

Report

Date	February 19, 2025	File:
Subject	Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 4001, 2025 for first three readings	

PURPOSE

To introduce Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 4001, 2025, which proposes establishing resident rates to eligible veterans who wish to be buried in the veteran's section at Mountain View Cemetery and have previously lived and/or paid property taxes in North Cowichan.

BACKGROUND

At the December 18, 2024, regular Council meeting, Allan Waddy submitted a letter to Council requesting a reduction in the cost of purchasing two grave plots in the veteran's section of Mountain View Cemetery (Attachment 1). Council referred the item back to staff to explore the request from Allan Waddy and report back to Council.

At the January 15, 2025, regular Council meeting, the Manager of Parks and Forestry provided Council with a report (Attachment 2) that provided information about Mountain View Cemetery's resident and non-resident burial plot fees. Based on the information contained within the report, staff's recommendation to Council was to deny Allan Waddy's request as the Cemetery Fees and Charges bylaw does not permit resident fees for non-residents. Staff also included two other options for Council to consider, which included subsidizing his request by way of using the grant-in-aid option or having Council direct staff to amend the Fees and Charges Bylaw 3784 to provide resident rates to eligible veterans who have previously lived and paid property taxes in North Cowichan. Council passed the following resolution:

THAT Council deny Mr. Waddy's request to receive the resident cemetery rate for the purchase of two plots in the Veteran's section of the Mountain View Cemetery.

In accordance with section 131 of the *Community Charter*, the Mayor may require Council to reconsider and vote again on a matter that was the subject of a previous vote. At the February 5, 2025, regular Council meeting, Mayor Douglas brought the original motion from January 15, 2025, back to Council for reconsideration. Council made the decision to strike the motion made on January 15, 2025, to deny Allan Waddy's request and instead voted unanimously to amend the Cemetery Fees & Charges Bylaw 3784 to include provisions that would allow non-resident veterans to receive resident rates provided they have previously lived and/or paid property taxes in North Cowichan.

DISCUSSION

Schedule D of the Fees and Charges Bylaw 3784 includes fees for various services offered at the Mountain View Cemetery, including fees for residents and non-residents. This two-tier fee structure is a standard practice in municipal cemetery operations. It is designed to provide lower rates to current residents as they contribute to the operations of the cemetery through taxation as opposed to non-residents.

As noted above, Council received a request from a former North Cowichan resident, Allan Waddy, to receive a resident rate for the purchase of two plots within the veteran's section of Mountain View Cemetery. While Allan Waddy received permission from the local legion branch to be buried in this section, at the time of the request, Allen Waddy was not a current resident of North Cowichan; however, prior to 2016, Allen Waddy lived and paid taxes in North Cowichan for years.

As per Council's direction from the February 5, 2025, regular Council meeting, the attached Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 4001, 2025 (Attachment 1) includes provisions that apply resident rates to eligible veterans who wish to be buried in the veteran's section of the Mountain View Cemetery that have previously lived and/or paid property taxes in North Cowichan. Should similar requests be received staff will work with the resident to verify that they previously lived in and/or paid property taxes to North Cowichan.

OPTIONS

1. **(Recommended Option)** THAT Council gives first, second, and third readings to Fees and Charges Bylaw Amendment Bylaw No. 4001, 2025.

IMPLICATIONS

While applying the resident rate for non-residents is viewed as revenue reductions, the financial implications to ongoing cemetery operations will be minimal as there are only 25 remaining spaces left in the current veteran's section of the Mountain View Cemetery. Prior to 2025, there have been only two confirmed sales of plots in this section for non-residents, one in 1997 and another in 1998.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council gives first, second, and third readings to Fees and Charges Bylaw Amendment Bylaw No. 4001, 2025.

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Approved to be forwarded to Council:



Ted Swabey
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachments:

- (1) Letter – North Cowichan Request for Veterans Plot
- (2) January 15, 2025, Report to Council, Mountain View Cemetery Plot Fee Reduction Request
- (3) Fees and Charges Bylaw Amendment Bylaw No. 4001, 2025