

Tobiano Fire Protection Service Area Establishment Petition



The Region of BC's Best

Background

The Tobiano volunteer fire department has been delivering a wonderful service to the community for many years but is facing difficult decisions due to changing legislation relating to the provision of fire protection. Funding has not been sufficient to meet the new legislative requirements (supply and maintenance of equipment, training, administrative support and WorkSafe BC to name a few). Due to the liability issues presented by society-operated fire departments, the TNRD will discontinue funding such departments as of December 31, 2022 but has agreed to pursue the establishment of a TNRD-administered fire protection service **if** that is what the community would like it to do.

A public information meeting was held on April 20th to provide details about the proposed service including the background, service area, costs and how the service would be delivered.

A straw poll was held at the April 20th meeting and attendees voted overwhelmingly in favour of moving forward with the TNRD carrying out a formal petition process to determine if there is support for service establishment and loan authorization for the construction of a fire hall.

Petitions for each property will be distributed at the **May 29th** meeting to determine if there is support for a fire protection service area as presented by the TNRD. *If you are unable to attend the May 29th meeting, your petition will be mailed to you.*

How the Petition Process Works

In order to establish a service, approval is required through a public assent process. The TNRD Board has selected the use of Petitions as the means of public assent.

- Petitions will be sent to the owners of property located in the proposed service area.
- Property Owners will receive one petition **for each property they own**.
- Properties owned in the names of individuals and businesses are all eligible to submit their petition(s) if they are in favour of the establishment of the fire protection service.
- If a property is not subject to property tax, that property owner will not receive a petition.
- If a property is not in the proposed service area, that property owner will not receive a petition.

What to Do if You Want a Fire Protection Service?

If you want the TNRD to establish a fire protection service, sign each petition you receive and return it/them to the TNRD so that it/they are received at the TNRD office **by 12 Noon on Friday July 6, 2018**. Signed and scanned petitions may also be returned by email to cblack@tnrd.ca with the original returned by mail.

What to Do if you DO NOT Want the Fire Protection Service?

If you are not in favour of establishing the Tobiano fire protection service area, do not sign your petition(s) and do not return it/them to the TNRD.

NEXT MEETING

May 29, 2018 at 6:30 PM at the Tobiano Golf Course Maintenance Building

DETERMINING RESULTS

In order for the fire protection service to be established, enough petitions (see *Details for Sufficiency* below) must be signed and returned to the TNRD by the **12 noon, Friday July 6, 2018 deadline** to meet sufficiency requirements.

DETAILS OF AREA/PETITIONS	
Total # Parcels in Area	268
TOTAL AREA ASSESSMENT	\$103,941,466

DETAILS FOR SUFFICIENCY	
Total # Petitions ÷ 2	134
Total Assessment ÷ 2	\$51,970,733

IMPORTANT NOTE for the completion of the petition:

- 1. If there are two (2) owners of the property, both owners just sign the petition**
- 2. If there are more than two (2) owners of the property, a majority of the registered property owners must sign the petition.**

If the required number of petitions (see *Details for Sufficiency* above) is received by the July 6th deadline, the petition will be certified as sufficient and a bylaw establishing the fire protection service will be presented to the TNRD Board of Directors. The fire protection service would then officially commence on January 1, 2019.

If the required number of petitions is not received by the deadline, the service will not be established and it will be a decision of the Little Fort fire department as to next steps (carrying on as is or disbanding).

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

What services will be provided?

The Tobiano Volunteer Fire Department will continue to respond to building and vehicle fires within the Tobiano fire protection service area.

Who will administer the service?

The TNRD will assume responsibility for administration, financing and liability for the fire service. The TNRD will work with the local fire chief to deliver firefighter training, to keep required records, etc. The fire chief will be responsible for all fire operations during a fire response.

What is the service area boundary?

There are 268 properties in the proposed service area. A map of the proposed service area will be included on your petition and is available at www.tnrd.ca

Isn't a fire hall needed?

Yes, a fire hall will need to be built. The maximum estimated cost of construction is \$1 Million and that will require borrowing. The debt will be paid off over a 20 year period through an annual parcel tax. Details on the location of the fire hall have not yet been established.

What are the maximum costs for the service?

The maximum annual operating cost of this service to be included in the establishing bylaw will be \$500,000 per year to allow for increased costs for water access fees.

What about insurance?

The TNRD cannot provide assurance that your insurance premiums will be reduced. Home owners should contact their own insurance brokers to discuss coverage and costs.

What are the expected annual costs for the service?

The anticipated budget for this service is \$300,000 per year (up to \$150,000 for fire service operation and up to \$150,000 for the water access fee). This equates to a residential tax rate of \$2.7816 per \$1,000 of assessment (2018 costs). Based on an average residential assessment of \$381,091 (2018) the tax requisition for the service would be \$1,060.

The parcel tax for the fire hall construction loan will be also be assessed every year until the debt is paid off in 20 years. The annual debt repayment will be equally divided by the number of parcels in the service area and is estimated to be \$338/parcel per year.

HAVE MORE QUESTIONS? CONTACT:

Carolyn Black, Corporate Officer
Phone: 250 377-8673
Toll-free 1-877-377-8673
Email: cblack@tnrd.ca

Information is also available on the TNRD website at www.tnrd.ca.

Privacy

*Returned petitions will be viewed only by the TNRD Legislative Services staff for the purpose of determining results. **Individual results will be not be released.** If you have any questions about collection, use or disclosure of personal information by the TNRD or your individual petition response, please contact the TNRD Corporate Officer.*

The deadline to submit petitions is Noon on July 6th