

# Mt. Washington Fire Service Update February 2019

On January 11, 2019, the steering group met with Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) staff to provide input and local perspective to the Mount Washington fire service. Minutes/notes from that meeting [are available here](#). Below is an update of the key aspects of this steering group meeting.

## 2019 - 2023 Financial Plan

The steering group reviewed the proposed 2019-2023 financial plan for the Mt. Washington fire service and concurs with the priorities it sets. Key aspects of the financial plan include:

- 2019 taxation revenue of \$161,200 with planned annual increases to \$187,500 in 2022.
- Installation of more Hydrant Snorkels planned in 2019 for \$42,000.
- Planned contributions to capital reserve in 2019 of \$77,748 towards fire service building construction.
- Fire Service Building construction anticipated to start in 2021.
- Estimated 2019 tax rate of \$0.93 per \$1,000 of assessed value
  - As an example; for residents with an assessed value of \$400,000, the tax levy for the service will be approximately \$373 in 2019.
- The proposed 2019-2023 financial plan for the Mt. Washington Resort Community Fire Protection service #240 is available on the CVRD website [linked here](#).

## Fire Service Building

Preliminary cost estimates for the fire service building indicate that construction is anticipated to begin in 2021. This timeframe allows the accumulation of capital reserve funds for construction. During this time staff will continue moving this project forward with the development of the building's specifications and design, as well as the refinement of estimated construction costs.

## Message from the Fire Chief

My name is Bruce Green and I'm the Fire Chief of the professional volunteers of the Oyster River Fire Rescue department (ORFR). It's an honour for us to protect the citizens of the Mt. Washington community. The ORFR continually strives to improve the services we provide and we ask that property owners assist us by keeping fire hydrants clear of snow and ice. Critical time is lost when firefighters arrive at a fire and have to dig out a fire hydrant that has not been cleared of snow and ice. It takes five minutes to shovel out a fire hydrant and those five minutes could turn out to be lifesaving if a fire breaks out in your home, or a neighbour's home.



Here are some tips about keeping hydrants clear during the winter months:

- Remove snow and ice within a 3-foot perimeter of the hydrant
- Shovel a pathway from the hydrant to the street so firefighters can access it
- Try to remove any ice that has formed on the hydrant itself

For project updates visit: [comoxvalleyrd.ca/mtwashingtonfireproject](http://comoxvalleyrd.ca/mtwashingtonfireproject)

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