



GILLIES BAY  
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

A regular meeting of the Gillies Bay Improvement District held June 9, 2015 at the Gillies Bay Fire Hall.

Present: Kathleen Boeriu (Chair), Jim Mason, Linda Holmes, Warren Kiland, Bridget Andrews (secretary), Haley Camozzi, Doug Paton.

Excused: Mave Leclair.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. MINUTES

a. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF March 17, 2015 REGULAR MEETING with handwritten corrections. MOVED and SECONDED by the board of trustees.**

**CARRIED**

2. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. KWL – At our recent meeting with KWL, it was determined that a Water Master Plan is critical to enable the GBID to move forward with a plan that will see us through each stage of water improvements as well as succession of the staff and trustees. No matter who is on the board or in the admin office, the plan will explain what is needed and the rationale for realistic and economic implementation. KWL will present us with a proposal on how to proceed.
- b. Accounts receivable – Overdue Accounts Progress – The new overdue accounts system has so far been successful and we continue to recover several overdue payments. The collection process was explained in response to rate-payers who raised questions.
- c. Road Widening – The GBID has contacted PRRD about the next phase of the proposed road-widening project along the corridor past Gillies Bay Store. So far we have received no response from PRRD to our inquiry, but we have heard through other channels that the road widening project is on hold for the remainder of this year. We will continue to solicit a response from PRRD by going through Sandy McCormick instead of the Powell River office.

- d. Sub-Division and Parcel Tax/Street Lighting – Our bylaws do not address this anomaly, so we must defer to the Ministry.
- e. Ambulance Lease – the GBID currently has an understanding with local EHS to utilize space behind their bay to temporarily park an engine while we find a long term solution for E71.

### 3. REPORTS

#### a. Water Operator Report

Water quality at Cranby Lake is becoming increasingly poor as hot and dry weather creates typical, seasonal water conditions. The GBID is doing everything we can to maintain the system and prevent a boil water advisory, but residents should not be surprised if such an advisory occurs. There is only so much we can do in the absence of raw water filtration.

### 4. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Letter – Peter Stiles re: E71 1989 Ford Pumper Truck
- b. Letter – Doby Dobrostanski re: E71 1989 Ford Pumper Truck
- c. Letter – Larry Dawe re: E71 1989 Ford Pumper Truck

### 5. NEW BUSINESS

#### a. E71 – 1989 Ford Pumper Truck

Since receiving E73, the new triple combination pumper truck, the GBID Trustees have begun the process of finding a long term solution for E71, our 1989 Ford Pumper Truck.

B. Andrews contacted the Ministry to obtain their advice on procedures and responsibilities in repurposing or selling E71. In April, B. Andrews met with Fire Chief D. Paton to discuss a conversation he had with Hub Fire Engines regarding a possible offer to purchase E71, coming from another BC fire department.

The GBID currently has two written offers. They are as follows:

1. Oliver Fire Department – offering \$6000
2. Texada Residents (Group Purchase) – offering \$4000

Hub Fire Engines, the manufacturer of E71 and our replacement, E73, has valued E71 at approximately \$5000 for the truck only, excluding all ladders and equipment. Because this truck can no longer be certified for front line service, it can only be used in an ancillary capacity. Demand fluctuates for old, un-certifiable trucks.

The offer from Oliver Fire Department was brought to the attention of the Trustees through Hub Fire Engines who got ahold of D. Paton when they were aware that Oliver FD was looking for a used engine for wildfire suppression. B. Andrews was put in touch with Fire Chief Dan Sears of Oliver FD. Dan provided a written offer on May 28, 2015 for \$6000.

Concerns within the GBVFD were raised in April about selling E71. It was felt, by some members, that retaining the truck for local firefighting purposes would be more beneficial to Texada than selling it for \$6000. A meeting with Texada Residents was organized by the GBVFD for April 22, 2015. Trustees W. Kiland and J. Mason attended along with 9 residents of Texada Island. The overall message was that these residents were interested in purchasing the truck, but they would need to hold a meeting to determine if there was enough interest to raise adequate funds to purchase E71. In the meantime, residents hoped that GBID would hold on to the truck while they did their research. GBID did not respond to this comment, given that this meeting was not a GBID meeting and a quorum was not present.

Concerns were also raised by staff and Trustees, in response to the request to retain E71 as an auxiliary unit for the GBVFD. Of primary concern was ongoing costs of keeping E71, along with storage of E71. The GBID has a 10-year lease with BCEHS for space in the third bay in the fire hall. There is an early termination clause, however 12 month's notice is required. Ongoing costs were itemized as follows:

- a. Insurance
- b. Inspections
- c. Ladder testing
- d. Storage for E71, or
- e. Loss of BCAS Lease (in order to utilize third bay)
- f. Annual Maintenance for E71
- g. Repairs (expectation of major repairs on horizon)
- h. Cost of building a storage structure for Fargo who has also been displaced by E71

Questions and comments were opened up to the floor.

Questions asked by residents and key stake-holders:

**Q.** Do we need to retain the old truck when we have a mutual aid agreement with Van Anda VFD? Is that not adequate?

**A.** Yes, our Mutual Aid Agreement is adequate, but we can put a substantial amount of water on a fire using E71, while we wait for mutual aid to arrive. There are only 8000 km on E71. We can also transport additional equipment and fire-fighting apparatus.

**Q.** Do enough members show up to calls and practice to justify/man three trucks?

**A.** Yes. Per FUS, the first unit must go out with a minimum of 3 people. After that, the additional trucks can have as few as one member (driver only).

Considerations raised by members of the GBVFD:

- Gillies Bay has an unusually dry summer ahead.
- The decision on whether to retain or sell E71 may have a serious effect on firefighter morale.
- VFD officers are looking at how they can effectively deliver fire protection for Gillies Bay. They believe that having E71 will aid in shuttling water, equipment and manpower to the scene. Member's personal vehicles have also sustained damage from responding to incidents, over the years.
- GBVFD and VAVFD <sup>are</sup> is working on an auto-response agreement to bring to their respective Boards, over and above the existing mutual aid agreement. Lately, they have been unable to move ahead of concerns about the agreement within the two departments. Until this agreement is implemented, GBVFD believes that it would be advantageous to retain E71.
- VFD is willing to take on the challenge of approaching Gillies Bay residents about creating a shelter to house the old Fargo firetruck. TACT is willing to fundraise for the pumper truck as well.

Considerations raised by residents in attendance:

- TACT is developing space at the Gillies Bay Airport for housing Air Buzz, and may be willing to provide storage space for E71 as well as possibly fundraise to purchase the truck.
- It was the opinion of some residents in attendance that there is strong support in Gillies Bay in favour of *not* disposing of E71.
- Some residents cautioned that they would not want to be on the GBID Board of Trustees if the trustees elect to sell E71 during an extremely volatile fire season.
- Some residents in attendance felt that selling E71 would be putting financial concerns ahead of community benefit.

**MOTION to retain E71 until the first quarter of 2016 and bring it up for further discussion to see what the community comes up with. The approximate cost for retaining E71 is \$6000. Motion was discussed. MOVED and SECONDED by the Board of Trustees.**

**CARRIED**

b. Airport Fire Response

The GBID will send a letter to the PRRD clarifying our response expectations for the Gillies Bay Airport. For a variety of reasons, including insurance and liability concerns, the GBVFD cannot 'tailor' service to individual expectations. The only way to be excluded from our service area is to petition the Province for such an exclusion.

Meeting adjourned @ 8:07 PM

Approved By:

