

Follow Up to CFLVFD meeting from June 11, 2020

June 24, 2020 7pm

Summary

Present: Mark Savard, Amandah Cullum, Allan Schaad, Dwayne Rustymeyer, Jacinta D'Andrea

Meeting of executive with fire chief to discuss CRD feasibility study.

The Cariboo Regional District voted not to go ahead with feasibility study for Greeny Lake VFD (see attached notification from CRD).

CAO Comments: "I concur with the staff recommendation. While I understand the need for fire services in our communities, we must ensure that the services we provide are realistically sustainable. The challenges we face in fire service administration are already proving to be onerous with the fire departments we have."

In light of this outcome, it makes the likelihood of our fire department undergoing a feasibility study and further becoming a CRD department extremely unlikely. The CRD has clearly stated they are not interested in the liability associated with independent fire departments, nor do they have the capacity or desire to manage more than they already have.

We are left to explore what the future of our fire department is. What is the community expectation of service? General consensus seems to be "neighbours helping neighbours." Maintain equipment we have. We need a budget of "essentials."

Since board meeting on June 11, 2020, discussions have been had with other independent fire departments. Is there a possibility of working together to garner support from other avenues? Tyee VFD only does wildfires, but wants to band together with other independent departments to figure out funding sources and support. Big Lake operates an independent (non-crd) fire department that is working well and invited us to attend their meeting this coming Tuesday, June 30, to see how they make it work.

CFLVFD has many questions to answer? Can we respond to house fires? What is the community expectation? What does responding mean? The fire department cannot be expected to provide/maintain high level of protection at current membership numbers and cost. Need \$70-100,000 to operate up to standards. But community unable/willing to support. So we are left to ask, what is critical equipment for this community? How can we maintain the resources we currently have for the greatest good of our community? Truck has not had oil change in 10 years. Horsefly has gotten money for fire department from discretionary funds of CRD. Why have our directors in the past not offered this to us? What is our long term strategy? 5 year plan important next step and needs to happen with input of community. What are the minimum budget requirements of fire department? Doing inventory and feasibility study may be useful for partnering with other independent operations, creating service agreements and memorandums of understanding.

We currently have approximately \$80,000 in savings/GIC. A \$40,000 GIC was put back in the general revenue account. Should the money be used for maintenance and projects, or held in trust for building/truck replacement and/or unforeseen events? Hall expansion isn't going ahead, but renovations and greening of the community hall could happen. Should money be used to leverage more funding? Many organizations are unwilling to give grants to societies with savings in the bank, unless it is clearly earmarked for something specific.

We need lots of information to community before AGM takes place. Fire department update. Water levels and dam rights. Spending priorities. First Nations Relations. Plan is still to hold AGM in August, dependent on social distancing protocols and regulations. May have to do it via ZOOM meeting.

Lease is up on property in 2021. We need to have renewal forms completed and submitted by July 17, 2020. Al did mapping in past and will help again. Old application in filing cabinet.

We have lost revenue from hall rentals due to the COVID-19 Is there a source to get that back? Rental request came to Amandah. Can we rent the hall? Probably not, based on the current situation. We need to follow process and guidelines and cleaning post rental would have to be next level sterilizing. Best to just wait for time being.

Community Membership forms ready to go, but Canada Post will only deliver to entire route, unless individually addressed. Plan to hand deliver forms to residents. Everyone take a section of the community. Need to change drop off info to mail slot, not golf drop box.

Adjourned 8 pm