

To: Electoral Area Services Committee
From: Mike Veenbaas, Director of Financial Services

Date: 2020-01-14
File No: 3920-20

Subject: Rexford Creek Storm Drainage Service Area Amendment Bylaw

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Fraser Valley Regional District Board consider giving three readings to the bylaw cited as *Fraser Valley Regional District Rexford Creek Storm Drainage Service Area Conversion and Amendment Bylaw No. 1569, 2020*.

STRATEGIC AREA(S) OF FOCUS

Support Healthy & Sustainable Community
Provide Responsive & Effective Public Services

PRIORITIES

Priority #3 Flood Protection & Management

BACKGROUND

The Regional District of Fraser-Cheam established the Rexford Creek Storm Drainage Specified Area in 1988. The service is fully funded through an assessment based value tax. While the annual tax requisition is set during the financial planning process, the maximum allowable requisition is noted in the establishing bylaw.

DISCUSSION

As part of the 2020 financial planning process it has been noted that the proposed tax requisition of \$7,790 will be over the maximum allowable in the establishing bylaw. Staff are proposing to increase the maximum to a level of \$9,000 to accommodate the service's budget over the current 5-year financial plan. In addition, staff are proposing that the amendment bylaw reflect a rate per \$1,000 calculation as allowed under LGA 339(1)(e) in order to provide the Board with flexibility in setting future tax requisition levels during the financial planning process. The 2020 completed roll net taxable value for the service area is \$28,458,102. The proposed rate of \$0.316 per \$1,000 would calculate a maximum tax requisition of \$9,000 in 2020 with future years' maximum dependent on the annual assessment roll from BC Assessment.

The annual requisition for this service has increased over the past years in response to the higher costs associated with debris cleanouts in the flood control system. The service area establishment bylaw had not been amended to reflect the need for a higher maximum requisition and this was discovered as part of a review of all service area establishment bylaws and service area requisition budgets.

As the storm drainage service was first setup in 1988 and the legislation for service area establishment has changed significantly since that time, there is also a requirement to have this "specified area" converted to a "service area". This essentially modernizes the establishment bylaw to meet current local government act requirements.

COST

Amendments to service area establishment bylaw requisition limits do not have a direct financial impact as the actual requisition level is set by the Board through the adoption of the annual financial plan bylaw.

CONCLUSION

To align with current tax requisition levels, staff are proposing an amendment to the maximum requisition level that is included in the Rexford Creek Storm Drainage service area establishing bylaw.

COMMENTS BY:

Jennifer Kinneman, Acting Chief Administrative Officer

Reviewed and supported.