



STAFF REPORT

DATE: January 6, 2023

FILE: 0360-20

TO: Chair and Directors,
Electoral Areas Services Committee

FROM: Dave Leitch
Chief Administrative Officer

RE: DIRECTOR COMPENSATION FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS

PURPOSE/PROBLEM

To consider an alternative approach for compensating directors for their attendance at public hearings.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Regional District currently provides compensation to directors for attending public hearings that are held for rezonings, official community plans and other land use matters. The amount of compensation that is provided depends in each case on whether the director was specifically delegated to attend the public hearing, whether they attended the hearing, whether that attendance was in-person or electronic, and whether they chaired the hearing or were simply attending in a support role. The prescriptive nature of the director compensation bylaw has created complexities to the current system and is also fairly inefficient as it requires additional staff resources at the public hearing and finance staff to verify all of the above noted factors prior to finalizing compensation amounts.

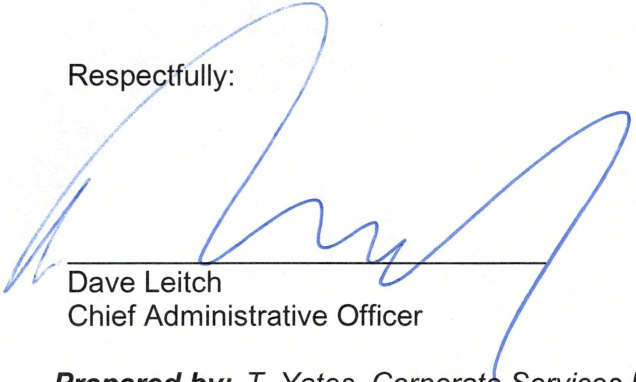
It is believed that the current system is a holdover from the way things were done when the Comox-Strathcona Regional District existed prior to 2008. It is suggested that a more efficient system of compensation could be considered in which directors receive a flat rate each year for the work they do in preparation of the public hearing and their attendance at public hearings, regardless of the number of hearings that were held in the year. This could also eliminate the need to appoint multiple directors as a delegation for each public hearing and reduce the risk of not having a sufficient number of directors to meet quorum at the meeting.

In terms of specific amounts, it is suggested that \$2,000 per year for each director may be appropriate based on the number of public hearings that have been held over the past several years. In order to implement such a system, it will be necessary to amend the existing compensation bylaws that deal with public hearing rates and entitlements.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT the report from the Chief Administrative Officer be received.
2. THAT the Committee recommend that the Regional District transition from a per meeting rate to a yearly compensation rate for public hearing attendance by directors.

Respectfully:



Dave Leitch
Chief Administrative Officer

Prepared by: T. Yates, Corporate Services Manager