

File: 1850-01

June 22, 2020

Teri Sobo, President
Tim Wasilieff, Treasurer
Hawkins Lake Volunteer Firefighters Association
Box 36
Eagle Creek BC V0K 1L0

Teri *TIM*
Dear Mrs. Sobo and Mr. Wasilieff:

Re: Funding for Independent Fire Halls

Thank you for your letter of June 10, 2020. The Board of Directors and I hear and acknowledge your concerns.

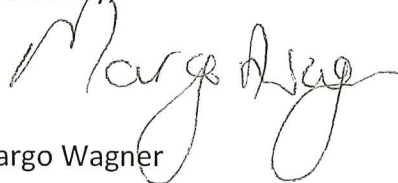
The Regional District did not make the decision on the funding of independent fire services lightly or without first undertaking due diligence. We sought and received the best advice we could get. That advice identified a risk that the Board of Directors was not willing to accept on behalf of the taxpayers.

At this time, your suggestion of a Memorandum of Understanding is not feasible. Even if the Board were to consider it, not all independent fire halls are in a legal position to enter into such an agreement and have it stand.

Beyond that, there is the issues of taxpayer fairness. Regional districts are largely service delivery vehicles. We have fourteen communities where the residents and taxpayers have collectively agreed, through a democratic process, to share the costs, and risks, of having a fire service. We are not in a position to ask them to pay additional taxes and assume additional risks in order to provide funding to independent halls.

We regret the necessity of this decision.

Yours truly,



Margo Wagner
Chair

Area # Director

building communities together