

DATE OF MEETING FEBRUARY 7, 2022

AUTHORED BY LAURA MERCER, DIRECTOR, FINANCE

SUBJECT REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO “DRINKING WATER AND WATERSHED PROTECTION SERVICE AMENDMENT BYLAW NO. 1556.05, 2021”

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To obtain Council’s consent for the adoption of the “Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Service Amendment Bylaw No. 1556.05, 2021”.

Recommendation

That Council consent to the adoption of the “Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Service Amendment Bylaw No. 1556.05, 2021” and further, that the Regional District of Nanaimo be notified accordingly.

BACKGROUND

Staff received the correspondence from the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) advising that at the regular meeting held 2022-JAN-11 introduced and read three times, the “Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Service Amendment Bylaw No. 1556.05, 2021”. This bylaw proposes to increase the annual Drinking Water and Watershed Protection parcel tax from \$12.00 to \$14.00 per parcel in 2022 and from \$14.00 to \$16.00 per parcel in 2023 and beyond.

The purpose of the “Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Service Bylaw No. 1556 is to:

- a) Increase the level of knowledge regarding drinking water sources to support the long-term sustainability of the water resource;
- b) Coordinate efforts of provincial and local governments and non-governmental organizations with respect to drinking water source protection; and,
- c) Increase the level of public awareness regarding drinking water and watershed protection requirements and strategies.

This is a positive water-focused partnership for public education and awareness, water conservation and advancement of water and land science from a watershed perspective.

As part of the approval process, the RDN requires the consent of at least 2/3 of local service participants. As a local service participant the City of Nanaimo has been asked to consent to the adoption of the bylaw.

OPTIONS

1. That Council consent to the adoption of the “Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Service Amendment Bylaw No. 1556.05, 2021” and further, that the Regional District of Nanaimo be notified accordingly.
 - The advantage of this option is that consent would encourage strong partnership and strategic alliance between the RDN and the City of Nanaimo.
 - The disadvantage of this option is that the RDN will rely on other local service partnerships for consent which could diminish the City’s strong partnership with the RDN.
2. That Council provide alternative direction.

SUMMARY POINTS

- The bylaw will increase the annual Drinking Water and Watershed Protection parcel tax from \$12 to \$14 per parcel in 2022 and from \$14 to \$16 per parcel in 2023 and beyond.
- The RDN requires 2/3 consent of the local service participants.
- The City of Nanaimo encourages and strives to maintain a strong partnership with the RDN.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A: Correspondence from the Regional District of Nanaimo

Attachment B: “Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Service Amendment Bylaw
No.1556.05, 2021”

Attachment C: RDN Staff Report

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Concurrence by:

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Works