



**REGIONAL DISTRICT
of Fraser-Fort George**

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ITEM NO. 9.4

GM: "DMM"

REPORT FOR CONSIDERATION

TO: Chair and Directors File No.: TET 1.2

FROM: Meredith Burmaster, Community Services Leader

DATE: November 3, 2011

SUBJECT: Item: Proposed Tete Jaune Community Cemetery

SUMMARY: Purpose: Project Update and Feasibility Fund Approval

PREVIOUS STAFF REPORTS: None

ATTACHMENT(S): None

RECOMMENDATION(S):	ENTITLEMENT	HOW VOTE COUNTED
1. THAT the staff report be received.	All 1 Director/1 vote	Majority
2. THAT the expenditure of funds from the Feasibility Study Reserve Fund of up to \$1,500 be authorized for the Tete Jaune Community Cemetery Feasibility Study.	All Weighted	Majority

ISSUE(S):

Board has previously given approval to staff working with a local Steering Committee to evaluate the feasibility of a community cemetery for the Tete Jaune area.

The feasibility study process has been lengthy due mostly to a change in the proposed location of the cemetery mid-project. In the last year, significant progress has been made and the feasibility study is close to completion. One of the conditions of approval for a cemetery location, according to Consumer Protection British Columbia (the regulator of cemeteries), is a report conducted by a professional engineer or geoscientist of the suitability of the soils at the proposed site.

The Board is being asked to consider approving the expenditure of \$1,500 from the feasibility reserve fund to cover the cost of an engineering report on the soil suitability of the proposed site.

RELEVANT POLICIES:

1. *Local Government Act*, s. 796
 - allows for the establishment of a service that is considered necessary or desirable

SERVICE RELEVANCE:

N/A

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

The \$1,500 for a soils study is the first expenditure proposed to be taken from the Feasibility Study Reserve Fund for the purpose of the Tete Jaune Community Cemetery Feasibility Study. The 2011 budget for Feasibility Studies has sufficient funds to support this request. If the cemetery proposal becomes an established service, any funds spent from the Feasibility Studies Fund would be repaid from the cemetery service.

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

A newsletter was mailed out to property owners within the proposed cemetery service area boundary in early October, 2011. Residents were advised of a public information meeting that was being held at the Tete Jaune Community Hall on Monday, October 24, 2011, regarding the proposed cemetery service. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the idea of a cemetery service for the Tete Jaune area, to receive feedback, and to answer questions. At this meeting, a presentation was given by the Tete Jaune Community Cemetery Steering Committee regarding how the cemetery proposal came about and why they feel it is a necessary addition to their community. Regional District staff presented information on how the establishment of a cemetery service would progress, including property tax implications.

Twenty-three members of the public (including some steering committee members) were in attendance and only supportive comments were made regarding the proposal.

The next step is for staff to prepare a survey to all property owners within the service area to gauge community support for the establishment of a cemetery service.

DECISION OPTIONS:

1. Approve staff recommendations.
 - feasibility money will be used to fund a soil analysis study

Other Options:

- a. do not authorize the release of Feasibility Study Reserve Funds for the soil analysis study
 - without a soils study, the process will not be able to continue as compliance with the Consumer Protection British Columbia regulations will be contravened
- b. do not continue with the consideration of a Tete Jaune community cemetery service

COMMENTS:

If Board is supportive of moving forward in the feasibility study process, it is recommended that a survey be circulated amongst all of the property owners in the proposed service area to further gauge community support.

Respectfully submitted,

“Meredith Burmaster”

Meredith Burmaster
Community Services Leader

MB:cp