

HORNE LAKE FIRE PROTECTION FEASIBILITY STUDY – PUBLIC CONSULTATION UPDATE

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board receive the Horne Lake Fire Protection Feasibility Study – Public Consultation Update for information.

BACKGROUND

The following motion was approved at the July 27, 2021, Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) Board Meeting:

That the Electoral Area H feasibility study funds be considered during the 2022 budget deliberations to conduct a feasibility study for providing fire protection services to the Horne Lake Community.

The RDN has retained Tim Pley & Associates (TPA) to conduct a feasibility study and analysis with developed recommendations and options on the requirements to extend fire protection services from the Bow Horn Bay Fire Protection Service Area to include the community of Horne Lake. These requirements will include options for: the acquisition of land, construction of a new fire hall, purchase of apparatus, and any potential upgrades required by the Horne Lake strata to roads or infrastructure to facilitate access. The study will also consider any additional operational costs as well as Fire Underwriters (FUS) requirements and water supply provisions.

For the purposes of this feasibility study, TPA consulted and worked with the following groups:

- RDN Emergency Services Department
- RDN Finance Department
- RDN GIS Department
- Bow Horn Bay Volunteer Fire Department Fire Chief & Officers
- Bow Horn Bay Volunteer Fire Department Society Board
- Electoral Area Director for Area H (where existing and potential fire service areas would reside)

TPA did not conduct a formal public consultation process with the Horne Lake Strata community residents as the Horne Lake Strata Council and owners advised the RDN via RESOLUTION OF THE OWNERS, STRATA PLAN (Attachment 1) of their interest in fire protection services being extended to include the Horne Lake Community, and a majority vote that:

The Strata Council will advise the RDN in writing that the Horne Lake Strata Community would like the RDN to commence the process to consider extending fire services to include the Horne Lake Strata Community.

Further consultation with community residents was not necessary as the scope of the feasibility study was more technical in nature and community support was already in place.

Next Steps:

In Q1 of 2023, the final consultants' report on the Horne Lake Fire Protection Feasibility Study will be presented to the EASC. The final report will include findings, analysis and recommendations from Tim Pley & Associates on how the RDN should proceed with providing fire protection services to the community of Horne Lake in Electoral Area H.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Budget for the Horne Lake Fire Protection Feasibility Study is \$18,600.00 (excluding PST and GST) and is approved in the 2022 Financial Plan. The feasibility study will be completed and processed in 2022, with the final report presentation in Q1 of 2023. Potential financial implications related to recommendations on providing fire protection for the Horne Lake Area, will be brought forward in the future.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

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

REVIEWED BY:

- E. Beauchamp, Manager, Emergency Services
- L. Grant, General Manager, Community Planning
- D. Holmes, Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENT:

1. Resolution of the Owners, Strata Plan