



HAGENSBERG WATERWORKS DISTRICT,

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Hagensborg Waterworks Board Meeting

Community update

HAGENSBERG, OCTOBER 31, 2016: Your Hagensborg Water District Trustees held their regular monthly meeting Monday, October 24th. All trustees were in attendance along with one presenter, one observer and two representatives from DFO.

The trustees are grappling with many issues brought about through the demands being placed upon all local governments including Improvement Districts.

CFO Wes Abel has been aiding the board in developing a longer-term vision for costs associated with operating the Water District and critical capital upgrades. He's created a visual infographic that will be shared with Hagensborg community members, explaining what exactly is meant by Water District, Fire Protection, Compliance and the associated reserves. We'll explain more about that in the next issues update.

At the most recent meeting, Department of Fisheries and Oceans officials (DFO) from the Hatchery were invited to revisit a project initiated by the previous board involving the Hatchery creating a twinned water intake for District and Hatchery uses at the weir. This would not only see the District's infrastructure upgraded at no cost to the local tax base, it would provide the Hatchery with pathogen free water for their rearing ponds. DFO proposed they may also address the ongoing maintenance issues at the intake resulting from high water events. The discussion was fruitful with the benefits of the DFO and the Water District working together on the project.

Trustees were hopeful of hearing back on the application the board has pending for the Canada 150 Grant. If the grant is successful, the Water District will receive approximately 150,000 dollars towards the fire hall rebuild and a feasibility study on the possibility of a hydro-electric generation project. If the project was feasible and successful it could potentially lead to hydrogeneration and thus become a subsidy to the Water District, helping to offset rising costs.

Trustees discussed, reviewed and agreed upon a course of action regarding advance voting for future elections to the Board of Trustees to address those community members who are experiencing mobility issues and not able to attend the AGM, and those who must be out of the Valley when the AGM and elections are regularly held. Two options were presented: online voting and mail-in advance balloting. Online voting was possible but deemed too complicated and too costly an option with mail in voting being the substantially least expensive. The option of mail-in ballots is being explored. Trustees agreed that the process for informing voters about the Board of Trustee elections and the process to be nominated to the board needed to be more effectively passed on into the greater community well in advance of the AGM.

Trustees also listened to a presentation from Diane Skelly. Ms. Skelly wanted more information in regards to the current status of the Point of Entry Project. She felt that the project timeline had run its course and based on evidence she presented questioned whether it was still a viable option for the community. She also stated that it had been 4 years since our last public meeting so she requested the board convene such a meeting before the next AGM to discuss options and a possible new mandate for the HWD.

The Trustees agreed and had been discussing the idea since the AGM in April. They determined that they would hold a public meeting in January/February. Although, that does seem like a long time from now trustees felt that convening a public meeting between now and Christmas was too short of a time to get the information together about options to give a proper presentation including the updated costs called for. There was a desire to ensure the information presented was thorough, complete and transparent.