

File: 7200-20/Merville

October 22, 2020

RESIDENT OR PROPERTY OWNER

«Street_Address»

«City_and_Postal_Code»

Dear resident or property owner:

Re: Greater Merville Fire Protection Service, Elector Assent Process

Earlier this year the residents and property owners within the Greater Merville fire protection service areas received a letter providing an update on the fire hall project and introducing the elector approval process. This second letter outlines the details of the Alternative Approval Process (AAP) as the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) seeks elector approval to borrow the necessary funds for the construction and equipping of the proposed auxiliary fire hall.

Alternative Approval Process

Outlined below are the key details of the fire hall project and the AAP:

- The CVRD has proposed Bylaw No. 614 which would authorize the borrowing of \$2,000,000 for the construction and equipping of the fire hall. Bylaw No. 614 being “Greater Merville Fire Protection Service Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 614, 2020” may be viewed at the CVRD office, or online.
- If approved, the loan would be paid back over a maximum of 25 years by the taxable properties within the service area.
- No tax increase is projected as part of the borrowing plan due to the budget transitioning from increased reserve contributions to debt repayment.
- An AAP is an official method of elector assent that enables electors to state their opposition to a proposition put forward by the CVRD. Electors indicate their opposition by submitting an Elector Response Form to the CVRD’s Corporate Officer. Unless at least 10 per cent of the electors register their opposition, the Board may proceed with the initiative.
- The CVRD will publish a Notice of Alternative Approval Process for two consecutive editions of the Comox Valley Record (October 28, 2020 and November 4, 2020). After the second date of publication, eligible electors will have 30 days in which to register their formal opposition to the adoption of the Bylaw. This means that an elector should sign and submit a response form **ONLY IF** they oppose the adoption of the Bylaw. If an elector supports the adoption of the Bylaw, then no action is required.

- It has been determined that there are 2733 eligible electors within the service area and the number of elector responses required to prevent the CVRD Board from proceeding is 273 (10 per cent of the electors)
- Elector response forms are available at the CVRD office, and online from the CVRD website. **The deadline for responses has been set for 4:30 pm on December 7, 2020**

For more information about the AAP, elector eligibility and to access the elector response forms, please visit www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/mervillefire or contact the CVRD Legislative Services Department at 250-334-6000.

Detailed information about fire hall project, including a comprehensive “Q and A” listing is also available at the above-noted webpage. You can also reach me directly by telephone at 250-334-6044, via email to: jbast@comoxvalleyrd.ca or by mail to 770 Harmston Avenue, Courtenay, BC, V9N 0G8.

Sincerely,

J. Bast

James Bast
Manager of Fire Services
Community Services Branch

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