

District investigates bringing water to Senanus

Peninsula News Review. Sidney, B.C.:Jun 28, 2006. p. 5

(Copyright (c) 2006 Black Press Group Ltd.)

Senanus residents were pleased to hear Central Saanich councillors pass a motion to investigate the cost of bringing water to their neighbourhood.

Councillors decided on the terms of reference for submissions from engineering consultants so that cost estimates for the extension of a water main to the west end of Senanus Drive can be accepted.

"We are pleased that the recommendations are coming to council, but I am concerned that the two alternatives are being requested - we are concerned about the ability to fight fires, it's been a concern for many years. There is no ability to fight a fire once it gets going," said Senanus resident Gordon Denford.

Councillors have asked for costs regarding bringing basic potable water service only to the Senanus area and for enhanced/upgraded water service which would provide adequate flows for fire suppression and potential irrigation of agricultural properties. Past estimates are as much as seven years old.

District senior engineering technologist Mike van der Linden also told council members that a supply from the Upper Dean Reservoir now potentially exists and he requested that they include the cost of investigating this as a source.

van der Linden said this option should be considered in light of the fact that the existing connection to the Lower Dean Reservoir will be removed by the CRD in the next five years due to the deterioration of the pipe.

"It was put in during World War two to connect water to the airport," he said.

One resident voiced concerns over the low water table on Mount Newton, where the reservoir is located, and suggested council be very cautious and do some research prior to making the Upper Dean Reservoir an option.

"The water in the reservoir comes from Sooke Lake - it has nothing to do with the mountain," van der Linden explained. The reservoir is a million gallons in size he explained further. "There are two half-million gallon tanks and one of them is not used - it has to be re-chlorinated because of it's long sitting time - the CRD would love for us to use that water."

The potential cost of running a pipeline from the Upper Dean Reservoir was questioned by several councillors.

"An extensive pipeline is not a very good idea given the cultural and environmental reasons," said councillor Robert Thompson.

Council chose not to investigate the upper Dean Reservoir.

Councillors Chris Graham and Alastair Bryson did not participate in the discussions, both stating potential conflict of interest.

news@peninsulanewsreview.com

Residents of Senanus Drive have long been requesting water service to their area from the District of Central Saanich. Residents maintain that their wells, which supply water to their homes, are subject to salt water intrusion and contain high levels of minerals which make it unpalatable. In the past, the district has denied extending the water line to the area in part, because it is zoned Rural Estate and is outside the district's settlement area.