



The Corporation of the District of Saanich | Mayor's Office

770 Vernon Avenue Victoria BC V8X 2W7 | T 250-475-5510 | F 250-475-5440 | www.saanich.ca

March 3, 2020

VIA EMAIL: ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca

The Honourable George Heyman
Minister of Environment and
Climate Change Strategy
PO Box 9047 Stn Prov Gov.
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister:

Re: Dead Animal Disposal Service

This letter is to confirm that Saanich Council, at their meeting on February 24, 2020, endorsed the following motion:

"That Council write to the Provincial Ministry of Environment, with copies sent to ICBC and the local governments in the Capital Regional District, to consider providing relief of disposal fees for wildlife carcasses."

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy has full responsibility for managing wildlife in the Province in accordance with provincial mandate. As you can appreciate, the removal of dead deer and other wildlife carcasses across our municipality and their disposal is an additional unreasonable financial burden for the District of Saanich. Please could your Ministry staff liaise with our engineering staff in addressing the rising costs for the disposal fees of wildlife carcasses.

A copy of the report dated February 5, 2020 from the Director of Engineering and an excerpt of the Council meeting minutes are attached for further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "F. Haynes".

Fred Haynes
Mayor

Attachments

- c. Saanich Council
- Harley Machielse, Director of Engineering
- CRD Regional Governments
- ICBC Executive Committee & Board of Directors

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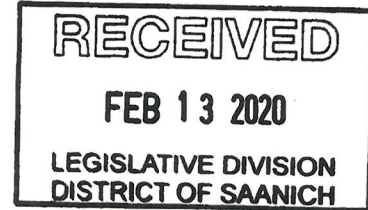


The Corporation of the District of Saanich

Report

C 24 Feb 20

To: Mayor and Council
From: Harley Machielse, Director of Engineering
Date: 02/05/2020
Subject: Dead Animal Disposal Service



RECOMMENDATION

That Council direct staff to undertake a 1-year pilot for contracting the disposal of dead animals on public property and submit a resource request for 2020 based on the estimated financial implications.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide information and options regarding the removal and disposal of dead animals as a result of the Police Board decision to stop the service by June 1, 2020.

DISCUSSION

The primary mandate of the Saanich Pound within the Police Department is to respond to calls for service and enforcement of the Animal Control Bylaw. The majority of this work should focus on the following: dogs running at large, aggressive dogs, dangerous dogs that put the public and community at risk, and proactively patrolling the streets, neighborhoods, and the 170 parks in Saanich. However, for a significant period of time the primary mandate of the Pound has been unduly hampered by the collection and disposal of dead animal carcasses, including dead deer.

Since the creation of the Pound service in 1968 there has been little change to the available resources. The current staffing model consists of two full-time members but also includes two part-time members that work on weekends. The Pound is challenged to meet an increasing call volume for a community population that has doubled since 1968.

At a Police Board meeting on December 3, 2019, the Board made the decision to transfer the responsibility of removing animal carcasses from the Pound to the District no later than June 1, 2020. The purpose was to allow the Pound to focus on their primary mandate of enforcing the

Animal Control Bylaw and patrolling 170 parks in Saanich. It was noted that in other municipalities dead animal disposal is performed by Public Works or the CRD.

A survey of other service delivery models found that dead animal disposal services is split between Animal Control Services (in-house or contracted services), Public Works or contracted services. The survey also found that District of Saanich was the only municipality that had Animal Control Services located within the Police Department.

Table 1 - Dead Animal Disposal Service Area

	Public Works	*Animal Control Services	Contracted Services
District of Saanich		✓	
Central Saanich		✓	
North Saanich		✓	
Nanaimo		✓	
City of Vancouver		✓	
Abbotsford		✓	
Highlands			✓
View Royal			✓
Langford			✓
Colwood	✓		
Sidney	✓		
North Vancouver	✓		
Victoria	✓		
Oak Bay	✓		
Mission	✓		
Kelowna	✓		
Delta	✓		
Esquimalt	✓		

*Service provided through in-house and contracted services

Public Works has traditionally supported the Saanich Pound after regular hours for dead animal response but the service has been limited and unfunded. An after hour callout typically involves

a standby staff member attending the site to either move aside or retrieve the dead animal that poses a road safety concern. In some instances the Saanich Pound may be deployed the next morning for retrieval if there wasn't a safety hazard or if the animal was too large for a single staff member to retrieve.

There was some understanding from the Police Board that Public Works may have the appropriate resources to incorporate dead animal disposal into existing operations; however, staff are already assigned to specific maintenance and operational programs that are not conducive to supporting this service. The Solid Waste Section's response to illegal dumping may be the closest alignment but for these service calls staff only respond when they have time to do so and for larger items, use contracted services. It would be costly to create a standalone service within Public Works and would require funding for staff, support vehicle, industrial freezer, and ongoing operating. As a result, external service delivery options were considered as the most viable option.

One local contractor currently provides dead animal disposal services for several neighbouring municipalities and has the resources to provide the service for the District. The contractor would be responsible with all aspects of the service including collection, storage, and disposal. It's estimated that disposal of up to 300 dead animals each year (based on Police statistics) would cost approximately \$50,000. The service would limit the Public Works resources to administering calls for service to the contractor. It should be noted that Police Services would still be required for instances that may involve an injured animal that cannot be rehabilitated.

Based on the information gathered it is recommended that Public Works pilot contracted services for dead animal disposal services for one year (June 1, 2020 to May 31, 2021). The funding required is estimated at \$50,000 annually partially offset by transferring the ongoing disposal funds (\$7,500) from the Police budget to Public Works. The pilot will support Public Works in becoming familiar with the service to make any necessary budget adjustments for the 2021 budget.

ALTERNATIVES

1. That Council approve the recommendations as outlined in the staff report.
2. That Council request the Police Board include a resource request to support the Saanich Pound in contracting dead animal disposal service.
3. That Council provide alternate direction to Staff.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Should Council approve the recommendation a resource request will be submitted with the 2020 budget proposal and \$7,500 of the Police budget allocated to animal disposal will be transferred to Public Works to support the pilot and ongoing service of dead animal disposal.

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

The implementation of the proposed recommendations supports Council's Strategic Plan goal of "community well-being".

CONCLUSIONS

The Police Board has recently made the decision to stop Dead Animal Disposal services through the Saanich Pound by June 1, 2020. Staff have undertaken a review of external delivery options and found a contractor willing to undertake the service. Staff are recommending to pilot for the first year through a contracted service to learn from the administration and the resource implications of the new service. The pilot is recommended to be funded through a resource request in the 2020 budget and a transfer of Police funding. Staff will advise of any budget adjustments that may be required in 2021 based on the refinement of the service and cost implications.

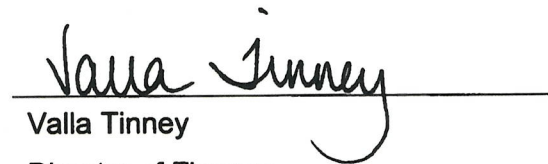
Prepared by



Harley Machielse

Director of Engineering

Reviewed by



Valla Tinney

Director of Finance

cc: Scott Green, Police Chief Constable

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S COMMENTS:

I endorse the recommendation from the Director of Engineering.



Paul Thorkelsson
Chief Administrative Officer

2540-50
Dead Animal
Disposal

DEAD ANIMAL DISPOSAL SERVICE

Report of the Director of Engineering dated February 5, 2020 recommending that Council direct staff to undertake a 1-year pilot for contracting the disposal of dead animals on public property and submit a resource request for 2020 based on the estimated financial implications.

MOVED by Councillor Plant and Seconded by Councillor Brice: “That Council direct staff to undertake a 1-year pilot for contracting the disposal of dead animals on public property and submit a resource request for 2020 based on the estimated financial implications.”

Council deliberations:

- Support contracting out of service for pilot program.
- Police should not be managing the disposal of dead animals.

The Motion was then Put and CARRIED

Moved by Councillor Brownoff and Seconded by Councillor Brice “That Council write to the Provincial Ministry of Environment, with a copy sent to the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (ICBC), to consider providing relief of disposal fees for wildlife carcasses “

Council discussion ensued with the following comments:

- The cost of wildlife disposal, which is handled through the BC Conservation office with the Ministry of Environment, is climbing.
- A letter should be sent to the Minister of Environment.
- 349 wildlife animal carcasses were collected in Saanich last year.
- The cost of disposal for last year was \$4900.
- 500 deer are killed on the regions roads every year.
- The costs should be picked up by the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (ICBC).

Moved by Councillor Plant and Seconded by Councillor Taylor: “That the motion be amended to add that local governments in the Capital Regional District be copied on the letter.”

The Amendment was CARRIED

The Main Motion, as Amended, was then Put and CARRIED

Main Motion, as Amended:

“That Council write to the Provincial Ministry of Environment, with copies sent to the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (ICBC) and the local governments in the Capital Regional District, to consider providing relief of disposal fees for wildlife carcasses “