

# STAFF REPORT

TO: Committee of the Whole MEETING: February 11, 2020

FROM: Adrian Limpus FILE: 2240-20-COP

**Engineering Technologist** 

**SUBJECT:** Parksville Fire Department Confined Space Rescue Agreement

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Board endorse a five (5) year agreement with the Parksville Fire Department to provide confined space rescue services for the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) Water and Utility Services and Wastewater Services.

## **SUMMARY**

RDN water and wastewater operators need to enter confined spaces to conduct maintenance activities. For locations near Parksville and Nanoose, the RDN has an agreement with the Parksville Fire Department for confined space rescue. This agreement concludes February 29, 2020. A new 5-year agreement has been developed with the Parksville Fire Department. This agreement was endorsed by Parksville's Council on January 20, 2020. It is requested that the Board endorse this agreement on behalf of the RDN.

### **BACKGROUND**

RDN water and wastewater operators need to conduct maintenance in locations classified as confined spaces in the *BC Occupational Health and Safety Regulation* which is regulated by Worksafe BC. The RDN has a program to meet occupational health and safety requirements for entry into confined spaces.

One of the requirements is for a trained rescue team to be available whenever confined spaces are entered. Employers must also have in place a written agreement for confined space rescue when rescue is provided by an outside agency such as a Fire Department.

The RDN also has an agreement with Nanaimo Fire Rescue for operations in the Nanaimo area.

For operations near Parksville and Nanoose, the RDN has an agreement with the Parksville Fire Department. Members of the Parksville Fire Department receive training in confined space rescue and provide this service for the City's operations department.

The Parksville Fire Department also provide confined space rescue to several identified locations outside of Parksville including in the Nanoose Bay area. The Nanoose Bay fire department are supportive of this agreement as they do not have members trained in confined space rescue.

The term of the agreement with the Parksville Fire Department concludes February 29, 2020.

The Parksville Fire Department was approached to discuss entering into a new 5-year agreement with the RDN for confined space rescue. The agreement was also updated to reflect current practices.

The new 5-year agreement (see attached) was endorsed by the City of Parksville's Council on January 20, 2020. It is requested that the Board endorse this agreement on behalf of the RDN.

# **ALTERNATIVES**

- 1. Authorize signature of a five (5) year agreement with the Parksville Fire Department to provide confined space rescue for the Regional District of Nanaimo Water and Utility Services and Wastewater Services.
- Provide alternate direction.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There is a service fee in the amount of \$10,500 per year which is a 5% increase from the previous agreement. The service fee contributes towards the cost of training for members of Parksville's Fire Department.

#### 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.

The agreement with the Parksville Fire Department will allow trained confined space rescue personnel to be available to provide rescue in a confined space emergency. The agreement will also help water and wastewater operators meet regulatory requirements to safely conduct maintenance in confined spaces near Parksville and Nanoose.

Adrian Limpus alimpus@rdn.bc.ca January 22, 2020

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### Reviewed by:

- A. Brooks, Manager of Employee Health, Safety and Wellness
- S. De Pol, Director of Water and Wastewater Services
- R. Alexander, General Manager, Regional and Community Utilities
- P. Carlyle, Chief Administrative Officer

## Attachment:

 Agreement for Confined Space Rescue Services, City of Parksville Volunteer Fire Department and RDN, March 1, 2020 to February 28, 2025.