



Agenda No: 4.2
Mtg Date: Oct 26/09

Regional Board Report

TO: Regional Board

FROM: Mary Jane Drouin
Corporate Services Coordinator

DATE: October 20, 2009

SUBJECT: Audio System for the Woodhaven Boardroom

BACKGROUND

The Regional Board directed staff to investigate the costs for installing an audio system in the Woodhaven Boardroom. At various times during meetings and public hearings, it has become difficult for the public to hear Board members speak and concerns have been raised by the public. As well, at times it is difficult for Board members to hear the public, staff and fellow Board members.

Staff investigated and tested a similar audio system that the Kootenay Boundary Regional District, City of Kelowna and the West Kelowna installed in their Council Chambers. Due to the configuration of the Woodhaven Board room a wireless system is the preferred option.

The pros of the wireless system is that it is portable--no wires will be required under the Board table, across the floor to staff tables and the podium. Due to public hearings and community meetings occasionally being held off site and audio required, a wireless system would be available for these meetings as well. In the past, the Regional District has had to hire an audio company to provide the sound system. The cons of the wireless system is the cost (approximately twice). The cost of the wireless system is \$38,400.

Should the Board wish to proceed with an audio system as soon as possible, funds could be reallocated from the administration capital budget. In 2009, \$12,000 was budgeted for a sound system and \$180,000 in the administration capital budget (for renovations, carpet upgrade, etc) and to date \$3,193 has been expended [expenses have yet to be paid for the water repair damage to the building]. Alternately, the cost could be added to the 2010 budget (approved in March 2010).

In addition, staff were asked to confirm what it would cost to set up a cue light/sound system in the Woodhaven Boardroom to assist with timing delegations/input at public hearings, etc. The system researched is the same unit the City of Kelowna has installed in Council Chambers. This system would cost approximately \$1,000.

This is for your consideration.