
TO: Committee of the Whole **MEETING:** January 8, 2019

FROM: Catherine Morrison **FILE:** 7130-16 NSAR
Manager, Emergency Services

SUBJECT: Nanaimo Search and Rescue Funding

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the renewal of the Contribution Agreement with the Nanaimo Search and Rescue Society for a term commencing February 1, 2019 and ending on December 31, 2023 be endorsed.

SUMMARY

The Nanaimo Search and Rescue (NSAR) Contribution Agreement signed between the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) and NSAR has expired. Contributions are being made in accordance with the terms of the expired agreement. The renewal of this agreement for the period February 1, 2019 to December 31, 2023 is recommended.

BACKGROUND

Funding for Nanaimo Search and Rescue

In the Province of British Columbia (BC), Search and Rescue (SAR) organizations are provincially legislated and funded from a variety of provincial and federal sources. A portion of SAR funding within BC is provided by some local governments. This multi-agency funding model provides non-operational funds for training, administration, insurance, as well as a 4-priority federal funding initiative. The local SAR agency, Nanaimo Search and Rescue (NSAR), was offered the opportunity for a long term lease by the City of Nanaimo for a parcel of land on Nanaimo Lakes Road, as well as being gifted \$1,000,000 by an anonymous donor. Construction costs of the desired facility are estimated at \$1,800,000. NSAR approached the RDN for assistance to acquire the remaining \$800,000 of capital funds needed to build their desired new facility on the land.

At the May 22, 2018 regular Board Meeting, the following motion was approved:

It was moved and seconded that staff be directed to provide the Board with a report to include recommendations of possible funding sources for the Nanaimo Search and Rescue's new facility on Nanaimo Lakes Road.

RDN staff have since been advised by NSAR that they have chosen to instead focus on a feasibility study of their current facility to determine if a renovation is possible. As NSAR is currently focusing on renovation options, the May 22, 2018 board motion to provide possible funding sources is no longer required.

Contribution Agreement renewal with Nanaimo Search and Rescue Society

The Regional District, by Bylaw No. 1552, known as the Southern Community Search and Rescue Contribution Service, agrees to provide a contribution to organizations carrying out search and rescue activities within the City of Nanaimo, District of Lantzville and the Electoral Areas A, B and C.

On May 22, 2012, the Regional District Board approved an annual grant of \$29,975. Of the \$29,975, \$24,000 was paid to the City of Nanaimo for the lease of the premises and \$5,975 to NSAR as an operating grant. The Contribution Agreement has expired, but annual contributions are continuing to be made in accordance with the terms of the expired agreement. The RDN wishes to renew the Contribution Agreement for a term commencing in February 1, 2019 and ending December 31, 2023.

Lease Agreement with City of Nanaimo and Sublease Agreement with NSAR

On February 14, 2014, the RDN renewed a lease agreement with the City of Nanaimo for the use of 195B Fourth Street and renewed a sublease of the premises to the NSAR Society. The lease agreement and sublease expire on January 31, 2019.

NSAR is in the process of finalizing a letter of intent with the City of Nanaimo to stay in their current facility and renovate. If the renovations are not feasible, NSAR will be looking at other options for a long term facility.

In discussions with NSAR and the City of Nanaimo, the lease contribution will be provided directly to NSAR so that NSAR may enter into a lease agreement of their own with the City of Nanaimo and negotiate the terms directly including any renovations or relocation.

ALTERNATIVES

1. That the renewal of the Contribution Agreement with the Nanaimo Search and Rescue Society for a term commencing February 1, 2019 and ending on December 31, 2023 be endorsed.
2. Alternate direction be provided.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The RDN currently provides NSAR with an annual grant of \$29,975. Since these funds are part of the current annual budget, there will be no added costs. The RDN will see financial savings in staff time and legal fees by providing the lease contribution directly to NSAR.

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

Focus On Service And Organizational Excellence - We View Our Emergency Services As Core Elements Of Community Safety



Catherine Morrison
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December 5, 2018

Reviewed by:

- D. Pearce, Director of Transportation and Emergency Services
- P. Carlyle, Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment:

1. RDN Nanaimo Search and Rescue Contribution Agreement