

**REPORT TO THE BOARD OF THE PLANNING & PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, 25 JANUARY 2006**

SUBJECT: Hazmat Service Establishment Process

PURPOSE/ISSUE:

The proposal for a CRD Hazmat Service has now been finalized and the timeline and process for service approval must be decided by the Board

HISTORY/BACKGROUND:

This issue was initially forwarded to the Board by the Regional Emergency Coordinators Commission and the area fire fighters.

The establishment of a service to respond to hazardous material incidents within the CRD has been under discussion at the Board and Finance Committee since 2003. There have been three Board approvals of funding from the feasibility study reserve to investigate both the necessity for the provision of a new service and the nature of the actual service delivery.

The area administrators were briefed on the status of the Hazmat project at their meeting of 17 January. The Chair of the RECC is coordinating with the area fire chiefs to have a Hazmat briefing presented to all councils between the 23 January and 8 February, 2006.

Regardless of any decision on Hazmat, due to timing issues, there will need to be a second Board meeting in March where the adoption of the 2006 Financial Plan will take place.

ALTERNATIVES:

There are two processes that have been drawn up in bylaw form to receive elector assent to the establishment of a new service for Hazardous Materials Incident Response. The Board will have to decide which method of approval they wish to proceed under:

1. Bylaw 3322 "A"

Since this is a service that is in preparation for an emergency, approval may be given by each individual council and the electoral area directors. This also requires the approval of the Inspector of Municipalities. It may be possible to successfully complete this process in time to finally adopt a bylaw by the end of March but that is a tight timeframe within which to receive approval from all the councils. The delay of any one council's approval would delay bylaw approval.

2. Bylaw 3322 "B"

This service could be set up with a requisition limit (suggested \$700,000) and could be approved through the alternative approval process. This requires advertising in the local papers two times and again receiving the Inspector of Municipalities approval. This process could be completed in time for bylaw adoption at a 2nd Board meeting in March on the 29th (5th Wednesday).

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The proposed service budget is attached to the Hazardous Materials Response Agreement report which is also on this agenda. The proposed capital budget could be funded over a three year period which would result in an annual budget of approximately \$400,000 for the first 3 years.

SUMMARY/CONCLUSIONS:

If the Board wishes to establish the service for implementation in 2006, option 2 is recommended. Although individual council consent would not be received on the actual bylaw, the councils will have discussed the matter and it did arise from a need emanating from their own fire chiefs.

If the Board is satisfied with the possibility of delaying the implementation of the service until 2007, option 1 is recommended. This would provide the individual councils with the opportunity for direct endorsement but could easily not be completed in time for the 2006 budget.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the committee recommend to the Board that:

- a) Capital Regional District Hazardous Materials Incident Response Service Establishment Bylaw 3322 "B" be approved,
- b) that the alternative approval process commence in accordance with the attached schedule, and,
- c) that a special Board meeting be scheduled for Wednesday March 29 to adopt the Hazmat Bylaw and the 2006 Financial Plan.

Diana E. Lokken, Dip Bus Admin, CMA
General Manager Concurrence

Kelly Daniels
C.A.O. Concurrence

Attachments

COMMENTS: