

## **Trustee Report – Piers Island Volunteer Fire Department – October 4, 2022**

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### **General Information**

Training continues weekly with good attendance by the members. The PIVFD strives to meet their commitment to provide a fast and effective response to any fire emergency on Piers Island. You are encouraged to read the overview of their July – September 2022 training program located at the end of this report.

The pancake breakfast was a resounding success which can be attributed to a number of things but most importantly, by the overwhelming attendance by members of our community who came to support the department. Many thanks to you all. Over \$1500 was raised for the firefighter fund.

Fires and chainsaw use remains prohibited until further notice as we are waiting for considerable precipitation to fall before lifting the ban.

The Office of the Fire Commissioner has mandated new training requirements for all BC Fire Departments as of September 28<sup>th</sup>. The PIVFD is currently evaluating the new requirements and will be working towards incorporating them into their program. Additional expenses and extra training will surely follow.

The medical team responded to several incidents this summer with good patient outcomes in every case. Great teamwork by the membership.

Meetings have been scheduled for next week between the Trustee and Chief Cruise. Topics of discussion are referred to elsewhere in this report.

Finally, thankfully we have been fire free these past few months during extremely dry conditions. Thank you to the Islanders for following the restrictions in place and being extra vigilant.

I wish to thank Fire Chief Cruise for his commitment to the PIVFD and that his high level of communication with the Trustees on a weekly basis is greatly appreciated. Our PIVFD is first class and as Islanders, we should be proud and grateful for the dedication they, and the people who support them, provide us each and every day.

Respectfully Submitted

John de Jong  
Trustee – Fire Department

## **Grant Application – UBCM – Resiliency Through Innovation**

Fire Chief Cruise has prepared a Grant Application asking for \$30,000 from the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund to purchase equipment which will greatly enhance the PIVFD's ability to fight fires. Of primary importance is the ability to use the ocean as a limitless water source. Adaptations need to be made to our existing equipment to bring us up to a standard that can be expected in a community that is serviced by fire hydrants. Development of some of these adaptations will be done with local suppliers in conjunction with the PIVFD.

Additionally, our communications system needs to move from analog radios currently being used on the fire ground to digital P25 radios presently used for our Ops as required under the CREST system. An additional P25 for use on the fire ground for Officers would enhance safety considerably.

Of interest is that this application is not only about the firefighters and Chief Cruise's insight in what will greatly enhance our fire resiliency on the island, but also should the proposed adaptations be funded and shown to work, the PIVFD would be a leader in this field. As the innovations will be unique they can be shared with many communities such as Parks Canada, Provincial Parks, and other communities similar to ours with a large water source at their doorstep but without the equipment adaptations that allow them to use this resource.

A resolution has been prepared by the Trustees supporting this application which needs to be submitted along with the application.

## **Planned Meetings**

Chief Cruise and I will be meeting in the next few weeks to review budgets, capital spending needs/plans, review this past year and plans for next year, long term planning including what succession planning could look like as that will, at some time in the future, become an eventuality.

## **PIVFD - Training**

### **July – September 2022**

The PIVFD conducts weekly training sessions on Thursday afternoons. Subject matters are as follows:

#### **July – 2022**

1. Week One: Centre of Island Protection Plan. Placing equipment in specific areas of the centre island.
2. Week Two: Structure fire training, additional centre island testing of hoses lines.
3. Week Three: Review of the Centre of the Island forest fire practices. Review of the S100A course. Fire suppression exercise at the upper reservoir.
4. Week Four: Continuation of Forest Fire training in two groups.

#### **August – 2022**

1. Week One: Review of Forest Fire training for the four firefighters who have not completed the course. The other firefighters to plan and practice shuttling water from a dry hydrant to a fire

location. The Sprinkler and Dock Pump open house on Saturday was well attended and informative in showing our neighbours how they can play a part in the PIVFD fire response.

2. Week Two: Centre of the Island training at the Lower and Upper reservoirs. Scraping demonstrations to create a fire line.
3. Week Three: Break into three groups. Group One to respond to a structure fire, Group Two to set up to attack a fire from the beach or a dock, Group Three to check the pumps and equipment at the reservoir. Planning started on Grant Application for new equipment. Chief Cruise outlined some suggestions and called for additional submissions from the FireFighters. Pancake Breakfast Duty roster submitted.
4. Week Four: Repeat of week three exercises. 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Breakfast pretty well organized.

### **September – 2022**

1. Week One: Thursday practice cancelled in order to prepare for the Sunday morning breakfast. Set up will take place on Saturday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 pm.
2. Week Two: Safety and Communications covered this week. Assistant Saanich Fire Chief Meagan Thompson and one of her staff to present radio protocols and take the firefighters through the 911 network setup. The Pancake Breakfast was a resounding success. About \$1500 was raised for the Fire Fighters Fund.
3. Week Three: The module on Safety and Communication will be reviewed and completed in hour one and the second hour will be to re-familiarizing on the use and operation of the large 2.5" gated wye.
4. Week Four: Kelly Stevenson to introduce the Playbook module for PPE and SCBA, There will be a quiz at the end of the two sessions as well getting out in the field using the learned PPE and SCBA skills.
5. Week Five: Last session on PPE and SCBA training using the trucks at a mock event.