

DIAMOND IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

Community Newsletter – May 2017

Next Meeting:

May 15, 2017

7:00 pm

Diamond Hall

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – APRIL 24, 2017

The Annual General meeting of the Diamond Improvement District was held on April 24, 2017. There were 38 residents in attendance. Given that water rates have risen significantly in the past year, which we are looking for alternative water sources and that we have received an engineer's report indicating that significant upgrades to the system are needed, we were disappointed with the turn out.

We will detail what transpired at the AGM in this newsletter, however, if you wish to review the full minutes, they are available on our website at DIDBC.com

ELECTION OF TRUSTEES

There were two 3 year positions open. These positions were filled by Elizabeth Suttie and Bob Kitching by acclimation after Bill Williams withdrew his name.

There was one 2 year position open. There was an election for this position and after the votes were counted by returning officer Joe McKinley, Peter Burns was declared elected. Bill Williams was defeated.

We thank Larry Williams for his years of service to the Diamond Improvement District. Elizabeth Suttie was chosen as Chair of the Trustees and we welcome Bob Kitching and Peter Burns to the Board of Trustees.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

The Board of Trustees commissioned an Engineer's report to determine the status of the Diamond Improvement District water system. The result of the report is that the engineer has advised that the system is in need of major repairs. The system is still comprised of 61% asbestos-cement pipe, pipes need to be increased in size to allow for proper fire flow, water pressure in the system varies and individual pressure reducing valves are required in all areas. It is not known if the condition of the AC pipe is adequate or if there are currently any leaks in the system. If all of the recommendations were to be implemented the cost would be \$2,918,300 over 30 years. This would result in a significant increase in parcel tax being charged to each resident. The Trustees are now reviewing the report. Any significant borrowing would need to be brought back to the Residents for consideration.

At the recommendation of the report, the Trustees have increased the CEC (Capital Expenditure Charge) for new developments. The cost will rise from \$1,000.00 per lot to \$10,109.98 for a residential lot being created and \$7,617.33 for each mobile home unit. **Please note: this charge is for new subdivision lots/mobile homes only.**

In the meantime, as the report indicated that fire flows are not adequate, this means that insurance agencies may determine that your residence is a higher risk which could result in higher residential insurance costs. When your insurance comes up for renewal, you may be faced with an increase. If this occurs, please contact the District office to advise them so that we may track the increases.

FIRE HYDRANT ACCIDENT

A vehicle ran into one of the Fire Hydrants during the winter snow. This caused significant damage to the Fire Hydrant. Unfortunately, due to the age of the system and the fact that the size of fire hydrants have increased, finding

parts and fixing the hydrant has taken quite a long time. The resident is responsible for the cost of replacement and we are working on this claim with ICBC.

NEW WATER BILLING

You will notice that there has been a change to your water bill. The base rate has been increased from \$50.00 per month to \$84.00 per month, however, the water rate has been decreased from \$1.25 per cubic meter for the first 25 meters to \$0.65. This change in the rate is to accommodate the increase in charges from the Town of Ladysmith and also distributes the cost in a fairer manner. The end result is that if your water usage remains the same you should only notice a slight increase in the amount of your water bill.

DIAMOND IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT WEBSITE

We continue to add to and update the Diamond Improvement District website. The dates for meetings are posted as well as newsletters and other helpful information regarding the Diamond. Contacts are noted below and on the website. We are here to answer your questions so please send us an email!

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

(in this order)

250-924-4100

250-245-8187

250-245-8317

HALL RENTALS

Krista or Erik Aurala 250-245-8317

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Elizabeth Suttie, Chair250-924-4100

Erik Aurala250-245-8317

Dan Judson.....250-714-2609

Bob Kitching.....250-924-1137

Peter Burns.....778-977-9455

ADMINISTRATION

Debby Baker (Administrator)250-740-5259

E-mail admin@didbc.com

Stephanie Irvine (Financial officer) 250-245-8187

Office Address: 5058 Paton Road

Hall Address: 4954 Christie Road

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DISTRICT MEETING SCHEDULE

May 15, 2017 7 p.m.

June 19, 2017 7 p.m.