Car/garbage/other fire	4
Smoke investigation	2
Total	80

Calls since November 1st, 2023, where we have did not have at least a minimum 4 interior qualified firefighters for structure fires, or a minimum 2 members for medical calls;

Structure fires: 4

Medical calls: 2

Other: 0

Miscellaneous Items

Annual maintenance and tests:

Maintenance

Routine items currently. Some garage door chords have been fraying and getting torn.

Squad 1 door needed maintenance for spring issues.

Annual testing of the SCBA air compressor completed on April 15th. It is recommended that the cold air intake be moved to take air from outside of the compressor room as this is allowing hot air back into the compressor thus shortening its life span.

Community Resiliency Plan

Paused

FireSmart

Chipper days;

SPU

Has been picked up by CRD and will be getting put on auction.

Apparatus:

Squad 1; replacement still on hold. As forestry season comes the greater need for a proper wildland vehicle to cover the over 3500 acres of park and surrounding area continues to grow. Crews are trying to get creative with ratchet straps and some home made brackets to make the best of what they can.

Tender 1 replacement 2027;

Looking into E1 muffler diversion; waiting to hear back

Tender 2 ;

- Zone 1 chiefs meeting update from apparatus industry. The sooner we commit to a truck the better essentially. Costs still rising no forecasted timeline where this will stop, though it is noted the cost increases have slowed in how quickly the inflation is happening.
- New emissions in 2027 that will cause large increase in prices as the new engines come in estimated \$100,000 increase. This is predicted to create a chassis shortage in 2025 and 2026.
- Manufacturers are adding in clauses now that they will be able to charge what the truck costs on date of delivery not on date of order due to the large inflations we are seeing.

Fire Chief will start to look at the 2025 RFP budgeting for possibilities to make proposals on Squad 1 and Tender 1 replacements to be able to try and get in before this emission rules kick in.

Records Management

Paused

Mobile Terminals

Paused

Projects

Benefits for members:

Status: Paused

Brigade has met and voted on taking on and moving forward with getting and providing benefits to the members under the attendance policy created previously. The Brigade is working to create a budget proposal and request. Once this request is finished I will bring it forward to present to the commission to allow for an amendment to the budget as/or if needed to put these allocated funds over to the brigade.

Hydrants:

Status: In progress

Meeting went well with CRD and 3 new hydrants were approved; 21 new hydrants to be installed over the next 7 years on existing water main systems.

SOG Review:

Status: Paused

CRD has hired on a consultant to review and work with CRD fire departments in the creation of Joint Occupational Health and Safety programming, as well as, a standard set of operating guidelines for the departments. I met with the consultant May 16th and feel positive on what will come from this project.

Currently these SOGs are OH&S related and will mean some changes and implementations to be done to stay in compliance with WCB regulations. First will be to look at the formation of a regional OH&S Committee.

CDR Emergency Hazmat Team Review:

Status: Paused

Not been able to read the report that was conducted and issued from the third party company hired to assess the current CRD Hazmat team.

Training Building:

Status: Progress continues.

Still looking to install a fire department standpipe on our hose tower to allow us to train on standpipe evaluations both as part our required 1001(firefighter 1&2) and our required 1002 (driver operator)

Main items to complete the training facility:

- #1 Stairs from upper Sea-can to lower: **Completed**
- #2 Wooden frame roof section with attic access provisions: **Started**
- #3 Steel partitions layers with wood to simulate walls which can be folded flat against inside walls to change layout of rooms.
- #4 Wired with lights inside: **Started**
- #5 Finish platform for below level practice.
- #6 Setup Wood stove to give practice for chimney fires
- #7 Being able to make better smoke using wood stove in facility.
- #8 Create a hole with hatch on second floor to allow for through the floor training

Pre-incident Planning:

Status: Paused

2024 Grant:

Status: approved/in progress

Strategic Planning Committee:

Status: started

Draft plan has been created and is currently in review for feedback with some stakeholders before presentation to the commission.

Recruitment:

Status: ongoing

- Few enquiries no official applications
- Created a new recruitment poster. Hoping to create a recruitment video to help ramp up recruitment over summer and into the fall for regional recruitment drive.

Juan De Fuca Automatic Mutual Aid (AMA):

Status: in process

- Had a meeting May 2nd, Meeting went well. Area Chiefs again reiterated the worries and needs for East Sooke Fire specifically to work on getting more firefighters trained to NFPA 1001 and the large need also for more Trained Officers. All three area departments expressed they are worried to have their members work in our area without East Sooke's fire chief in command of the incident.
- This continues to show the large need for properly trained and available staff in East Sooke as to not hinder our automatic mutual aid agreements and our own response to incidents.
- Juan De Fuca Chiefs agreed on a uniform accountability system throughout the JDF area, currently all four departments are using a different system. We will start to initiate this new accountability system immediately.

East Sooke Hall Group Minutes April 24 2024

Present; Bruce, Wendy Herring, Leslie Leus, Armin Sielopp. Regrets Wendy Lane.

Meeting called to order at 7.pm.

Minutes of March 27 2024. Moved by Bruce to adopt. Seconded by WendyH. Carried.

Treasurers report. Leslie gave the report which indicated that the contingency amount was not shown on the CRD monthly statement. Leslie to follow up. Moved by Armin to adopt the report as presented. Seconded by Bruce. Carried.

Hall rentals. WendyH reported that the acupuncture inquiry has chosen not use the hall. A possible wedding for 2025. Regular hall users continuing.

Old business

Bruce has the AED with the new battery ready to install. The heat pump is scheduled to be installed on May 3rd. The contactor Dupuis Energy will make a \$ 500.00 donation to a carbon reducing program or a local first nation band. We will see if the East Sooke Community Garden will qualify for this.

New business

Bruce informed the group that we will be able to have a no cost energy assessment for the hall from the CRD.

Meeting adjourned at 7.50.pm.

Respectfully submitted. Armin Sielopp