



Agenda No: 4.2

Mtg Date: Dec. 14/09

# Regional Board Report

**TO:** Regional Board

**FROM:** Mary Jane Drouin  
Corporate Services Coordinator

**DATE:** December 1, 2009

**SUBJECT:** Video and Audio System for the Woodhaven Boardroom

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## RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Regional Board approve \$40,000 in the 2009 budget for the purchase of an audio sound system for the Woodhaven Boardroom.

## BACKGROUND

At the October 26<sup>th</sup> Board meeting, the Board directed staff to further evaluate and review the implications and costs of a visual component along with a sound system for the Woodhaven Boardroom.

Staff took the opportunity to tour the District of West Kelowna Council chambers as they have recently installed video and audio components for website access by the public. Their system has multiple cameras and requires a person to operate the cameras and technology. The City of Kelowna, District of Lake Country and District of Peachland do not have a video component in their Council Chambers. Shaw Cable tapes their meetings and broadcasts later. Shaw has been contacted and they are not interested in broadcasting Regional Board meetings, but as always, will cover specific issues of interest to the public.

Upon financial review of a video component, it is estimated that it would cost at the minimum \$30,000 for a video system similar to what has been installed in West Kelowna's Council Chamber. As well, a staff member would also be required to attend all meetings to operate the equipment, which would be an additional cost. The wireless audio system is budgeted at \$40,000 which has a portable use in meetings outside the KLO Road building.

Due to budget impacts to the 2010 budget, staff recommend at this time the Board support an audio system only. It is recommended that the audio for Board meetings be provided for public convenience on the Regional District's website. This option would encourage citizens to go to our website instead of linking to other sites to hear the meeting proceedings. Staff would continue to monitor any concerns the public may have and report back to the Board regarding any demand for video (which could always be added in future years).

Since the October meeting, staff continue to receive queries from a few residents regarding whether a sound system is to be installed as they have a great deal of difficulty hearing all Directors during the meeting process. Staff has not received any inquiries for a video component.

Should the Board wish to proceed with an audio system in 2009, 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).

This is for your consideration.