

Piers Island Volunteer Fire Department Trustee Report, 2018 AGM

Within the last year we have seen a bit of change around the Fire Hall grounds and with the Vehicle fleet. This past October we saw the completion of the Fire hall apron section outside the front door and picnic table area.

In November, the PIID took on the wood chipper as an asset after a number of islanders donated money for the purchase.

In January, the Trustees approved the installations of cameras in the hall after a request to look into the cameras as an option for security came from the Fire Chief after some growing incidents over the past few years.

In December, a 4X4 committee was formed after Fire Chief Cruise canvassed the fire fighters and found even more concerns with the viability of the existing 4X4. That committee is Bob Crooks, Steve Cruise, Gerry Kristianson, Tony Kaul, Greg Miller. A discussion was had on March 9th/18 and a list was made of what was needed for a new 4X4. At this point we are searching for a truck that comes close to those requested elements.

In February, a Type 4 Ambulance committee was formed to get minimum requirements for a Type 4 Ambulance on Piers. That committee includes Kerri Keats, Gerry Kristianson, Graham Gilley, Sandy Brunham, Tony Kaul and Greg Miller.

In March, a new to us 1990 Ford CF8000 Fire Truck was purchased replacing the old 1973 Tender. Although it was not crucial to purchase the new truck at the time, an opportunity arose that the Trustees and people who work with the trucks felt was worth taking.

In May, a deposit was placed on a brand-new Type 4 ambulance and will hopefully be arriving in mid-July.

Apron

The first stage of the apron project was completed at the end of last October. The total cost was \$17,743.00. \$18,837.50 was raised through memorial stones and the firewood sales from the previous winter. The installation cost islanders nothing in tax dollars and no money was taken from the sustainment/upgrade fund. Now we need to look into a next step, if there is a large enough appetite by islanders to continue. If so, where that money would come from will need to be discussed, more fundraising, money from the sustainment/upgrade fund, tax or a combination of all 3, although fundraising may be exhausted after last year's efforts.

Wood Chipper

In October 2017, Fire Chief Steve Cruise proposed gifting a wood chipper to the PIVFD, making it an asset of the PIID. After looking into liability, insurance, operational safety, annual maintenance cost, tractor capacity working with chipper and the pros and cons to renting one every year instead, the trustee's agreed to take on the wood chipper as an asset.

The wood chipper was fully funded by donations (\$10,200.00) from Piers Islanders. It was agreed that the PIVFD would be responsible for insurance, safety, and maintenance of the chipper.

Video Cameras

After a request asking the Trustees to look into installing cameras after issues of theft and nefarious activity in kitchen and training hall over the past two years, the trustees approved installation of cameras. The board decided to err on the side of access for islanders instead of allowing no access to the building after a set time.

The cameras will only record if there is movement and will only be inside the building and will only be reviewed if there was an incident that warranted looking back. Access to the web camera feed or recordings will be limited to those that manage firehall including PIID trustees, Fire Chief or his designate, and Librarian.

Nobody ever wants to take this step, but with what seems to be a growing population, which includes more guests the trustees agreed it was their responsibility to secure assets in the truck bays, main hall and kitchen and that having cameras would also eliminate any insurance issues that could arise.

New Fire Truck

On Friday March 9th, Fire Chief Cruise contacted me and mentioned there was a fire truck on BC Bid that we might want to look into. Derrek Morrison went up-island the next day to have a look at it. Derek then came to the 4X4 truck replacement discussion to let us know what he thought and to provide pictures. Tony Kaul, Steve Cruise, Derek Morrison, Gerry Kristianson and I had a discussion about the fire truck and agreed that after what Derek had told and shown us, we should at least bid on it. We all agreed that we would have a maximum bid of \$10,199, but only after the hub pump mechanic had a look at the old tender, as he was already scheduled to come over on March 13th. As well, we needed to report this to PIID Trustee, Charlie Troger, and get his approval to proceed.

The hub mechanic said parts for the tender are getting harder to come by without doing custom replacements which could be expensive. The mechanic found the truck was leaking because the seals were worn, and the tank had multiple pin holes leaks caused by corrosion over the years. In his opinion, this truck should be replaced sooner than later. So, although the tender could have went on for more time, we decided that the opportunity to upgrade our current truck by 17 years for somewhere around \$10,000.00 was a great opportunity.

One of the biggest reasons we decided to go for this truck was the proximity to the island. The truck was located in Cowichan, so there was opportunity to go look at it without major travel, being able talk to the chief who had used it prior for any concerns, getting the truck to Piers would not be as costly as say coming from the States and paying duty and American dollars and also knowing the truck did not go through long cold winters, driving on salted roads. Waiting for a couple more years may have put us in a position where we would have had to spend a lot more money for a replacement as well as spent money with repairs to the old Tender.

Bidding closed at 7:00 p.m. on March 14th and Lenny Green had a winning bid of \$9,100.00. We knew there would be extra cost for most firefighters to get their air brakes ticket and that we would need an exhaust system put into the fire hall.

The old Tender was sold to Alex Mowat for \$2,500.00. There were thoughts of trying to see if Sidney Island may want it for their small department, but the condition and age of the truck for that was a concern. We also, thought to put it on BC Auction and applied for an account, but in the end the Trustees decided

selling the truck to Alex, who offered and at least knew what he was buying was a better option than trying to get any more money, potentially less, for it on an auction site and having to get Steve or someone who knew the truck to show it to interested parties. Alex also took care of any cost removing it from the island.

After this purchase the island was left with \$118,188.76 in the Capital Renewal Reserve Fund.

4 special thanks go to Lenny Green as he was instrumental in finding the new Fire Truck and doing the bidding through BC Auction. Derek Morrison for taking the day to drive up to Cowichan on his own time and money to go over the truck and provide info needed for making a decision to bid as well as driving it back to the island after purchase. Willis Rooke for barging it to the island for no cost and finally Brent for putting everything he was doing aside to provide us with all the financial moving parts to purchase in the small window we had.

New 4X4

The annual service and certification of the 4X4 was performed in October. As a result of the inspection, it was determined that the 4X4 is in urgent need of approximately \$3,000 of repairs. Rather than spend these funds on repairing a vehicle that will have to be replaced within the next year, it was suggested that the purchase of a replacement 4X4 be given a higher priority than the purchase of a Type 4 golf cart ambulance.

A committee discussion was held on March 9th where specs were given as to what would be needed on a new 4X4 and also the idea of having an area on the 4X4 for some support gear for the first responders so the new 4X4 could compliment the Type 4 in emergency situations or multiple First Responder calls happening at the same time. The Trustees decided that even though the 4X4 was the highest priority, nothing was stopping us from purchasing the Type 4 at any time, as the funds were there for both vehicles. The 4X4 search continues and it is time for the committee to come together again and put a plan together that can see us get the new 4X4 by year's end.

New Type 4 Ambulance Purchase

After getting feedback through meetings and a committee discussion on March 29th/18 with island First Responders and one Islander who has worked with the Type 4 ambulance outside of Piers Island. We decided to focus on two models, the carry-all 300 and the carry-all 500. Three options were identified and weighed.

A used 300 Carry-all Type 4 was up for sale just outside of Toronto. The sale price was \$11,000.00 cd and going to end up costing approximately \$17,000 after modifications and shipping across Canada. At the end of the day, we would have a used Type 4 with used batteries, used tires and no warranty.

A brand new 300 Carry- all was going to cost approximately \$20,889.00 cd while a brand new 500 Carry-all with more power and storage room was going to cost approximately \$24,673.00 cd (an additional \$3,800).

After reviewing the two brand new models, the trustees decided the extra \$3800.00 cd was worth the extra power, storage space and best met the suggestions of the committee. A deposit of \$1,500.00 cd was put down on May 11th with a delivery date for mid-July 2018.

When this purchase is complete the island will be left with \$95,500.00 in the Capital Renewal Reserve Fund, with the expectation of another \$20,000.00 going into that fund before year's end.

A huge thank you to all the First Responders and Firefighters on Piers Island for putting their time into practices, courses, different exercises and off island training all to provide the island with emergency services.

Finally, to Pauline and Steve thank you for all you do. There are so many things that you two do daily that really goes unrecognized, so thank you.

Submitted by Greg Miller, PIVFD Trustee