



REGIONAL
DISTRICT
OF NANAIMO

DASHWOOD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT – CROWN LAND TENURE APPLICATION

RECOMMENDATION

That the application for a Crown Land Tenure for the Dashwood Volunteer Fire Department for the construction completion of a fire training facility on the lot adjacent to the current fire hall location at 230 Hobbs Road, Qualicum Beach, be approved.

BACKGROUND

The Dashwood Volunteer Fire Department (DVFD) provides fire protection, medical first responder, and other emergency response services to approximately 1428 properties within their defined fire protection area. The DVFD and its Society, through contract with the RDN, are responsible for all aspects of operations including volunteer recruitment and training, fire response activities, and vehicle and building maintenance. The RDN funds the operational costs and capital items required for the fire protection services being provided.

Current legislation, regulations and provincial training requirements have affected fire departments, both fulltime, composite and volunteer departments in the province, with the mandated training requirements needed for all firefighters, officers and team leaders. As per WorkSafeBC regulations, mainly the BC Structure Firefighter Minimum Training Standards, all fire departments must ensure that their firefighters and officers are trained to the level of service they have declared for their respective fire protection areas.

For many volunteer fire departments, it is challenging to meet these requirements as adequate training facilities may be out of jurisdiction, too expensive to rent, or would require travel and time for members to attend an event outside of regular practice or training hours. This is both costly and takes needed volunteers out of their response district for the purpose of training.

The Dashwood VFD showed great initiative in deciding to construct a fire training facility on a lot behind their current Fire Hall located on Hobbs Road, in Qualicum Beach. However, it was not understood at the time, that the lot was not owned by the Regional District of Nanaimo, nor the Society, but rather it is Provincial Crown Land, and a Crown Land Tenure Application must be approved to allow the department to continue to use this area for training purposes.

RDN Emergency Services is working with the Province through FrontCounter BC to apply for the Crown Land Tenure required to allow the Dashwood VFD to use a portion of this lot for its firefighter training purposes. One of the requirements of the applications process is to have formal approval from the Board for the application for tenure to proceed.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The application fee to the province has already been paid out of the 2022 budget and there are no financial implications to the 2023 Financial Plan.

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.

This is accomplished by ensuring that fire departments have the capacity and tools to train their firefighters to conduct their duties safely and efficiently.

REVIEWED BY:

- L. Grant, General Manager, Development and Emergency Services
- D. Holmes, Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Dashwood Fire Crown Land Occupance General Location map
2. Dashwood Fire Crown Land Occupance Site map
3. Driveway and gate