

**DATE:** September 7, 2017

**FILE:** 7200-20 / Rural Cumberland

**TO:** Chair and Directors  
Electoral Areas Services Committee

**FROM:** Russell Dyson  
Chief Administrative Officer

**RE:** Agreement Renewal; Rural Cumberland Fire Protection Service

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### **Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to request that the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) renew the agreement with the Village of Cumberland for the provision of fire protection services for the rural Cumberland fire protection local service area.

### **Policy Analysis**

At its regular meeting of December 2011 the CVRD board adopted Bylaw No. 192 being the “Rural Cumberland Fire Protection Service Establishment Bylaw No. 192, 2011”

At its regular meeting of June 2013, the CVRD board approved entering into a five year agreement with the Village of Cumberland for the provision of fire protection services to the rural Cumberland fire protection local service area.

### **Executive Summary**

The current agreement for fire protection services for the rural Cumberland fire protection service area with the Village of Cumberland will expire on December 31, 2017. This staff report provides information in support of renewing the agreement.

In 2018, a consultant will be engaged to review the long-term financial sustainability of the service.

### **Recommendation from the Chief Administrative Officer:**

THAT the board approve renewing the agreement with the Village of Cumberland for the provision of fire protection services for the rural Cumberland fire protection local service area for five years.

AND FURTHER THAT the Chair and Corporate Legislative Officer be authorized to execute the agreement.

Respectfully:

***R. DYSON***

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Russell Dyson  
Chief Administrative Officer

### **Background/Current Situation**

Service for the rural Cumberland fire protection local service, function #210, is provided by way of service agreement with the Village of Cumberland with the Cumberland Fire Rescue department providing operations.

The current agreement for service will expire on December 31, 2017.

In accordance with the approved financial plan, staff will engage the services of a consultant in 2018 to review the long-term financial sustainability of the service, as described further in this report.

### **Options**

No options have been identified at this time. The consultant's final report and recommendations in 2018 are anticipated to identify options.

### **Financial Factors**

As defined in the current agreement between the Village of Cumberland and the CVRD, the annual cost of fire protection for rural Cumberland is calculated by apportioning the cost of fire protection to the Cumberland fire department, as a whole, to the total net taxable value of land and improvements in the service area.

In the context of the Village of Cumberland's planned construction of a new fire hall, it is recognized that the current maximum requisition will only be sufficient until the year 2020.

In 2018, staff will engage the services of a consultant with experience in local government and fire protection services, to provide a full analysis of the rural Cumberland fire protection service, including identification of options for long-term financial sustainability.

A renewed agreement will include a termination clause that allows the agreement to be terminated on 12 months written notice.

### **Legal Factors**

No legal factors have been identified with regards to the renewal of the service agreement.

### **Regional Growth Strategy Implications**

No Regional Growth Strategy implications have been identified with the renewal of the service agreement.

### **Intergovernmental Factors**

The renewal of the service agreement would be the continuation of a strong working relationship between the Village of Cumberland and the CVRD.

### **Interdepartmental Involvement**

The Community Services Branch and the Executive Management Branch will work with procurement staff to fully execute a renewed agreement.

### **Citizen/Public Relations**

Renewal of the agreement will ensure the continuation of the current fire protection service to the benefit of the residents within the rural Cumberland fire protection local service area.

Prepared by:

***J. BAST***

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James Bast  
Manager of Fire Services

Concurrence:

***T. IAN SMITH***

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T. Ian Smith, MCE  
General Manager of  
Community Services