

Sue Steuart

Subject: FW: EASC Nov 8, CIFFA
Attachments: SRD bylaw change request letter-2.pdf; CIFFA contract.doc

From: Mary Lavelle [<mailto:alt.director.lavelle@gmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, November 02, 2017 4:12 PM
To: Edith Watson <EWatson@strathconard.ca>; Tom Yates <TYates@srd.ca>; David Leitch <DLeitch@srd.ca>
Subject: EASC Nov 8, CIFFA

Hi Edith and Tom,

Please add this item to the Nov 8th EASC. I have attached my report and a letter from CIFFA.

Thanks,
Mary



Mary Lavelle, Alternate Director
Cortes- Electoral Area 'B'
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November 1, 2017

Electoral Area Service Committee Directors

Last week, I met with the Cortes Island Fire-Fighting Association (CIFFA) board and SRD staff for a productive meeting. For many reasons, the two parties have been operating for almost two years on a month-to-month contract while a renewed contract is being drafted. In essence, CIFFA has wanted the contract to reflect the services, primarily road rescue and BCEHS support, currently provided by them. Currently the Cortes Fire Service Establishment bylaw only refers to the provision of 'fire' service. The SRD, therefore, cannot sign a contract for services not itemized in the establishment bylaw. I believe that the new understanding arrived at during last week's meeting will lead to a signed contract very soon that commits the SRD only to 'fire' provision.

Further, when the fire protection service area was established, the boundary was drawn at the high-tide line. This leaves wharves out of the protection area thereby not allowing the department to respond to boat fires, of which there have been a few. The Harbour Authority of Cortes Island has been installing fire fighting water lines on Cortes public wharves for the fire department's use and we would therefore also like to expand the protection area to include wharves.

CIFFA would also like to train up and equip to be a First Responder department, so that they can attend immediately to critical ambulance calls and provide patient care to the public until the arrival of the ambulance.

Although the soon-to-be-signed contract will only be for the provision of 'fire' service within the existing boundary, all parties see the value in having the scope of the contract include the following:

- 1) the life-saving services of road rescue and BCEHS support
- 2) the extension of the fire protection boundaries to include wharves
- 3) the First Responder program

To that end, CIFFA is requesting in the attached letter that we amend the service establishment bylaw in two phases. The first phase would be to amend the bylaw to include road rescue, BCEHS support, and service to

wharves. These three amendments are all deemed to be non-controversial and cost-neutral and it is therefore proposed that we seek electoral assent for these changes through the alternative approval process. The second phase would to amend the bylaw to become a First Responder department, with its associated cost increase. This would be put to a referendum vote later in the year. If the later amendment fails to receive public support, the other changes will not be affected.

I therefore request that the following motions be supported.

THAT, subject to a new signed contract with CIFFA, staff be directed to bring back an amended Cortes Fire Protection Service Establishment Bylaw which includes the provision of 'road rescue' and 'assistance to BCEHS when requested' and further that the fire protection service area be expanded to include public and private wharves connected to the service area.

THAT if the Service Establishment Bylaw is successfully updated with the above amendments, that a further amendment be drafted to include the provision of a 'First Responder' program, to be put to a referendum.

Sincerely,

Mary Lavelle
Alternate Regional Director
Area B, Cortes Island



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November 2, 2017

To the Strathcona Regional District Board

The Board of Directors of the Cortes Island Fire Fighting Association requests that the Cortes Fire Service Establishment Bylaw be updated to include the provision of 'road rescue' and 'assistance to BCEHS when requested' and further that the fire protection service area be expanded to include public and private wharves connected to our service area. We request that the SRD seek electoral approval through an 'alternative approval process' at your earliest convenience as we believe that these changes will not be met with any real degree of community opposition. If these amendments receive electoral support and the service establishment bylaw is amended accordingly, we would then request that our service delivery contract be also amended in a timely fashion.

We would also request that, at a later time in 2018, a further amendment to the service establishment bylaw to include a 'First Responder' service provision be put to a referendum vote.

Yours truly,

Chris Walker
President, Cortes Island Fire Fighting Association