

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
ADDENDUM

Tuesday, April 10, 2018
Immediately Following Special Board Meeting
RDN Board Chambers

This meeting will be recorded

Pages

***5. CORRESPONDENCE**

That the following correspondence be received for information:

***5.1 Ken Neden, Arrowsmith Search and Rescue, re Hall Proposal**

2

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Ken Neden**

Date: Fri, Apr 6, 2018 at 2:23 PM

Subject: Arrowsmith Search and Rescue

To: fjfell.at.rdn@gmail.com, bobrogers4areaE@telus.net, jstanhope@shaw.ca, bill.veenhof@shaw.ca, mayor@parksville.ca, CouncillorOates@parksville.ca, mayor@qualicumbeach.com

Cc: Nick Rivers Paul Nash

To RDN Directors;

As you know Arrowsmith SAR is working to get necessary approvals and funding to build a new hall that can hold all our vehicles and equipment as well as having room for future expansion. The Town of Qualicum Beach has expressed interest in having us build at the airport. The first step in this process is to get an agreement with the RDN to buy us out of our share of the Hilliers Fire Hall which we built in 2003-2004. Please have a look at the attached proposal and contact me if you have any questions or concerns. We are drawing up plans for the new hall and hope to have agreements with the RDN and Town of Qualicum Beach in time to apply for a Capital Gaming Grant August 1.

Here is a link to an article on Vernon SAR approaching their Regional District for \$3.5 million to acquire land and build a new hall. <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/vernon-search-and-rescue-seeks-3-5m-for-new-headquarters-1.4600911>

We believe our project is fiscally responsible and still allows for our team to grow and serve the Region better.



Ken Neden

SAR Manager

250-927-3894



Proposal:

For RDN to buy out the \$200,000 ASAR facility presently located in Hilliers. The funds we receive will be vital in achieving our long terms goals.

Background:

ASAR currently operates out of a facility in Hilliers shared with the Coombs/Hilliers Fire Department. We have been at this location since 2003 and have simply outgrown our building. The space we occupy is presently sought after by the Coombs/Hilliers Fire Department. When the present hall was built we had one vehicle, we now have four vehicles as well as a Logistics trailer and Equipment trailer. We now have to store two vehicles and the Logistics trailer at member's residence some distance from the hall. Given the location, our callout times are much longer than needed owing to the proximity of our facility relative to where the typical response is required. Added response times obviously compromises safety.

Given the population growth of the area and more-so given the expected growth going forward, our equipment inventory has increased dramatically – this is expected to continue. The area is also a very popular tourist destination who want to explore the natural beauty. Current zoning and bylaws preclude an expansion of the current facility to meet our needs. The City of Qualicum is setting land aside to accommodate our expansion to a 4-bay steel building. Their contribution of land is vital to meeting our needs and affords us the chance to invest in facilities. As well, the Qualicum location is vastly superior proximity wise to our volunteers and to the typical incident location.

Justification:

RDN requires room to accommodate the Coombs/Hilliers fire department expansion needs. ASAR is able to invest in facilities, is better located, response times improve, forecast area growth is better served. ASAR gains a flexible building better able to handle and secure existing equipment. The proximity of the proposed new location, at QB Airport, gives us air support close by should it be required.

Cost for the project is expected to be \$750,000 - \$800,000 for the building alone.

Proposed Budget is as follows:

Cash on Hand \$200,000

Plus, expected payout from RDN \$200,000

Capital Gaming Grant application \$250,000

In addition we will be approaching the City of Parksville, Coastal Community Credit Union, local Service Clubs as well as other potential funding sources. The Town of Qualicum Beach is considering giving us space at the airport to build.

We invite your favourable consideration to accomplish the goals of the RDN, Coombs/Hilliers Fire Department and the ASAR concurrently. Your approval is requested.

Yours truly,

Arrowsmith Search and Rescue