

**REPORT TO PLANNING AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2008**

SUBJECT: CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT REGIONAL HAZMAT SERVICE

PURPOSE:

To provide an update on the Hazmat program, and request endorsement the Surrey contract and negotiations with Central Saanich

1. The Surrey Agreement – for response support and training
2. Draft Maintenance Agreement – with Central Saanich Fire, to provide for the ongoing maintenance of the equipment and training

BACKGROUND:

The hazmat service was adopted by the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board under Bylaw No. 3322, 2006, and is inclusive of all municipalities and electoral areas. The program was developed to include specially trained members from throughout the region to provide a timely and professionally qualified response in the event of a hazardous materials spill or dump. The plan was to use a strong existing team to assist in providing support for the development and to act as a mentor for the new regional team. A relationship with Surrey was developed and has proven to be an important part of the progress made so far. To date, the CRD has over 20 trained hazmat technicians available for the team. In addition, the majority of equipment has been ordered, and a large percentage has arrived and is currently being organized into the trailer. We anticipate the last of the initial equipment to arrive in the next two months.

Through the work of CRD staff, Surrey Fire and ongoing cooperation of all local fire departments, we are now ready to move forward, with the endorsement of a contract with the City of Surrey and a second contract with the District of Central Saanich.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. That the Board endorse the attached contract with Surrey and direct staff to enter into the agreement with Central Saanich, as described below, for Hazmat response support services.
2. That the Board endorse the Surrey agreement, and direct staff to provide alternatives to the option of using Central Saanich Fire for equipment maintenance and organization of training.
3. That the Board not endorse either contract and direct to staff to review and provide alternatives to the current direction of the program. This will require a full stop to the current program.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The financial implications of the Surrey agreement will be an immediate cost of \$20,000, with a yearly payment of \$50,000 per year for five years beginning in six months as previously agreed to and budgeted for the service.

The Central Saanich contract is also for five years, at a cost of \$42,000, with an incremental cost increase of \$1500 per year starting in year two which has also been provided for in the budget.

Costs for response will generally be recovered from the carrier of any spilled materials, or possibly by land owners in specific cases. We are working with Provincial Emergency Program, Ministry of Environment, and the City of Surrey to clarify protocols in this area.

INTERAGENCY IMPLICATIONS:

Surrey Service Agreement – Hazmat Response

Attached to this report is an agreement for Surrey to provide support for a regional team as it forms and develops. Surrey will make available their members, to either offer verbal support during an event through a teleconference, or if required, to have members attend an incident to assist in mitigation. The term of the agreement is for five years, with a six month opt out. Both parties agreed that the CRD team should be able to operate independently within the five year period and at that time would release themselves and Surrey from the contract. Surrey would continue to support our team, and offer ongoing developmental, training and response advice as requested.

With the signing of this agreement, the CRD staff and Surrey will move into a six month phase, during which we will be tasked with developing an operational plan for the team, covering call out procedures and response protocols. At the end of the six months, we will move into the operational phase and be in the year to year contract with Surrey. This means we will have a local team operational within six months of the signing of this agreement.

Central Saanich Service Agreement - Storage, Maintenance and Record Keeping

Attached to this report is a second draft contract for Central Saanich to provide for the storage and maintenance of all CRD hazmat equipment and the organization of training. Central Saanich was chosen as the contractor at the recommendation of Mr. Tom Somner who was contracted to provide consulting services on behalf of the CRD and was endorsed by the Greater Victoria Fire Chiefs. The contract has been reviewed by staff and CRD lawyer, Colin Stewart.

The term of the contract is for five years. The summary of responsibilities for Central Saanich is to:

- Maintain all of the CRD hazmat equipment to NFPA and manufacturer's standards
- Transport the CRD hazmat equipment to/from all incidents and training
- Organize regular meetings of the team members, including all training exercises
- Maintain training records for all team members
- Maintain response logs for all incidents

By having Central Saanich contracted to take on the above items, the CRD is ensuring we have done due diligence to ensure a properly trained, professional hazmat team operating in a safe environment with proper gear and equipment.

SUMMARY/CONCLUSIONS:

The process in developing the program has been a long one, as it was important to ensure all aspects were handled correctly and would ultimately provide for an effective response team. The signing of these two contracts will bring the program to the actionable stage. Endorsement of the Surrey contract will provide immediate support and response in the event of a hazardous materials spill. Further it is important to recognize the continued efforts of both Surrey and local fire departments in developing a significant regional service, one that required the support of all local governments and applicable response agencies.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board;

Endorse the contract with the City of Surrey and direct staff to work with the District of Central Saanich to enter into an agreement for provision of Hazmat response support services for the CRD.

Travis Whiting
Manager
Protective Services

Robert Lapham, MCIP
General Manager,
Planning and Protective Services
Concurrence

Kelly Daniels
Chief Administrative Officer,
Capital Regional District
Concurrence