

Meeting Type, Date, and Time: Electoral Area Services Committee, September 7, 2023, 1:00 PM

Delegation: John Campbell, Chair, & Barbara Cura, Director, South Forks Nanaimo River Community Association

Summary: In 2005 bylaw 1440 was enacted establishing Nanaimo River Fire Protection Service Area for the residents of the South Forks Nanaimo River roads area. At the same time bylaw 1441 was enacted to allow for the taxpayers in this community with the RDN to borrow \$280,000 to construct and equip a fire hall in the community.

Subject to this there was a delay in the building and during that time the cost of the fire hall rose exponentially to the point where it became unaffordable for the community. In 2010 the funds already collected were transferred into the Nanaimo River Fire Reserve fund under bylaw 1612. The taxes continued to be collected and accumulated during the following years.

In 2020/2021 the South Forks Nanaimo River Community Association started asking what was happening with Nanaimo River Fire. This resulted in the RDN insisting on a feasibility study to determine the best course of action. The feasibility study did not provide any answers to the issue of affordability and did not solve the problem. The primary recommendation was to work with the Extension Fire Department to build a centrally located fire hall thus eliminating the need for a hall in the South Forks Nanaimo River community. As there is no possibility in the foreseeable future of building a fire hall in this community, the residents of this community feel that the funds currently held in the reserve account should be returned to the current property owners without further delay, as per the submitted petition.

Action Requested: Return to the current property owners of the South Forks Nanaimo River Community the funds currently held in the Nanaimo River Fire Reserve Fund.

*Please note: This delegation plans to attend in person.
They will not have a presentation.*