



**Permasteel**<sup>TM</sup>  
THE PERMASTEEL GROUP

February 12, 2013

Mr. Bruce Patterson  
Chairman  
Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District  
Salt Spring Island, British Columbia

Dear Mr. Patterson:

Re: New Fire Hall Facility – Salt Spring Island, BC

***Please distribute to all trustees, be made available to the public and read aloud during the next meeting's "correspondence".***

I would like to comment on statements, as quoted in the Gulf Islands Driftwood, made by fire board trustee Mr. Ron Chamney in response to questions raised by Ms. Julia Lucich during the discussion period following the Board of Trustees meeting Monday, February 4, 2013. Mr. Chamney's statements, specifically regarding pre-engineered steel buildings, are inaccurate and misleading, both to Ms. Lucich and the general public.

Mr. Chamney's statement regarding "the extra building that has to be constructed inside" to support shelves and racking within the pre-engineered steel building is fundamentally incorrect. These loading requirements are included within the design process of the building and thus the building itself supports the shelves and racking. There is also no issue with the warranty in these situations, contrary to Mr. Chamney's statement.

Regarding the statement "the outside shell would have to be altered for seismic standards", this is again incorrect. Pre-engineered buildings are designed to the building code of authority in the area which the facility will be constructed, and designed post-disaster where required ex. Fire halls. Please see the attached letter from Omega Structural and Civil Engineering for further clarification.

Employing local trades is very important, whichever construction materials are selected. With pre-engineered steel building construction the erection of the building is completed by certified erectors, more than one of which is located on Vancouver Island. Salt Spring Island tradespeople would be welcomed to complete the majority of the work.

Residents of Salt Spring Island must be able to rely on the trustee members to make unbiased, well-informed decisions. Unfortunately, the comments by both Mr. Chamney and previous statements by trustee Richard Hannah (during a radio interview with Scott Simmons) suggest that insufficient research has been done regarding alternative and/or less-expensive fire hall options.

I asked in a previous letter written to the Fire Chief Tom Bremner whether architect Kimberly Johnston was 100% willing and open to considering all relevant types of construction for this new facility, and specifically pre-engineered steel building construction. It was my concern that recent well publicized events and discussions on Gabriola Island indicate this may not be the case. I was assured that YES, this project would be approached without bias.

I now formally ask this same question of all Board of Trustee members. Please state whether you are willing and open to considering all relevant types of construction for this new facility, and specifically pre-engineered steel building construction. If not, I believe that reasons need to be offered to the residents of Salt Spring Island that are grounded in supportable facts.

Note, this letter is signed by not only me but also by Norm Elliott, a 25 year resident of Salt Spring Island with 50 years of metal building construction experience including the recently designed and completed Salt Spring Island Tennis Facility and Saturna Island Fire Halls. Please see the attached Permasteel Letter of Recommendation from the Saturna Island Fire Protection Society.

Regards,

**PERMASTEEL GROUP**



James Savage  
Vice President – Sales & Marketing



Norm Elliott  
President & Owner

Cc: Gulf Islands Driftwood