

To: Electoral Area Services Committee

Date: 2018-02-15

From: Reg Dyck, Manager of Electoral Area Emergency Services

File No: 3920-20-1474

Subject: Fraser Valley Regional District Electoral Area Fire Services Regulatory Bylaw No. 1474, 2018

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Fraser Valley Regional District Board consider giving three readings and adoption to the bylaw cited as *Fraser Valley Regional District Electoral Area Volunteer Fire Department Establishment and Regulation Bylaw No. 1474, 2018*.

STRATEGIC AREA(S) OF FOCUS

Provide Responsive & Effective Public Services

BACKGROUND

Since the adoption of Fraser Valley Regional District Electoral Area Volunteer Fire Department Establishment and Regulation Bylaw No. 1198, 2013, updating to make these regulations more congruent with current legislation and industry best practices and standards with respect to delivery of fire protection services.

DISCUSSION

Proposed amendments to the Fraser Valley Regional District Electoral Area Services Regulatory include changing the method of appointing Members to Electoral Area volunteer fire departments, removing the FVRD Standard Operating Guidelines from the bylaw, establishing service levels for volunteer fire departments, and amending remuneration rates.

Appointment of Members

Under the current bylaw, there is a requirement for all Members of a volunteer fire department to be appointed by the Board. In order to provide for administrative efficiencies, it is recommended that changes be made so that the Board appoints only the Fire Chiefs and Deputy Fire Chiefs.

Standard Operating Guidelines

The Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs) are intended to be a living document that require changes and additions on a regular basis to reflect standard best practices. Under the current bylaw, the SOGs were included as an Attachment to the bylaw, which requires a bylaw amendment each time the SOGs are to be updated. This creates administrative challenges in order to keep the SOGs current. In order to make effective and timely changes, it is recommended that the SOGs be removed from the Bylaw, and that the authority to make changes be returned to the Manager of Electoral Area Emergency Services.

Service Levels

It is recommended that the Service Levels for volunteer fire departments in this bylaw should be declared as required in the Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC) Playbook. These service levels were previously declared by way of Board resolution; however, it is desirable to have the service levels declared within the bylaw.

Remuneration Rates

Lastly, the Schedule regarding remuneration rates requires updating to the rates for Chilliwack River Valley Volunteer Fire Department and the North Fraser Volunteer Fire Department.

CONCLUSION

The proposed bylaw amends and rescinds the Fraser Valley Regional District Electoral Area Volunteer Fire Department Establishment and Regulation Bylaw No. 1198, 2013.

COST

No cost implications.

COMMENTS BY:

Tareq Islam, Director of Engineering & Community Services

Reviewed and supported.

Mike Veenbaas, Director of Financial Services

Reviewed and supported.

Paul Gipps, Chief Administrative Officer

Reviewed and supported