

STAFF REPORT

TO: Electoral Area Services Committee MEETING: September 9, 2020

FROM: Catherine Morrison FILE: 7380-20 NWT

Manager, Emergency Services

SUBJECT: Nanoose Water Tank – Request for Budget Amendment

RECOMMENDATION

That the Regional District of Nanaimo Board approve the amendment of the 2020 to 2024 Financial Plan to reduce the transfer to reserves in 2020 from \$244,997 to \$184,997 and that \$60,000 be allocated to the Nanoose water tank pullout expansion.

SUMMARY

Current access to the water tank on Sea Blush Drive and White Heather Lane requires that fire apparatus partially block the roadway during refills. A Request for Proposals was initiated to increase the pullout area which will ensure that fire apparatus can safely refill water without blocking road access.

The Request for Proposals closed on August 21, 2020, and the results indicate the total project cost including the engineering consultant contract will be \$60,000. The current pullout access poses a safety risk, it is recommended to complete the project as soon as possible.

BACKGROUND

The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) consulted with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) to secure a permit to install a water tank on MOTI right of way eliminating the need to lease space on private lands. Several sites were investigated and a location at Sea Blush Drive and White Heather Lane was chosen. The project was awarded to David Stalker Excavating Ltd. and the tank installation was completed in April 2019.

After several uses of the water tank, the Nanoose Fire Department advised the RDN that the current pullout is not wide enough requiring the fire apparatus to block the road while refilling water. There is a bend in the road before the pullout area reducing the time for approaching vehicles to see the fire apparatus further increasing safety concerns.

ALTERNATIVES

- 1. That the Regional District of Nanaimo Board approve the amendment of the 2020 to 2024 Financial Plan to reduce the transfer to reserves in 2020 from \$244,997 to \$184,997 and that \$60,000 be allocated to the Nanoose water tank pullout expansion.
- 2. That alternative direction be provided.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Reducing the transfer to reserves in 2020 may require increased borrowing in 2022 for the replacement of Unit #16 which is a 1,050-gallon pumper. Unit #16 is in excellent condition and the Nanoose Fire Department is applying to extend the useful life of the apparatus for another five years with Fire Underwriters Survey. If the apparatus is approved for the extension, it will not require replacement until 2025 at which time reserve contributions will be replenished and no increased borrowing will be required.

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.

Catherine Morrison cmorrison@rdn.bc.ca August 24, 2020

Reviewed by:

- D. Pearce, General Manager, Transportation and Emergency Services
- P. Carlyle, Chief Administrative Officer