

Piers Island Volunteer Fire Department Trustee Report, 2017 AGM

Over the past year, the trustees have put forth support for the discussion of an apron in front of the fire hall, purchased a 4-in-bucket for the tractor (with help through a generous donation from the PIA), and committed to proceeding with the purchase of the Type 4 ambulance, as voted on by Piers Islanders at the 2014 AGM.

Type 4 Ambulance

In December, Tony and I met with the fire fighters and a number of first responders to discuss a plan for purchasing the Type 4 ambulance. Concerns were raised about which should come first, the Type 4 or a replacement 4X4. There was discussion around the design of the Type 4 and its overall usage side-by-side with the existing ambulance. On March 29th, we again met with the first responders to gain a clearer understanding of their needs. After lengthy discussion, it was decided to purchase the Type 4 ambulance in the coming year. We will now look to the first responders to form a committee to help with the design and identify the components necessary for the Type 4 ambulance. A budget of \$25,000 for this project will come from the PIVFD Savings/Capital Funds Account.

Fire Hall Apron

In this past year, the trustees gave their unanimous support to our Fire Chief's request to complete the original fire hall design by installing an apron in front of the building. In his email of February 22, 2017, sent to all Piers Islanders, the Fire Chief explained that the apron installation will be both functional and aesthetic.

While the apron project is still at a very early stage of discovery, we have received a quote from Capitol City Paving in the amount of \$44,000 plus taxes. The quote includes barging, trucking, removing excess gravel, compacting and grading the area in preparation for paving, machine laying and compacting 2" of hot asphalt concrete, sealing joints, tamping edges and cleaning up. The quote is based on a 3,840-square foot area mapped out by the Fire Chief and myself. Using this quote, the cost for paving would be \$11.46 per square foot, before taxes. Next steps will be to obtain a quote for paving stones, which will allow for a cost comparison of the two materials (Aliston Stone Works have provided a *verbal* quote of approximately \$10.00 per square foot for paving stones, exclusive of barging, site preparation and trucking). A possible final solution may be a combination of paving stones and asphalt.

After a recent discussion with the Fire Chief, it was decided to proceed on a smaller scale and just install paving stones in front of the hall doorway by the picnic table area, reaching to the planter and down to the fire hall sign (roughly 700 square feet). The Chief and I discussed a budget of \$15,000 for this smaller project, which would allow up to \$21.00 per square foot, and include the cost of barging, site preparation and trucking. Once again, this is dependent on an overall quote coming in under \$21.00 per square foot (which I believe is generous) to stay within our proposed \$15,000 budget. I'm anticipating that the barging and trucking would be considerably less than the asphalt barging quote, as I believe we would be able to use Willis' barge and require less trucking to get the materials on site. The quote from Capitol City was from the Tulista boat ramp and included two days of barging for the various vehicles required for site preparation and paving.

The funds raised to date are \$2,000 from the sale of fire wood this past winter, and \$6,000 in pledge money for memorial paving stones from the Fire Chief, for a total of \$8,000. Fundraising through the sale of memorial paving stones will continue; however, the balance of the \$15,000 budget could be taken from the Sustainment/Upgrade Fund. Through the generosity of the Fire Chief, Steve Cruise, who has donated his yearly honorarium since becoming Fire Chief in 2014, the Sustainment/Upgrade Fund has grown by several thousand dollars.

Funds needed to continue the expansion of the apron in the future would come by way of fundraising, a tax levy or a combination of both. For example, a levy of \$100.00 per household would garner around \$13,000 a year which would be sufficient to complete the remainder of the project in approximately 3 - 4 years, if no further fundraising efforts were successful. To reiterate, we are still in the early stages of research and planning.

Submitted by Greg Miller, PIVFD Trustee