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**REPORT TO ELECTORAL AREAS COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, JULY 14, 2021**

SUBJECT **Bylaw 4441: Contribution Service Establishment for the Pender Islands Health Care Centre**

ISSUE SUMMARY

A new service request from the Pender Islands Health Care Society to establish a contribution service for the Pender Islands Health Care Centre.

BACKGROUND

The Pender Islands Health Care Society ("PIHCS") has requested the Capital Regional District establish a contribution service for contributing to the costs incurred in operating the Pender Islands Health Care Centre, the Pender Islands' health care facility. The PIHCS' request for a new service is attached at Appendix A.

PIHCS has operated successfully for 40 years as a non-profit organization, to provide space for health services provided by the Vancouver Island Health Authority ("Island Health"), such as family physicians, nurse practitioners, community nurses, and urgent treatment care bays, as well as other health services (dental, laboratory, wellness practitioners such as an optometrists, chiropractor, audiologist and massage therapists). The society also operates a medical equipment loan service and facilitates mental health support programming. Other activities include education and community programming, such as a 55+ Lunch, Better-at-Home, Maintain Your Independence, Friday Community Gathering, and Meals on Wheels.

The Health Centre is an 8,400 square-foot facility with an insured value of \$2.6 million. Its programming serves 2,300 permanent residents (2016 census) and many regular part-time homeowners and visitors. The facility logs more than 7,000 primary care visits per year, not including community nursing and ancillary services such as the dental clinic and wellness practitioners.

To proceed with this initiative, a new service must be created by adoption of a service establishment bylaw. This bylaw is subject to elector approval under the *Local Government Act*, which may take the form of a referendum or an alternative approval process in the service area.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1

The Electoral Areas Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board that:

1. Bylaw No. 4441, "Pender Islands Health Care Centre Contribution Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1, 2021", be introduced and read a first, second, and third time;
2. That CRD staff be directed to implement the elector approval process by way of referendum;
3. That Kristen Morley be appointed Chief Election Officer with the power to appoint one or more Deputy Chief Election Officer(s);
4. That the wording of the referendum question for the purposes of the ballot shall be as

follows:

Are you in favour of the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board adopting Bylaw No. 4441, "Pender Islands Health Care Centre Contribution Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1, 2021", authorizing the CRD to establish a service to contribute to the costs incurred by the Pender Islands Health Care Society in operating the Pender Islands Health Care Centre and to raise a maximum annual requisition up to the greater of TWO HUNDRED and THIRTY FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$235,000) or \$0.1803 per ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,000.00) of taxable land and improvements for the purpose of funding the operating costs of the service.

YES or NO?

5. That general voting be held on Saturday, November 20, 2021, with Advance Voting opportunities held on dates and voting places to be determined by the Chief Election Officer;
6. That the synopsis of Bylaw No. 4441, attached as Appendix B, be approved for advertising purposes.

Alternative 2

The Electoral Areas Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board that Bylaw No. 4441, "Pender Islands Health Care Centre Contribution Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1, 2021", be referred back to staff for more information.

IMPLICATIONS

Social Implications

Pender Island requires medical services for its population. Without a sustained source of ongoing funding, PIHCS and the Health Centre remain reliant on charitable donations to continue operations. Without the Health Centre, Pender Island residents will need to travel to other islands or the mainland for basic health and wellness services which could otherwise be provided on-island. The Health Centre has operated for 40 years and residents benefit from the on-island health support provided.

Financial Implications

The proposed service bylaw includes a maximum requisition equaling the greater of \$235,000 or \$0.1803 per thousand dollars of assessed value. This would result in an estimated annual cost of \$93 per average residential household (2021 Assessment is \$530,479) in the service area. The requisition will be used to provide a contribution payment to the PIHCS for operating costs and cover ongoing CRD administration impacts for managing the service. The funding will not be used for any capital expenditures or fund improvements to the facility in accordance with CRD policy. The service requisition in the first year will also cover the one-time referendum cost estimated at \$20,000. If the referendum is unsuccessful, the one-time costs will be funded from the Electoral Area Administration budget which is recovered from all service areas across the Southern Gulf Islands. The CRD Board will need to adopt the service establishment bylaw by

December 31, 2021 to be included in the 2022 CRD Financial Plan.

The proposed service would be administered under the terms and conditions of a contribution agreement between CRD and the PIHCS, in accordance with the CRD's policy governing contribution funding to non-profit organizations for the delivery of specified services.

Service Delivery Implications

CRD does not currently fund health services on Pender Islands, but has established services to fund non-profit health care societies on Galiano and Saturna Islands. This has proven to be a successful funding model to help sustain delivery of health services on the Southern Gulf Islands. Consistent annual funding will stabilize the operation and ensure residents can plan to age-in-place or young families can access basic health services without having to go off-island.

CONCLUSION

The PIHCS is requesting Board support for the establishment of a contribution service to support the operation of the Pender Islands Health Care Centre. Similar contribution services are currently operating on Galiano Island and Saturna Island. The maximum annual requisition for the service is set at \$235,000. Consistent funding through requisition will reduce the amount of funding that must be raised through charitable donations and will support sustained, on-going health and wellness service delivery on the Pender Islands.

RECOMMENDATION

The Electoral Areas Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board that:

1. Bylaw No. 4441, "Pender Islands Health Care Centre Contribution Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1, 2021", be introduced and read a first, second, and third time;
2. That CRD staff be directed to implement the elector approval process by way of referendum;
3. That Kristen Morley be appointed Chief Election Officer with the power to appoint one or more Deputy Chief Election Officer(s);
4. That the wording of the referendum question for the purposes of the ballot shall be as follows:

Are you in favour of the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board adopting Bylaw No. 4441, "Pender Islands Health Care Centre Contribution Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1, 2021", authorizing the CRD to establish a service to contribute to the costs incurred by the Pender Islands Health Care Society in operating the Pender Islands Health Care Centre and to raise a maximum annual requisition up to the greater of TWO HUNDRED and THIRTY FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$235,000) or \$0.1803 per ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,000.00) of taxable land and improvements for the purpose of funding the operating costs of the service.

YES or NO?

5. That general voting be held on Saturday, November 20, 2021, with Advance Voting opportunities held on dates and voting places to be determined by the Chief Election

Officer;

6. That the synopsis of Bylaw No. 4441, attached as Appendix B, be approved for advertising purposes.

Submitted by:	Kristen Morley, J.D., General Manager, Corporate Services and Corporate Officer
Concurrence:	Nelson Chan, MBA, FCPA, FCMA, Chief Financial Officer
Concurrence:	Robert Lapham, MCIP, RPP, Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENT(S)

Appendix A: PIHCS - Request for New Service

Appendix B: Synopsis of Bylaw No. 4441

Appendix C: Bylaw No. 4441, "Pender Islands Health Care Centre Contribution Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1, 2021"