



REPORT

To: Chair and Directors

Report Number: ADM-BRD-167

From: Tyra Henderson, Corporate Officer

Date: March 25, 2021

Subject: **Seniors Aging In Place Support Services Establishment Bylaw No. 2444, 2021**

RECOMMENDATION #1: [Corporate Unweighted]

That the Regional Board give "Seniors Aging In Place Support Services Establishment Bylaw No. 2444, 2021", first and second reading.

RECOMMENDATION #2: [Corporate Unweighted]

That the Regional Board give "Seniors Aging In Place Support Services Establishment Bylaw No. 2444, 2021", third reading.

RECOMMENDATION #3: [Corporate Unweighted]

That the Regional Board appoint Tyra Henderson as Chief Election Officer and Tabatha Young and Crystal Brown as Deputy Chief Election Officers for the purpose of conducting assent voting (referendum) for the Seniors Aging in Place Support Services Establishment Bylaw No. 2444, 2021.

RECOMMENDATION #4: [Corporate Unweighted]

That the Regional Board authorize that assent voting (referendum) for the Seniors Aging in Place Support Services Establishment Bylaw No. 2444, 2021 be held on Saturday, July 17, 2021, in accordance with the Local Government Act.

RECOMMENDATION #5: [Corporate Unweighted]

That the Regional Board approve the Assent Voting Question for the Seniors Aging in Place Support Services Establishment Bylaw No. 2444, 2021, as follows: "Are you in favour of the Peace River Regional District adopting "Seniors Aging In Place Support Services Establishment Bylaw No. 2444, 2021", to establish a new service to provide support services, to seniors in Area D and defined portions of Area E, to allow them to remain healthy and safely in their homes, such as provision of healthy meals, housekeeping, and yard maintenance, at a maximum annual tax requisition limit that is the greater of \$1,900,000 or \$.66/\$1,000 on the net taxable value of improvements only, in the service area"?

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

At its July 25, 2019, meeting, the Rural Budgets Administration Committee approved a grant request from the Dawson Creek Society for Community Living for funding to complete a feasibility study regarding a rural seniors' meal delivery service and passed the following resolution:

MOVED, SECONDED, CARRIED,

That the Rural Budgets Administration Committee authorize a grant in the amount of \$100,000, payable from Area D PRA in the amount of \$50,000 and from Area E PRA in the amount of \$50,000, to the Dawson Creek Society for Community Living to complete a feasibility study and pilot project to examine providing services to seniors residing in the rural areas of Electoral Area D and Electoral Area E; further,

That the Rural Budgets Administration Committee amend the 2019 Grants to Community Organizations budget commitment to:

1. Increase Transfer from Reserves – Electoral Area D PRA revenue by \$50,000
2. Increase Transfer from Reserves – Area E PRA revenue by \$50,000;
3. Increase General Grants - Rural Grants-in-Aid - Electoral Area D PRA expense by \$50,000;
4. Increase General Grants - Rural Grants-in-Aid - Electoral Area E PRA expense by \$50,000

The pilot project was undertaken in Areas D and E by the Dawson Creek Society for Community Living, to identify seniors in need of assistance, and prepare and deliver healthy meals to their homes in the rural area. The Society attended the June 18, 2020 Electoral Area Directors Committee meeting to present the attached final report regarding the pilot project.

Additional funding was approved for the initiative at the April 16, 2020 Rural Budgets Administration Committee as per the following resolution:

MOVED, SECONDED, AND CARRIED,

That the Rural Budgets Administration Committee contribute \$50,000 from Area E PRA, Spending Item #4 – Assistance to Other Organizations, and \$50,000 from Area D PRA, Spending Item #4 – Assistance to Other Organizations, to the rural seniors initiatives administered by the Dawson Creek Society for Community Living.

The Society continues to provide support services, using the funding approved in April 2020, at this time.

Inspector of Municipalities and Elector Approval

Before adoption of the bylaw, approval of the Inspector of Municipalities is required. After the attached bylaw receives three readings, the bylaw will be forwarded to the Inspector for approval. After Inspector approval is obtained, but prior to adoption of the bylaw, the Regional District is required to obtain elector approval from eligible electors within the service area boundary (participating area). The Electoral Area D and E Directors recommend assent voting be used as the method of seeking elector assent for the new service.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

1. That the Regional Board provide further direction.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

☒ Not Applicable to Strategic Plan.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

The property tax limit noted in the bylaw, and in the assent voting question, is \$0.66 per \$1,000. Section 339 of the *Local Government Act* (LGA) sets out the required content for service establishment bylaws, and LGA Sec.339 (e) (ii) states that the bylaw must “specify a property value tax rate that, when applied to the net taxable value of land and improvements in the service area, will yield the maximum amount \$1.9M)

This is confusing for residents, as the rate is an average of all classes, not the residential class tax rate, which is what most residents want to know. The rate of \$0.66/\$1,000 is an average of rates on all classes, on land and improvements to determine the maximum amount that may be raised in any one year based on that year’s net taxable assessment. The estimated residential tax rate for the first year is **\$0.283 per \$1,000**. The tax rate is applicable to improvements only, as specified in the cost recovery section of the bylaw.

The financial impact of this service is illustrated below:

House Value (improvements only)	Estimated Cost for Seniors Aging in Place Service
\$150,000	\$42.45
\$250,000	\$70.75
\$400,000	\$113.20

The proposed budget for the new service is based on information provided by the Dawson Creek Society for Community Living, based on the costs incurred during the feasibility study/pilot project, and their estimate of the additional costs that will be incurred to expand the scope of the service beyond meals, to include home maintenance (snow removal, grass cutting), housekeeping, transportation services, social supports, technology support, and coordination of in home medical services, and expansion of the program beyond a pilot to one that is available to all seniors within the service area boundary wishing to receive the service.

If approved, the budget for this new service to start January 1, 2022 will be vetted through the Rural Budgets Administration Committee, who will recommend a draft budget to the Board, for inclusion in the DRAFT 2022 Annual Financial Plan Bylaw.

Funding for the service will be primarily funded by taxation in the benefitting area. The bylaw allows for cost recovery through fees as well, that would be imposed by a separate bylaw. Implementing a fee for the services is under consideration to decrease the requisition amount and transfer some of the financial burden directly to those residents who take advantage of the service, as opposed to the financial burden being borne solely by the taxpayer who may not be eligible for the service.

There are no capital investments anticipated for the implementation and operation of this service in the next five years. Existing community kitchens, many of whom have been supported by grant-in-aid funding for their construction and operation and maintenance, will be used for meal preparation.

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):

A communication plan will be developed to inform residents about the proposed service. As required, PRRD communications will be neutral and fact based. Residents will be provided information about the service being proposed, the financial impacts, and how to obtain a mail order ballot or attend a voting place to cast their vote.

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

Attachments:

1. Seniors Aging in Place Support Services Establishment Bylaw No. 2444, 2021
2. DCSCCL Final Report – Seniors Meals Initiative Feasibility Study /Pilot Project