



# VILLAGE OF BELCARRA

"Between Forest and Sea"

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## NOTIFICATION

June 20, 2024

### Service Review – Sasamat Volunteer Fire Department Service

On June 19, 2024, a letter on behalf of the Village of Belcarra issuing a notice of the initiation of a service review in relation to the Sasamat Volunteer Fire Department service was sent to Village of Anmore, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Metro Vancouver Regional District further to Division 6 of Part 10 of the *Local Government Act*. Due to ongoing complexity of this issue and the importance of next steps, Belcarra Council sought legal advice on the options available to it, including initiating a statutory service review in the event that discussions with the Village of Anmore were not successful.

As background information, on June 23, 2023, a letter was received from the Village of Anmore informing the Village of Belcarra of the Village of Anmore's intent to initiate planning and development of a Sasamat Volunteer Fire Department Fire Hall located in Anmore in 2024.

The Village of Belcarra responded on July 28, 2023 indicating that the Village is willing to discuss changes to the governance model and financial rules for the Sasamat Volunteer Fire Department Service with Anmore. However, it was indicated that the matter of the administration of the Sasamat Volunteer Fire Department Service is solely within the jurisdiction of the SVFD Board of Trustees. No response was received from the Village of Anmore.

On October 5, 2023, the Village of Belcarra sent a letter to the Village of Anmore further expressing interest in discussions between the Villages on modernizing the administration of Sasamat Volunteer Fire Department Service. No response was received.

A follow-up letter was sent on February 1, 2024 inquiring whether Village of Anmore Council is interested in moving forward with discussing the modernization of the governance, cost apportionment and recovery structures, and administration of the Sasamat Volunteer Fire Department Service and indicating that Belcarra Council may initiate a formal service review should the Village of Anmore not wish to engage in such a discussion. The Village of Anmore responded on February 8, 2024 with a letter indicating that a response will be provided in due course.

On April 11, 2024, a letter was received from the Village of Anmore in response to the letter dated February 1, 2024. The Anmore letter was placed on the Anmore Council Meeting agenda for April 16, 2024. There was no indication in this letter that the Village of Anmore wished to enter into discussions with Belcarra Council related to the Sasamat Volunteer Fire Department Service, including a review of the governance model.

Several formal requests have been made to meet with Anmore Council for further discussion on the Sasamat Volunteer Fire Department Service, however, as responses from the Village of Anmore have not indicated any interest in discussion, Belcarra Council has chosen to initiate a service view in relation to the Sasamat Volunteer Fire Department Service.

The Village will update residents as information becomes public.