



Date: 13/03/2020

To: Chair and Directors, Cariboo Regional District Board

And To: John MacLean, Chief Administrative Officer

From: Stuart Larson, Manager of Protective Services

Date of Meeting: Cariboo Regional District Board_Mar27_2020

File: 7210-03-02

Short Summary:

Proposed Sugarcane Firehall

Voting:

Corporate Vote - Unweighted

Memorandum:

It was brought forward to staff to explore the feasibility of a second firehall in the 150 Mile Fire Protection District located in Sugarcane adjacent to Highway 97 in a former tire shop. Staff worked in conjunction with the CAO of Williams Lake Indian Band to look at expectations and what would be required in regard to upgrades of the existing proposed building, capital purchases, and ongoing operational costs for this venture. Additionally, what impacts this would have to the level of service and benefit(s) to the regional district.

Once a clear picture was created, CRD staff set out a reasonable budget to capture what the financial impact would be. Attached is what staff believe to be an accurate accounting of impact to the operational and capital budget for the fire district. Based on the required amount, this would have to go to referendum for the ratepayers.

It is the opinion of staff that the construction of a new hall would have a negative impact to the wellbeing of the fire district. Firstly, the construction of a new hall would have zero reduction on insurance ratings as it would be within the existing eight-kilometer travel distance to the primary hall. Secondly, it would compete with the existing hall for members and resources, thus creating administrative burden for the organization. Because of these two factors, a cost benefit analysis determines that this project should not proceed and be abandoned.

Attachments:

- 1) Proposed Budget

Financial Implications:

Substantial impact to 150 Mile Fire Protection District

Policy Implications:

N/A

Alignment with Strategic Plan:

- Communication:** Facilitate communication strategies throughout the entire Cariboo Regional District that meet the needs of residents, community stakeholders, and other levels of government.
- Planning:** Intentionally plan services and activities of the CRD to prepare for future needs of residents and community stakeholders.
- Economic Sustainability:** Foster an environment to ensure the economic sustainability of CRD communities and the region.
- Governance:** Ensure that CRD governance policy and practices are intentional, transparent, and respectful.

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CAO Comments:

The Board should be aware that there is an existing contract for fire services with the Williams Lake Indian Band. The existing contract currently provides fire suppression services over the current Sugar Cane site and will also be able to cover the developable lands along Highway 97 towards Williams Lake.

We are committed to working with the Williams Lake Indian Band on projects that make sense for both parties. This project has too many challenges at this time.

Options:

- 1) Endorse Recommendation;
- 2) Receipt and other action;
- 3) Defer.

Recommendation:

That the agenda item summary from Stuart Larson, Manager of Protective Services, dated March 13, 2020, regarding the proposed Sugarcane firehall, be received. Further, that the recommendation of staff to discontinue this project be endorsed and communicated to Williams Lake Indian Band.