

Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District (SSIFPD)

Staff Report

Date: **February 14, 2024**
Subject: **New Fire Hall Project Status Update for January 31, 2024**
To: **Board of Trustees**
From: **Rodney Dieleman, CAO**

Issue: New Fire Hall Project Status Update for January 31, 2024

Background:

The New Fire Hall Project Steering Committee provides oversight and guidance to the project consultants regarding project specifications, business requirements, ensures the building costs and size to not exceed financial constraints and ensures that the final building meets the needs of the community. The Committee reports to the Board of Trustees each month and publishes a project update on the Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue website.

BC Hydro EV Chargers:

The agreement with BC Hydro and the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District is in its final stages before final design and construction begins.

The Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District will contact the local Electric Vehicle Volunteer Association and Transition Salt Spring prior to finalizing the design for the EV stations to ensure they have input prior to construction. These two bodies have been a driving force for better access to quick-charge EV stations.

Project Summary Budget and Expenditures:

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|----|-------------------|
| Professional Fees: (contracted) | \$ | 1,571,002 |
| Construction Financing: (estimated) | \$ | 811,700 |
| Construction Cost: (estimated) | \$ | <u>8,708,226</u> |
| Project Cost: (estimated) | \$ | 11,090,928 |
| Project Contingency (12.7%) | \$ | <u>1,409,072</u> |
| Total Projected Project Cost | \$ | 12,500,000 |
| | | |
| Reserve Capital Funds | \$ | 1,800,000 |
| Grant | \$ | 1,000,000 |
| Long Term Financing | \$ | <u>9,700,000</u> |
| Total Project Financing | \$ | 12,500,000 |

There have been **no changes to the construction schedule timeline, or the approved borrowing amount of \$9.7 million authorized by referendum.** The project's current financial estimate is \$12.5 million, fully funded, with no increases to taxes or the Fire Rescue Service budget for the new fire hall construction and financing.

On January 31, 2024, expenditures totaling \$487,930 have been allocated to building design, civil design, site survey, geotechnical investigations, and associated electrical, structural, and mechanical designs.

The project is now fully designed, and the final drawings are now being submitted to the Islands Trust and Capital Regional District for the building permit. The building permit process is expected to take 6 to 8 weeks.

The first tender, for civil works, which includes extension of main sewer line along the south boundary (CRD requirement), a waterline connection to North Salt Spring Waterworks District main line, removal of topsoil as per ALC requirements, site services meaning catch basins and drains, electrical, water, sewer to within 1.5 m of building and access driveways close on February 21, 2024. The New Fire Hall Project Steering Committee is encouraged by the number of bidder inquiries for this portion of the work.

The Committee encourages the public to attend or monitor monthly Board of Trustee meetings where questions may be asked directly of the Board of Trustees, the CAO or the Fire Chief regarding this project or any operational matters. This is the best method to obtain accurate project information rather than relying on speculations posted to social media.

Risks:

A review of the risk register by the New Fire Hall Project Steering Committee revealed that many of the design risks have been mitigated but many risks remain at this stage of the project. They have not changed:

- Increasing financing costs.
- Inflation on wages and materials at 4%+
- Product delivery delays and product shortages
- Wet Weather
- Delays in the construction schedule due to unforeseen events.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District Board of Trustees accept this report as information.