

DATE: December 8, 2020

FILE: 3900-02

TO: Chair and Directors
Regional District Board

FROM: Russell Dyson
Chief Administrative Officer

Supported by Russell Dyson
Chief Administrative Officer

R. Dyson

RE: Merville Fire Hall – Alternative Approval Process Results

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to confirm the results of the alternative approval process that was conducted to seek the approval of the electors for Bylaw No. 614 being “Greater Merville Fire Protection Service Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 614, 2020”.

Recommendation from the Chief Administrative Officer

None. This report is presented for information only.

Executive Summary

- The *Local Government Act* requires regional districts to obtain participating area approval for most loan authorization bylaws. The Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) Board initiated an alternative approval process for Bylaw No. 614 being “Greater Merville Fire Protection Service Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 614, 2020” at its August 25, 2020 meeting to facilitate the construction of a new auxiliary fire hall for Greater Merville Fire Protection Service.
- The official notices of the alternative approval process for Bylaw No. 614 were published in the Comox Valley Record on October 28 and November 4, 2020. This notice provided electors a minimum of 30 days in which to sign an elector response form. By signing an elector response form, the electors would be registering their opposition to the CVRD adopting Bylaw No. 614. A copy of the notice is attached as Schedule A.
- In order for the CVRD Board to proceed with the final adoption of Bylaw No. 614, less than 10 per cent of the electors in the service area would have to submit an elector response form. In the case of the proposed loan authorization bylaw, which includes a portion of Electoral Area B and Electoral Area C, the total number of electors within the service is 2,733, and 10 per cent of that number, or 273 electors, would have to submit an elector response form to prevent the CVRD from adopting Bylaw No. 614 without conducting an assent vote (referendum).
- At the close of the process, on December 7, 2020 at 4:30 pm, eight (8) elector response forms were received from the electors in the service area. As such, Bylaw No. 614 may now be considered for adoption.

Prepared by:

J. Martens

Jake Martens
General Manager of Corporate Services

Government Partners and Stakeholder Distribution (Upon Agenda Publication)

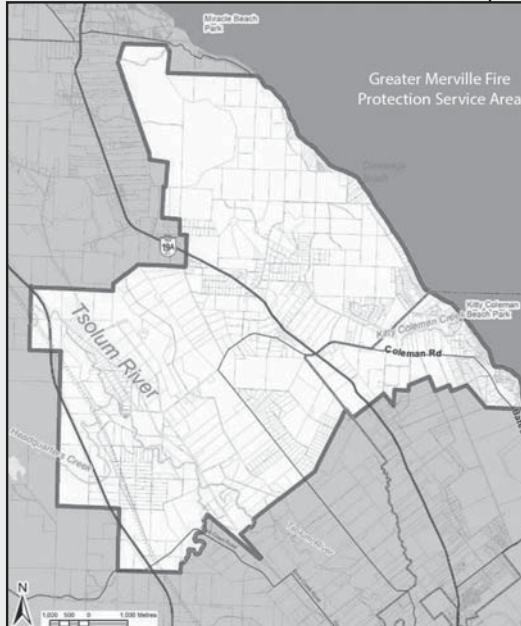
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Attachment: Schedule A – Merville Fire Hall Loan Authorization Bylaw Statutory Notice

Public Notice of Alternative Approval Process

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given in accordance with the *Local Government Act* and the Community Charter that the Comox Valley Regional District ("CVRD") has proposed the following bylaw: Bylaw No. 614, being "Greater Merville Fire Protection Service Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 614, 2020" ("Bylaw"). The Bylaw relates to the CVRD's Greater Merville Fire Protection Service Area ("Service Area"), which includes a portion of CVRD Electoral Area B (Lazo North) and Electoral Area C (Puntledge Black Creek), as shown on the map below:

The Bylaw would authorize the CVRD to borrow two million dollars (\$2,000,000) for the construction and equipping of a new auxiliary fire hall for the Greater Merville Fire Protection Service. The loan would be paid back over a maximum of 25 years by the taxable properties within the Service Area. No tax increase is projected as part of the borrowing plan due to the budget transitioning from increased reserve contributions to debt repayment.



The CVRD Board is seeking participating area approval of electors by way of an Alternative Approval Process. The number of eligible electors in the Service Area has been fairly determined to be 2,733 and the number of elector responses required to prevent the CVRD Board from proceeding without the further assent of electors is 273. The deadline for elector responses is 4:30 pm on December 7, 2020.

The CVRD Board may proceed with adoption of the Bylaw unless, by the stated deadline, at least 10 per cent (being 273) of the electors of the Service Area indicate that the CVRD Board must obtain elector approval by assent vote. Copies of the bylaw are available for public inspection at the CVRD office from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm (Monday-Friday, except holidays) and on the CVRD website.

Elector responses must be given in the form established by the CVRD Board. Elector response forms are available at the CVRD office and online. The only persons entitled to sign the elector response forms are the electors of the Service Area to which the Alternative Approval Process applies. For more information about Resident Elector and Non-Resident Property Elector qualifications, visit the CVRD website or contact the CVRD's Corporate Legislative Officer.

More Information:

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