RECOMMENDATION

That the Regional Emergency Resource Agreement be renewed for a one-year term until December 31, 2020.

SUMMARY

The Regional Emergency Resource Agreement between the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN), City of Parksville and Town of Qualicum Beach has been active since 2010 and details support for jointly funded operating costs of Oceanside Emergency Support Services (OESS) and Oceanside Emergency Communications Team (OECT) volunteers in the Oceanside area.

With the current agreement expiring on December 31, 2019 and new Emergency Management Legislation anticipated to come into effect Fall 2020, there is an opportunity to update the agreement to fit the evolving emergency programs and the Emergency Management Oceanside partnership. Extending the term of this agreement to December 31, 2020 will give adequate time for the three parties to determine how best to structure the OESS and OECT program to meet the anticipated new legislation requirements and build a solid foundation for the future agreement.

BACKGROUND

In 2014, the three local governments re-allocated funds from the agreement that were previously spent on volunteer honorariums to compensate the creation of a one-year part time contract position to provide stability and direction to the volunteer programs. Upon expiry of the agreement, a new five-year agreement was developed and gradually increased the contributions from each local government for the creation of a full-time contract position; this agreement expires on December 31, 2019.

Under the Emergency Program Act, local authorities are responsible for responding to emergencies including coordinating Emergency Support Services (ESS). Residents who have been evacuated or displaced from their homes by fires, floods, earthquakes or other emergencies may receive ESS for up to 72 hours. Services may include food, lodging, clothing, emotional support, information about the emergency or disaster, family reunification and specialized services such as first aid, child minding, pet care and transportation.
The Regional Emergency Resource Agreement meets our regulatory obligation and has provided added benefits with strong local volunteer capacity and solid relationships with suppliers. The renewal of the agreement will ensure that the OESS and OECT volunteers are supported with a Volunteer Coordinator and that the Emergency Management Oceanside partnership continues to offer exceptional ESS in the Oceanside area.

It is recommended that the terms of the agreement for the one-year renewal remain unchanged with contributions from each local government of $2000 towards OESS and OECT operating costs and $20,000 for the Volunteer Coordinator contract position for a total contribution of $22,000 each for the one-year term. Renewing the agreement for one-year will provide an opportunity for the partners to evaluate resources, time commitments, funding and the anticipated new legislation and make revisions to the agreement that will meet any new obligations and enhance the coordination of services offered during emergencies or disasters.

ALTERNATIVES

That the Regional Emergency Resource Agreement be renewed for a one-year term until December 31, 2020.

That alternate direction be provided.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The RDN contribution of $2000 towards OESS and OECT operating costs and $20,000 for the Volunteer Coordinator contract position has been accounted for in the 2020 budget.

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

Social Wellbeing - Make the Region a safe and vibrant place for all, with a focus on children and families in programs and planning.

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Reviewed by:
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