
TO: Board of Trustees **DATE:** July 15, 2019

FROM: Leslie Carter, Administrator

SUBJECT: Deep Bay Fire Hall - Borrowing Referendum Results

Purpose

To provide the results from the Deep Bay Fire Hall Borrowing Referendum and next steps for the board to move the fire hall project forward.

Background

At the special board meeting of April 25, 2019, the board approved the Deep Bay Fire Hall Project with a borrowing amount not to exceed \$2 million. In order to move ahead with the proposed fire hall project, rate-payer approval for the borrowing of funds is required. At the same meeting, the board decided to hold a public information meeting on May 14, 2019 to solicit feedback from ratepayers regarding the two long-term financing options available to the district.

A notice was mailed out on April 30, 2019, to all property owners providing information about the two long-term financing options (Option 1: Private Financing, Option 2: Provincial Financing). Feedback was requested either by attending the meeting May 14, 2019 or sending comments to the office. Feedback was received from 63 respondents and 71% preferred Option 2, Provincial Financing.

At the regular board meeting of May 15, 2019, the board passed a motion to proceed with the provincial financing option for long-term borrowing and set tentative dates for an open house/information meeting and advanced and general voting days.

At the special board meeting of June 3, 2019, the board approved the referendum question, open house/information meeting date of June 26, 2019, referendum voting dates of July 9 and July 13, 2019 and a draft of the proposed borrowing bylaw. The short-term financing proposal from the Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) was accepted with approval pending a successful referendum outcome.

A referendum information package was drafted and finalized, including input from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (the Ministry). The information package was mailed to all property owners on June 11, 2019.

The June 26, 2019 open house/information meeting had 78 attendees including staff, trustees and fire department members. Notes from this meeting were posted on the DBID website for those that were not able to attend.

Referendum Results

Voting was held on July 9 & July 13 from 8 am to 8 pm on both days. A total of 384 ballots were cast. The total estimated number of eligible voters in the DBID is 990 resulting in a voter turnout of just over 38%.

	July 9, 2019	July 13, 2019	Total Ballots Cast	Percentage
YES	140	102	242	63%
NO	64	78	142	37%
Spoiled	0	0	0	0
Total Ballots Cast	204	180	384	100%

The ballot box from July 9, 2019 was sealed at the closing of the polls on July 9, 2019 and stored at the Union Bay Credit Union. Ballot boxes were opened and ballots were counted, after closing of the polls on July 13, 2019, in the presence of two scrutineers (Susan Finlayson and Katherine Knappett).

Conclusion/Next Steps

Obtaining elector approval through an assent vote requires a simple majority (50% +1) of the eligible voters who cast a ballot. With 63% of votes in favour of the borrowing, the board now has the required approval to adopt Bylaw No. 239 being the “Fire Hall Renewal Borrowing Bylaw”. Upon adoption, three certified and sealed copies will be sent to the Ministry for approval and registration. Two approved bylaws will be returned to the DBID. One copy will then be provided to RBC as required for loan approval.

As per the Ministry, no commitments with regard to the project should be given to contractors or suppliers, if that commitment will be financed by borrowing, until the temporary borrowing bylaw is registered.