



Date: 30/05/2019

MEMORANDUM

To: Chair and Directors, Committee of the Whole

And To: Choose an item.

From: John MacLean, Chief Administrative Officer

Date of Meeting: Committee of the Whole_Jun06_2019

File: 3710-01

Subject: A discussion of the steps required in order to regulate the sale and use of fireworks in the Cariboo Regional District

Item for Discussion:

Regulation of the Sale and Use of Fireworks in the Cariboo Regional District

Background:

The Board has had a general discussion regarding a request to consider regulating the sale and use of fireworks in the Cariboo Regional District. There is authority for this endeavour in the Statutes, but it must be established through an Order in Council. When Ms. Johnston broached the matter with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs they came back with the following questions, and we have included what we feel would be our current responses.

- 1) Background and rationale in regard to what problem(s) the granting of this authority is intended to address. (Staff Response) This issue arose out of concerns that the sale and use of fireworks would contribute to additional forest fires after the fires of 2017.
- 2) A plan for the implementation and enforcement of the authority, if granted. (Staff Response) We do not feel that our current resources would allow for the successful enforcement of such a bylaw. There is no way that we could effectively respond to after-hour complaints in a way that would be suitable to a complainant.
- 3) Any foreseen obstacles such as the sale/use of fireworks on First Nations lands; logistics of enforcement outside of office hours over a large geographic area, etc. (Staff Response) We see all of the aforementioned concerns as a barrier to a successful program.
- 4) Information regarding any of the CRD's member municipalities that may have enacted fireworks regulation/prohibition bylaws and what, if any, effect this might have in relation to those bylaws. (Staff Response) The District of One Hundred Mile House as well as the Cities of Williams Lake and Quesnel have adopted bylaws restricting the sale and use of fireworks.
- 5) Information regarding any businesses that are currently selling fireworks in the area. (Staff Response) We are aware of two businesses selling fireworks within CRD jurisdiction. As we do not have any form of business licensing (due to not having the statutory authority) we have a lack of information in this regard.

- 6) Information in regard to the CRD's capacity for enforcement within our existing bylaw enforcement resources. **(Staff Response) We have one Bylaw Enforcement Officer.**

Of note, the Province of British Columbia has been very willing to introduce fire bans into the Cariboo and beyond. This year the Province put a Category 2 Burning Restriction in place on May 10, 2019. This regulation includes the prohibition on the use of sky lanterns, fireworks and binary exploding targets.

We understand fully the awareness and anxiety in the general community as it relates to wildfires. We have all experienced the increased level of anxiety that a new fire season and the introduction of smoke into our communities brings. Unfortunately, we do not feel we would be successful in enforcing such a bylaw.

Attachments:

Information Bulletin – Category 2 Burning Restrictions
The Fireworks Act