



Director's Corner

Wells Gray Country-Electoral Area 'A'

TNRD

TNRD BOD's Meeting Highlights May 21, 2009

Based on recommendations from the Emergency Management and Protective Services Committee the TNRD Board of Directors has authorized a response to the provincial government regarding the proposed 'Fire Rescue System Model'. The proposed model in theory is great but realistically does not work well for small volunteer departments that have neither the manpower nor funding that larger departments have access to. Additionally some of the recommendations result in provincial downloading which will have significant cost impacts to small communities and rural residents. TNRD staff prepared an excellent response highlighting areas of the Fire System Model which are not feasible for small communities and rural areas to participate in.

TNRD Board of Directors have now authorized the expenditure of up to \$25,000 from the Federal Gas Tax revenues Community Works Component to assist in the replacement of the boilers, metal cladding and installation of a Low E ceiling at the North Thompson Sportsplex. These federal funds will replace existing budgeted funds and we will be able to utilize the budgeted funds for other projects or carry over the surplus to next year. If funds are carried over then a small tax reduction may be possible.

TNRD Board of Directors also authorized the expenditure of up to \$12,000 from the Federal Gas Tax revenues Community Works Component to assist in the replacement of the furnace and hot water tank at the Blackpool Fire Hall. Aging, inefficient equipment will be replaced with new high efficiency equipment. This will significantly reduce annual operating costs. As these funds are in addition to the regularly budgeted amount for the fire hall operation the area taxpayers will receive new equipment at no cost and in the future save money spent on energy costs.

Signs at the main train crossing in Vavenby are scheduled to be installed in the near future. These signs will indicate that trains will not be sounding their horns at this crossing. The actual cessation of the train whistles will not occur immediately as coordination with CN Rail and the train engineers still needs to take place once the signage is installed. Hopefully this will happen within the next couple of months. This process has taken five years to complete so it will be nice to see this issue finally dealt with.

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Disclaimer: These comments are personal comments of Wells Gray Country Electoral Area 'A' Director Tim Pennell and in no way reflect the comments, opinion or position of the Thompson Nicola Regional District Board of Directors