

**Planning Service:**

As I have written before, I am attempting to exempt our area from contributing our tax money to pay for major cost initiatives which are undertaken by the other three areas and which have no benefit to the Sayward Valley at all. These are such services as Official Community Plan reviews, and Neighbourhood Plan updates which, for example, can easily cost \$80,000.00 each.

Due to Provincial Government regulation we are not able to totally withdraw from the Electoral Area Planning Service; but what I am seeking is a new cost sharing formula based on the principle that which ever Area(s) uses and benefits from a specific service, that Area(s) will pay the costs incurred for that service. Municipalities have their own independent planning process and are not part of this system.

The process I need to follow to achieve this involves having our Regional District staff prepare various reports outlining the options available together with all the potential ramifications and costs of doing so. It also requires the agreement of the other three Regional Directors, and finally after much discussion and negotiating at the Electoral Area Committee level, if successful, it would likely eventually go to referendum for the electorate's approval.

To date I have succeeded in getting preliminary reports to the Committee and verbal agreement in principle by the other Electoral Area Directors. Serious discussions at the committee level will begin in October, and I am hopeful that they can be concluded before the budget is finalized for the next taxation year (2011). Government moves slowly and there is only one meeting of the Electoral Areas Committee per month.

**Transparency:**

Just a reminder that the minutes of all of the Regional District Board meetings are published on the Strathcona Regional District website ([www.strathconard.ca](http://www.strathconard.ca)) and available for the public to examine. If you have any comments, questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Solid Waste:**

With the Campbell River land fill site nearing its end of life, the Comox Valley Regional District Solid Waste Board, which I have a seat on and which governs solid waste in our area, is looking at other options for the future as it prepares its next Solid Waste Plan. In the near future it will hold public meetings in various communities, which I expect will include Sayward, and be looking for your input and ideas on how to best reduce the amount of solid waste that ends up in landfill.

**Other Business:**

For your general interest in Regional District business, I will just mention a few major items which have come to the board table concerning the other three electoral areas: Area 'D' (Oyster Bay) has had its metered water rates doubled, Area 'B' (Cortez Island) has been arguing over whether they should support their community halls through taxation or not, and Area 'C' (Quadra Island) has been working on its Quathiaski Cove Sewer Expansion.

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