

SIFPS -Asset Management and Maintenance Committee Report – 2019-2020

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The SIFPS organizational document states that “develops and submits annual operation and asset budgets, both operating and capital, to full Board for review/approval. Authorizes, in coordination with the Treasurer, all operations and asset related expenditures in accordance with approved annual budgets. Obtains approval from the full Board prior to any expenditure not within the approved budget. Keeps an up to date listing of all the physical assets of the Society, including all equipment (large and small) and facilities used by both the Fire Department and Saturna Island Rescue. Manages repair and maintenance of assets and timeline for replacement or repairs.”

Providing these services to a small, rural community means that some of the issues change but many stay the same from year to year. Repair and replacement of all the equipment used to make a fire service safe and effective, from hoses to personal protective equipment and the tools of the trade, is expensive. The cost of new fire trucks and equipment is prohibitive, and finding good used vehicles takes additional time and often requires modifications and upgrades. Ensuring that all of the equipment meets Provincial motor certification and standards can require rotating vehicles off island, while at the same time, not depleting what is needed here. Another critical part is attracting volunteers who are able and prepared to train. And of course, the challenging topography of the Island doesn't change.

The tax-based source of revenue provides predictability while maintaining local control and gives the opportunity to better plan for the long term future of emergency services.

Here are a few of the things that the Committee dealt with and/or contributed to during our last fiscal year – a mix of longer term and more immediate items:

- bringing into service a new to us SIR ambulance
- bringing into service a new to us full size pumper - Engine II
- creating a new budget line for the maintenance over 10 years of our two ESB locations
- arranging (with CRD Director David Howe) government financial assistance for the installation of solar power at ESB #1
- considering opportunities such as applying and being awarded a UBCM grant to assist with training costs
- considering appropriate on-island sites for training currently requiring off-island travel
- continuing to look for more sites for non-potable water storage with fire department connections to better supply firefighting needs in all locations of the Island
- under current consideration is the replacement of the water tanker (tender) at ESB #1.

All in all, a typical year.