

HORNBY ISLAND FIRE HALL PROJECT UPDATE

March 2016

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Hornby Island Fire Hall Project

The website link is available at
www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/hornbyislandfirehall

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Tender Bids for New Fire Hall Construction

Since our last newsletter of December 2015, there has been a great deal of activity regarding the Hornby Island Fire Hall project.

The tender process for the Fire Hall construction project reached a key milestone with the ITB stage, or Invitation to Bid, closing on February 16th, 2016. Four compliant bids were received by the CVRD with Island West Coast Developments (IWCD) from Nanaimo being the lowest bid at \$2,175,526 and Yellowridge Construction from the mainland being the highest at \$2,545,500. Overall, the three lowest bids were from Vancouver Island and all were within \$215,000, which suggests it was a close bidding process.

You may recall that in our later stages of the design process, the Cost Consultant provided a cost estimate of \$1,850,000 for the project and therefore the CVRD proposed a \$1.9 million figure for the construction of the fire hall in the 2016 financial plan. As all the bids were over this budgeted figure, the architects SUA were tasked to determine the key contributing factors in the higher construction costs. After a discussion with the four construction companies involved in the bidding process and with the Cost Consultant, SUA determined the higher costs were attributed to the areas of drywall, mechanical systems, and civil works, largely due to the recent drop in the value of the Canadian dollar.

At this time, the architectural firm SUA is engaged in a cost review exercise with IWCD, the lowest bidder, and the HIFR design committee to review aspects of the project in order to lower the cost figure to within the budgeted amount of \$1.9 million. We should know more information about this cost review exercise by March 22, 2016.

It is important to note that, should the building construction costs total over the budgeted amount, there will not be an increase in taxes to fund this project, rather the funds will be covered by capital works reserves. A training facility for the fire hall was budgeted from the capital reserves for the 2017 financial plan and this is being considered for deletion in order to make funds available for the project's construction costs. The training facility will be looked at again in the future once there are funds available.

It is also important to state that the CVRD is pursuing an increase of \$30,000 in community works grant funding to address an unanticipated infrastructure cost for an onsite potable water treatment system. This \$30,000 increase will be added to the existing community works budgeted figure of \$200,000 for a total of \$230,000 committed towards the Hornby Island fire hall project.



Future Project Schedule

It is anticipated that 2016 will be the year of building a new fire hall on Hornby Island. The major milestones for 2016 are listed below:

- February 16, 2016 Four compliant bids for the construction of the new Hornby Island Fire Hall were received - all four bids were over the budget amount of \$1.9 million.
- March 2016 SUA engaged in cost review exercise with lowest bidder and HIFR design committee to lower construction costs. Subject to review of costs, and SUA recommendations, March 22, 2016 board meeting to award contract for construction.
- April 2016 Construction Contract developed with General Contractor.
- April/May 2016 Construction to begin.

We will produce an updated schedule to inform the community of the ongoing construction phases of the fire hall project. If you have any questions or would like further information, please contact Tor Nawrot at tor@hifd.org or 250-335-2214.

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New Fire Hall Site Clearing

You will have noticed that the site for the new fire hall was cleared and that there are a considerable number of logs stacked towards the back of the site.

The logs will be used for firewood. We are proud to say that a local Hornby Island resident has been awarded the contract for firewood sales to the Hornby Island community. Any profits on the sale of the firewood will be provided to the HIFR firefighters fund for improvements to the fire service delivery.

Superior Tanker Shuttle Accreditation Update

As mentioned during the information stages leading to the referendum, the new fire hall and a second tanker truck means Hornby Island Fire Rescue (HIFR) could apply for Superior Tanker Shuttle Accreditation. STSA means that residents of Hornby Island will have a **higher level of fire protection service** and most Hornby Island residents and homeowners may see a reduction in their fire insurance premiums.

Where are we in this process?

HIFR is continuing to improve our ability to deliver water with the one tanker in order to ensure that we can meet the requirements of the Fire Underwriters after the purchase of the second tanker truck.

The second tanker truck has been budgeted for purchase in 2016.

Water storage tanks are also being budgeted for the intersection of Strachan and Northwind. This will widen our tank distribution, provide better protection for the Strachan area residents and meet the requirements of the Fire Underwriters.