

Edith Watson

From: Rob Chapman <cortescurmudgeon@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 23, 2019 5:11 AM
To: Email - administration@strathconard.ca
Subject: Fwd: Cortes Hall Tax Bylaw 341

Hello, we sent the following email on 5 December, and have not had an acknowledgement and have not seen it in the Correspondence sections of SRD Board agendas or minutes. Was this received OK at SRD? Was this the correct email address for a communication intended to be received by the entire SRD Board?

If not, could you please forward this to the SRD Board? This was not intended to be a confidential email, and was intended to reach the board.

Thanks,
Kind Regards,
...Rob Chapman
Box 49
1584 Squirrel Cove Rd
Squirrel Cove, BC V0P 1T0

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

From: Rob Chapman <cortescurmudgeon@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Dec 5, 2018 at 3:42 PM
Subject: Cortes Hall Tax Bylaw 341
To: <administration@srd.ca>

To: The Board of Directors Strathcona Regional District

Dear Board of Directors:

Thank you for voting to handle Bylaw 341 through the normal democratic process, with an opportunity for public consultation and input between 2nd and 3rd reading.

We voted for the referendum requesting preparation of this bylaw so that it could be professionally prepared and discussed, and so that all of us in Area B could then vote on acceptance or rejection. The issue of a Hall Tax will then be resolved. Our yes vote on the October referendum did not imply that we would vote 'yes' for a Hall Tax. We will decide our vote on that after reviewing information that may come out of the public consultation process, and then seeing the final bylaw.

We were surprised to see the suggestion of a shift in tax funding to a mill rate from a parcel tax that was introduced in the November 22 Board meeting, without any public consultation that I'm aware of. We are retirees living in Squirrel Cove on modest pensions. Over our projected time here, that tax funding change would mean that we would pay about \$6,000 for the Hall Tax, as opposed to about \$2,200 under a parcel tax. That's a substantial change without public review or input.

Over 3 decades, the overall cost of this tax would be about \$2,000,000 to the community, net present value. That's a substantial amount. In the period when the Hall Tax was first proposed, we were stacking chairs after a meeting at Manson's Hall, and were told that we didn't have to do that, there was a paid position to do that. People have been stacking chairs at Manson's since the place was built. We do not want to have tax dollars used to pay someone to stack chairs.

Our hope is that the public consultation process will provide information indicating how these Hall Tax revenues will be used to cover clearly defined expenses, and that there will be some accounting protocol to ensure that this practice is followed over the years. We also count on professional staff to provide a proposed bylaw in clear language.

On that basis, provided with a referendum, we can decide whether to vote 'yes' or 'no' to the implementation of a Hall Tax to support Manson's Hall and Gorge Hall.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Respectfully,
Robert Chapman
Ursel Koebberling
Residents and taxpayers, Squirrel Cove.



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