

East Sooke Fire Protection and Emergency Response Service Commission

6071 East Sooke Road, East Sooke BC, V9Z1B2

commissioners@eastsookefirecommission.ca



Commissioners Present: Falk Wagenbach (Chair), Al Wickheim (Director), Vicki Graham, Ed Helm, Wendy Herring, Bruce Manning, Mike Yeager, Anita Preto

Absent:

FD Present: Chief Pocock

Public Present: 5

COMMITTEE MEETING April 15, 2024, 1900 hours

1. Public Participation on Agenda Items

none

2. Adoption of Agenda

MOVED: Bruce SECONDED: Wendy CARRIED

3. Adoption of Minutes from March 04, 2024

MOVED: Al SECONDED: Bruce CARRIED

4. Reports

a. Chair's report

As Per Addendum.

Director Wickheim would like to have a review two years post implementation of the change to the Fire Commission role so that any issues that have been identified could be addressed.

MOTION to accept the Chair's report with Director Wickheim's request:

MOVED: Bruce SECONDED: Mike CARRIED

b. Fire Chief's report

As Per Addendum.

Appreciation was expressed to Chief Pocock for providing his own props for the RIT training.

MOVED: Ed SECONDED: Mike CARRIED

c. **Finance report** (Report delayed - waiting for CRD)

d. **Community Hall report**

The CRD has approved a new heat pump system to be paid out of the contingency fund.

MOTION to invest not more than \$18,000 to install a heat pump in the lower level of the Community Hall.

MOVED: Bruce SECONDED: Wendy CARRIED

5. **Public Query**

The President of the East Sooke Fire Brigade enquired how the annual allotment of funds to the Brigade is arrived at. He was advised that the Brigade should submit a request to the Fire Chief during the budget discussions and the Chief would then include that in his budget submission to the Fire Commission. A percentage increase is not a fixed amount.

6. **Old Business**

None

7. **New Business**

Anita Preto provided a report on the numbers of volunteers who have provided their availability on September 28th for the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner.

8. **Move to In Camera**

MOVED: Ed SECONDED: Mike CARRIED

9. **Adjournment of Public Meeting**

MOVED: Bruce SECONDED: Ed CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 2030 hours.

Next meeting, Monday May 20th, 2024.

Chair's report – 2024 April 15

**Chair's Report
East Sooke Fire Commission
April 15, 2024**

Fire Service Governance Review

The staff report regarding the fire governance implementation plan intended for April 10, 2024 has been deferred to the May 8, 2024 meeting. The final recommendation shows that the role of the commission will most likely shift to advisory and that the fire chief will report directly to the Manager Emergency Services in the future... The budget will be prepared by the Fire Chief together with the CRD Emergency Manager and **reviewed** and submitted by the commission.

Drought risk Wildfire Season 2024

The Island, and BC overall, continues to have major drought risk. The April snowpack report putting BC at just 63% of normal—the lowest since at least 1970. The Island goes even beyond this. At 49% of normal, Vancouver Island is even lower than BC.

Falk Wagenbach,

Chair East Sooke Fire Commission

Chief's report



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

Membership

Roll Call

Interior FFs on pagers:	11
Exterior FFs on pager:	2
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 April 14th:

Calls: 291.5 hours = 15.4 hours weekly

Training 2024 from January 1st 2024 till April 14th 2024:

approximately 1,552.5 hours = 110.9 hours weekly

Chief's hours January 1st 2024 till April 14th 2024;

Total: 614 hours = 43.9 hours weekly

Anita's hours January 1st 2024 till April 14th 2024;

Total: 310.50 hours = 22.8 hours weekly

Training

March 16 and 17 saw us host our own Self-Rescue and Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) awareness course. This course is the first half of the required NFPA 1407 training mandated by the Office of the Fire Commission (OFC). The course materials, training props and supplies donated by the East Sooke Chief. This course averages \$550 dollars a student, meaning just in registration fees in this one weekend East Sooke saved \$4,950.00. This does not include the periderms and hotel fees taking this course elsewhere. This course had one outside enrolment student which will see East Sooke actually profit \$400.00 from the weekend.

April 13-14 saw East Sooke Host RIT Technician the second half of the NFPA1407 Mandated course. Course materials, training props and supplies were donated by the Fire Chief. Again,

an average course fee of \$550 a student is seen in registration for such courses East Sooke saw savings of \$6,050.00 from this weekend. This course had one outside enrolment student which will see East Sooke actually profit \$400.00 from the weekend.

For the OFC mandatory requirements for a driver operator (NFPA1002) we see course fees of approximately \$1,200.00 for the Pumping portion of the course and an additional \$600.00 fee for the driving portion. With our own in-house program built by the fire chief we see a savings of \$1,800.00 per firefighter put through this program just in registration fees. We currently have 4 members looking to complete this program shortly showing this program already saved the department approximately \$7,200.00.

That is a total of **\$18,200 saved** in registration fees and **\$800.00 profit**.

- 2 members completed full service since last report.
- 4 members set to finish interior by end of first week of May
- 5 students enrolled in Hazmat Operations in November which should depending on other testing give us 5 more Full-service members.

Hoping to try work on some officer training and certification this year but likely not have the training budget to do much more this year.

Callouts

Till November 1 st 2023 till April 14 th 2024	
Alarm Bells	8
Duty Calls	7
Hydro	4
Medical	33
MVI	4
Rescue	3
Structure Fire	5
Wildfire	1
Car/garbage/other fire	4
Smoke investigation	0
Total	68

Calls since November 1st 2023 where we have not had the appropriate staffing available for response;

Structure fires: 3

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 spring issues.

Starting to need to prioritize repairs and maintenance moving into Q2 to see budget make it to Q4

Air compressor for Packs had its annual testing done today April 15th. The cold air intake needs to be moved to take air in from outside the compressor room as this is allowing hot air back into the compressor shortening its life span.

Community Resiliency Plan

Paused

FireSmart

Is back up and running and grant funding has been guaranteed till June 2024. Chipper days are being planned for; April 27 and 29

SPU

Firefighter (FF) Rebelo has inventoried the trailer.

I have this list, pictures and everything else required for the trailer to now be put to BC auction following CRD policies. There is a matter of setting the retainer on the trailer.

We must realize not only is this trailer no longer in compliance but now so is much of the equipment in this trailer. It is highly suggested to look to dispose of this asset as soon as possible.

Retainer does not mean this is what we get and is not made public. It just means if someone bids at least this amount we will sell it, if they bid less then it will not sell.

I would like a motion to allow the sale of the SPU to go ahead with the suggested retainer.

Apparatus:

Squad 1; replacement still on hold.

Tender 1 replacement 2027; Our current Tender 1 cannot be used as a front-line tender after 20 years of service this is in 2027 if we want a new truck by 2027 we will need to start ordering near the end of 2024 start of 2025. Currently the standard single axil tenders with a pump are going for around 750,000. We need to start looking at purchasing this soon.

Looking into E1 muffler diversion to not have the muffler directly exhausting into the pump operator at incidents causing prolonged exposures.

Tender 2 has had the tank tested for cracks and wall thickness April 13th 2024. The contractor said he will take these reading to an engineer and get back.

Records Management

Still working on the equipment management piece with in the program. We continue to see delays from the provider which CRD is working on with the provider.

First Due has given CRD 30% money back due to delays but are still working on the common outstanding bugs in the system the 30% will be held by CRD for future known increased fees.

Mobile Terminals

FF Neilson has come up with a plan that we have adopted, and we are awaiting materials to implement further. First Trial tablets and mounts have been received and we are moving along with this trial.

Projects

Benefits for members:

Status: Paused

This has been discussed with the brigade they are looking into the plans that can be available and to cast a vote to the brigade to accept taking on the benefits. They will have to ask the commission to adjust remaining funds after the on and off duty coverage has come out of this line item over to the brigade so they can look to enroll in a benefits contract.

Hydrants:

Status: In progress

Currently working with CRD water department on discussion the water system replacement and hydrants being installed on a section of East Sooke Rd between Coppermine and Raglan along with Seagirt rd.

We have been put on the list for 3 additional hydrants on existing water mains. Submitted are the following locations;

1. 6550 East Sooke Rd

CRD will proceed with this hydrant installation (available flows = 139 Lps / 2,203 Gpm).

2. 1493 Woodcock Rd

CRD will proceed with this hydrant installation (available flows = 86 Lps / 1363 Gpm).

3. 1363 Copper Mine Rd

CRD will proceed with this hydrant installation (available flows = 120 Lps / 1,902 Gpm).

Meeting April 25th at proposed locations to look over each section with CRD water employee.

SOG Review:

Status: Paused

CRD has hired on a consultant to review and work with CRD fire departments in the creation of a standard set of operating guidelines for the departments no ETA yet on this project.

CDR Emergency Hazmat Team Review:

Status: Paused

Not been able to read the report yet.

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 C-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

CRD Parks response:

- CRD has informed us that their crews for wildfire response will be for mop up only and are to always be supervised. They will not help with any fires until the fire is deemed under control and can not be left alone with a fire or tasks at any stage.
- Been working with CRD on maintaining our limited access points into East Sooke Park.

2024 Wildfire Deployment:

Status: in progress

- The department has been working hard through the last 8 to 9 months to get the proper certification for members to work with BC wildfire.
- We have been building and purchasing the required equipment along with this training for provincial deployment if called upon.
- Tender 2 has been listed as an available type 3 support tender, this would deploy with 2 members meeting the requirements of the Interagency Agreement.
- A type 3 support Tender can be contracted for \$301 per/hour under the Interagency Agreement, Tender 2 being older than 20 years is sent at a reduced rate (75%). So it will get a rate of \$225.75 per/hour.
- The going rate for an entry level firefighter position in the Interagency Agreement is \$49 per/hour this is to come out of the unit cost. Totaling \$98 per/hour leaving \$127.75 per/hour remaining to cover fuel and repairs for the tender.
- Days are typically 12 hour rotations, going off Metchosin's average daily fuel costs for 86 days of deployment last year, we can see an approximate \$225.00 a day fuel cost from the \$1533.00 a day (based on a 12 hour day), leaving a profit of approximately \$1,308.00 per day of deployment.
- If we can hook up the hard suction from T2 tank permanently to the auxiliary pump on the back we can class Tender 2 as a Type 2 tactical tender and receive \$332 per/hour / reduced rate \$249 per/hour.
- It is my intent as Fire Chief to deploy on this tender for deployments this summer which will likely result in less hours billed at the \$40.90 per/hour rate as Fire Chief. This will result in giving additional savings to the department where or if this results in the Chief working under the 26 hours a week maximum in the Fire Chief contract.
- On top of the clear monetary gain this provides, this also creates a very real a great learning opportunity for our members to give them valuable experience to better to be able to handle these types of incidents in our own district.
- These deployments are done by most all departments across BC and provides great networking and resource building for the department and its members to give larger access to knowledge and experiences.
- Allowing our members to deploy is a huge morale boost to many of the members as these are large headline incidents every year that many wish to be involved in and take part in. By allowing them to take part in these large scale events it gives them a thing to hold on to and look forward to each and every year, whilst truly feeling they are making a difference in their work and actions.
- It is important to note that unlike any of our AMA partner we have over 3500 acres of hard to access forested park that is 100% our sole responsibility. This large park sees over 300,000 visitors each year and creates a very complicated response district for us to manage. On top of the other complications unique to us over comparable sized department in our AMA, our help from neighboring departments is an additional 16 minutes away, and we face a large area of our district being one way in and out.
- We also must recognize the isolated and large chunk of Matheson Lake park that still sits in our service area and is a heavily visited park area we are responsible for as well.

- This is all additional reasons it is important with our more complex response district to prepare our members for any incidents in the park and its interface as best we can with deployment experience.
- This has been discussed at CRD level if approved by the commission I will start working with the CRD on the next steps for this in preparation for this now.
- Can I have a motion to allow Tender 2 to be sent on Wildfire deployment with crews and to allow the Fire Chief to go on deployments.

Pre-incident Planning:

Status: Paused

2024 Grant:

Status: approved/in progress

Strategic Planning Committee:

Status: started

Has been formed and had several meetings to date and been working on some documents for presentation. We are in the final refining stages of our document and plan.

Additional meetings:

- Commission expressed a want for more input and updates on fire hall operations. Additional monthly meeting between the chair and the fire chief the second Thursday of each month where scheduling allows, has been arranged. With this it has also been requested and agreed to that the chair will receive the fire chiefs report before the commissioners meetings for review.

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

- Meetings keeps getting postponed, next hopeful meeting is May 2nd
- All parties continue to request East Sooke to come up to Full Service with rest of AMA and requesting more certified officers from East Sooke for AMA

Fire Under writers:

Status: Complete

- Fire underwriters asked for an update on our numbers, water supply and apparatus situation. This has been submitted through the online portal. Hydrant maps were submitted and the numbers updated. Staffing model switched to composite over Volunteer and membership numbers updated.

Budget:

- FF Petro and Chief will be sitting down go over past years maintenance costs and regular outgoings to help start prioritizing some the regular maintenance and repairs. We unfortunately had bad timing on a January propane fill up and there was a hold over

propane fill up from last year that has been put now on to this year each fill up is approximately \$2,400.00. We may have to look to prioritize and delay some non-mandated maintenance and repairs until 2025 or further budgets permitting.