



REPORT

To: Chair and Directors

Report Number: CS-BRD-029

From: Tyra Henderson, Corporate Officer

Date: January 14, 2021

Subject: Charlie Lake Fire Department Proposed Expansion Petition Results

RECOMMENDATION: [Corporate Unweighted]

That the Regional Board receive the report titled “Charlie Lake Fire Department – Proposed Expansion Petition Results – CS-BRD-029”, advising an approximate 20% in favour response for the proposed expansion of the Charlie Lake Fire Department to include road rescue and first medical response services, for information.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

Section 337 (3) of the *Local Government Act* states that in order for a petition to be certified as sufficient, it must be signed by the owners of at least 50% of the parcels that in total represent 50% of the net taxable value of all land and improvements within the service area, and Section 212 (4-6) of the *Community Charter* states that the corporate officer must determine the validity and sufficiency of a petition to the Board, and certify this determination.

As there were less than 50% of the property owners in favour of expansion of the Charlie Lake Fire Department to include either first medical responder services or road rescue services, the petitions failed.

In Favour of First Medical Response – 392 (21.09%)

In Favour of Road Rescue Services – 372 (20.01%)

Attached is the required certified determination of petition sufficiency.

On October 8, 2020 the Regional Board passed the following resolution:

MOVED, SECONDED, and CARRIED

That the Regional Board invite a petition compliant with *Local Government Act* Section 337 from property owners in the Charlie Lake Fire Protection Service Area as authorized by *Local Government Act* Section 347(1) as an acceptable method to obtain participating area approval, seeking amendment of the Charlie Lake Fire Protection Service Area Establishment Bylaw No. 1360, 2001 to increase the scope of service to include first medical responder services and road rescue services; further, that separate petitions be provided for medical responder and road rescue; and finally, that the petition describe in specific terms the services that are proposed and proposed methods for recovering annual costs, rather than in general terms as indicated in Section 337(2)(a) and (c) of the *Local Government Act*.

The PRRD considered an increased level of service within the Charlie Lake Fire Protection Area. Currently, only fire suppression services are provided. An Open House was held in February 2020 with residents of the service area, to discuss the potential for expanded services, and residents, via survey, generally indicated support for the expansion.

The petition opened November 4, 2020 and closed December 7, 2020. Property owners in the Charlie Lake Fire Protection Area received a package that contained the following:

- An information package;
- A cover letter;
- A ballot for FMR and a ballot for Road Rescue Services;
- A return envelope with postage for mailing in completed ballots; and
- A reminder card for the petition and the open house held virtually on November 23, 2020.

The final voting results for the Proposed Expansion of Services for the Charlie Lake Fire Protection were declared on December 21, 2020. Ballots that were received postmarked after the December 7th deadline were not counted, which included 6 ballots for FMR and 5 for Road Rescue Services.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

1. That the Regional Board provide further direction.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

- ☒ Responsive Service Delivery
- ☒ Enhance Emergency Planning and Response Capacity

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

The estimated costs associated with the printing, mailing and the virtual town hall are as follows:

	COST	HOURS
Printing	\$1972.93	
Postage & Supplies	\$7435.35	
Labour *		160 Hrs
Total	\$9408.28	160 Hrs

*Labour includes the staff time to print, assemble the packages for mailing and the virtual town hall. This is an estimate only.

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):

The petition results will be shared on the Charlie Lake Fire Expansion Engage Page on the PRRD website, via PRRD social media channels, and on the Charlie Lake Fire Hall roadside signage.

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

The Electoral Area Directors Committee (EADC) has received several reports on the potential expansion of the Charlie Lake Fire Department since Dave Mitchell and Associates completed a feasibility study on expansion in 2018. In December of 2019, EADC received "Proposed Expansion of Charlie Lake Fire Protection

Service Area – Update 2”, which provided a phased approach to the expansion of the service, starting with the addition of road rescue and medical first responder services, followed by expansion to properties within 13km of the Charlie Lake Fire Hall. Phase 1 is now complete, and Electoral Area C Director Sperling wishes to proceed to Phase 2 (expansion within 13 km), including obtaining Board approval to proceed, holding a public information session with the affected residents, and selecting a method of elector approval. (assent voting or petition process.)

Attachments:

1. Certified Declaration of Petition Sufficiency