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**REPORT TO ELECTORAL AREAS COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 08, 2021**

SUBJECT **Bylaw No. 4441: Pender Islands Health Care Centre Contribution Service Establishment Bylaw – Assent Voting (Referendum) Results and Adoption**

ISSUE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to present the official results for the Pender Islands Health Care Centre Contribution Service Establishment Bylaw Assent Voting (referendum) and the adoption of Bylaw No. 4441 (Appendix A).

BACKGROUND

On July 14, 2021 the CRD Board approved proceeding to a referendum on North and South Pender Islands to obtain elector approval for Bylaw No. 4441, “*Pender Islands Health Care Centre Contribution Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1, 2021*”. Voting opportunities were advertised as per the requirements in the Local Government Act in the Driftwood Newspaper and in addition to a full page ad in the Pender Post. A referendum was held on November 20, 2021 with advance voting on November 17th. All eligible electors also had the opportunity to vote by mail ballot.

The wording of the question on the ballot was 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?

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1

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

- 1) That the Chief Election Officer’s declaration of official assent voting results be received for information.
- 2) That Bylaw No. 4441, “*Pender Islands Health Care Centre Contribution Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1, 2021*” be adopted.

Alternative 2

That this report be referred back to staff for additional information.

IMPLICATIONS

Official Results

Approval of the electors was obtained with 791 YES votes and 142 NO votes. The Chief Election Officer's declaration of official assent voting results is attached as Appendix B.

In total, 933 votes were cast as follows: 546 votes on general voting day; 348 votes at advanced voting opportunity; and 39 votes via mail ballot. Voter turnout was 39% based on the lists of registered resident and non-resident property electors totaling 2,378.

Bylaw

Under Bylaw 4441, the service includes an annual maximum allowable requisition of the greater of \$235,000 or \$0.1803 per one thousand dollars of taxable land and improvements in the service area of North and South Pender Islands.

Bylaw 4441 is now ready for adoption having received third reading on July 14th, approval of the Inspector of Municipalities on September 7th, and assent of the electors on November 20, 2021. Once adopted the bylaw will be filed with the Inspector of Municipalities.

Contribution Agreement

The total cost of the referendum will be paid for in the 2022 service requisition. Prior to advancing any funds through the new service, staff will enter into a contribution service agreement with the Society which will outline the conditions of the service funding and how it may be utilized. The agreement will also outline the budget process and financial reporting obligations of the Society.

CONCLUSION

Approval of the electors by way of referendum was obtained on November 20, 2021 for Bylaw No. 4441 "*Pender Islands Health Care Centre Contribution Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1, 2021*", with 791 YES votes and 142 NO votes. The purpose of the bylaw is to establish a contribution service to fund the operation of the Pender Islands Health Care Centre. The maximum annual requisition for the service is set at \$235,000. Following adoption of the bylaw, a contribution service agreement will be executed with Pender Islands Health Care Society.

RECOMMENDATION

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

- 1) That the Chief Election Officer's declaration of official assent voting results be received for information.
- 2) That Bylaw No. 4441, "*Pender Islands Health Care Centre Contribution Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1, 2021*" be adopted.

Submitted by:	Marlene Lagoa, Manager, Legislative Services and Deputy Corporate Officer
Concurrence:	Kristen Morley, J.D., General Manager, Corporate Services and Corporate Officer
Concurrence:	Robert Lapham, MCIP, RPP, Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENT(S)

Appendix A: Bylaw 4441 – Third Reading

Appendix B: Declaration of Official Assent Voting (Referendum) Results