

## RRRC Questions and Answers

Some members raised questions on the eMail that was sent out on April 6, 2020. Answers to these are given below.

First, we need to point out that holding a 'Virtual AGM' was not something the Board did on a whim. Circumstances beyond our control have forced it on us. We could have postponed the AGM. However, the Board discussed this and felt that given the uncertainty around the current pandemic and different estimates on when it might be over, holding a virtual AGM was the best way to proceed.

- **GENERAL**

- **In a normal AGM items put forward would allow us to comment, before voting, How do we make comments visible to all.**

This question and answer document provides answers to key comments received from many members. We are trying to be as transparent as possible, and as responsive as humanly possible under the circumstances. Also, a 'normal' AGM has only about 100 attendees, this virtual AGM seeks to reach out to ALL members.

- **BACKSTOP**

- **What is the age of the current backstop**

Our backstop was installed in August 1989, so it is approximately 30 years old.

- **What is its remaining usable life?**

The life span cannot be determined without a metallurgical test, it will also vary with usage, regular maintenance etc.

Commercial ranges estimate the life to be about 30 years, so we expect that the backstop should last us another 20-30 years

- **What is the estimated cost of replacement of backstop**

Our backstop cost us approximately \$14000, plus transportation costs of about \$1,000 and unknown installation costs. Commodity prices have risen, so the replacement cost is likely to be much higher.

One of the items on our 'to do' list is to get an estimate, so we can plan for the future.

- **FURNACE**

- **Can you explain the setup so we understand what is involved?**

We have an oil furnace, installed above the drop ceiling in the Ready Room. This furnace was installed in the early to mid '80's.

This furnace supplied hot air to the ready room and the range. There were a number of shortcomings with the furnace, including frequent failures.

Since the airflow was not enough it was supplemented with fresh air (via a roof vent).

The airflow in the range was still not adequate and one could smell the unburnt powder after some shooting. To check on this, studies were done, these found that air flow was not anywhere near standards required for a range.

An interim solution was to install a few more exhaust fans to try to improve the airflow.

The furnace stopped working in 2016. Due to lack of reliability, we installed a heat pump with two heads in June 2016. These were augmented with electric heating strips in the ready room. With this setup we were forced to operate without any heat in the range during the 2016/17 and 2017/2018 winter seasons. Since this was not a tenable situation, the Board authorized investigation of alternatives.

- **Furnace and Ventilation system investigations.**

We contacted four firms in 2017 to try and solve the problems. Two of the firms contacted had previous range ventilation systems experience and proposed similar solutions. Of the other two firms, one said it was beyond their capability and experience and the other never responded in spite of repeated requests.

We came to a number of conclusions, discussed below.

The first finding was that what had been installed was a residential furnace that was not capable of providing airflow estimated to be required as per Federal Guidelines.

The second finding was that a ceiling mounted furnace of the capacity we required was not commercially available, and that the roof was not designed to support the weight of a new furnace (about ¾ ton). The high capacity furnace required is due to the fact that unlike in a house or building where a majority of air is recirculated and only a small portion is fresh air, in a range we could not recirculate any air due to lead and powder contamination.

The third finding was we needed to isolate the ready room from the range, for the ventilation system to work properly. This means that a solution for the ready room will have to be sought separately, at a later date – however, this should be simpler as the ready room itself can be heated and cooled like any residential or commercial facility.

The fourth finding was that a comprehensive Heating and Ventilation system had to be designed and installed as both systems had to work in tandem. This was done and a proposal obtained. The amount quoted was not affordable. So, the Board recommended that we go for the Ventilation system as Phase I and the Heating in Phase II.

This proposal was put to the AGM and voted on.

In the mean-time we managed to locate the persons who installed the furnace in the first place – on inspection it was found that parts required were no longer available. However, we could run the furnace at a reduced heat output for a year or two.

We are now at a point where we need to implement Phase II in a planned, deliberate manner, instead of waiting for the furnace to fail.

- **How can we vote without knowing the costs?**

Ideally, we should have the exact estimate. However, due to the current situation, our vendor has not been able to give us an exact estimate. However, we do have the prior estimate for the complete system, part of which has already been installed.

- **What would be the impact of not voting now?**

Since the furnace supplies most of the air coming into the range, its failure, or the failure of the fan motor, would mean that we would have to shut the range down until the new system could be installed, since we cannot run the ventilation without adequate fresh air.

Avoiding a shutdown requires that we schedule Phase II as soon as we can.

- **Should we not know the cost before work is started?**

Before proceeding with the actual work, the board will get updated estimates and review them to make sure they are not inflated. If required, we shall solicit fresh quotes before proceeding with the project.

- **Members should be informed as soon as a firm quote is received for the furnace**

Our normal procedure is that the firm quote is reviewed and discussed by the Board before a go ahead is given.

- **MEMBERSHIP QUESTIONS**

- **How many members does the Club currently have?**

We have 337 members

- **How many Range Officers and Board Members do we have?**

We have 46 members who currently do not pay annual dues. This includes 45 Range Officers, one Board Member is not a Range Officer.

- **How much will be raised by charging RO's and Board Members annual dues.**

Annual dues from RO's/Board Members would be \$4600

- **DUES and FEES**

- **What is the effect on new Member Fees?**

The current \$300 that new members pay is comprised of \$100 Backstop fees, \$100 Initiation fees and \$100 towards the annual dues.

If the Special Assessment is approved by the AGM, the fees paid by New Members joining before Nov 1, 2020 will remain at \$300. These members will also pay the Special Assessment of \$150 along with Annual dues in 2021, like current members.

New Members joining after Nov 1, 2020 will be charged \$450 (\$300 current fees and \$150 special assessment). In 2021 the annual fees for these members is waived as per current practice.

New Members joining from Jan 1, 2021 onwards will pay \$450. This fee is comprised of \$100 Backstop fee, \$100 Initiation fee, \$150 Ventilation supplement and \$100 Annual dues.

There is no change to the fees for Associate Members (those residing at the same address as a Full Member). They will continue to pay \$50 annual dues.

- **Why are we increasing new Member fees permanently rather than for a year or two?**

Ramapoo remains a very attractive place in terms of value for the money. We are NOT changing the Annual dues for either Full Members or Associate Members – these dues remain at \$100 and \$50 respectively. The increase to New Member fees will allow us to rebuild our savings quicker, offset increased utility costs and to build up a Utility Fund.

After the project is paid for, the Board will meet to evaluate a reduction in Annual dues and/or New Member charges and to propose changes.

- **SPECIAL ASSESSMENT**

- **Does the proposed Special Assessment effect Life and Honorary Members?**

No, this assessment does not apply to our Life Members or to Honorary Members.

- **How much money do we expect to get from the Special Assessment**

The proposed Special assessment would give us \$49,500 (assuming 330 members). If membership drops to 300, we should have \$45000.

- **Doing special assessment in one year can place a burden on some members, perhaps it should be spread over two years.**

Your Board thought of splitting the assessment over two years, however, due to the uncertainty associated with when we might have to get the heating system installed and also the complexity of managing multi-year payments, we thought that the simplest way forward is to have a single payment. We will try to manage special hardship cases on an exception basis.

- **BUDGET QUESTIONS**

- **Will the actions proposed give the Club enough of a cash buffer to do what needs to be done?**

We will have to still use up some of our savings. Charging RO's and Board members will enable us to build up depleted savings faster.

Please note that we have been forced to run our ventilation system at half speed, because the current heating is not capable of delivering the CFM required. Besides price increases, our utilities are expected to cost more due to greater demand.