

The motions recorded in **SRD 889/24 and 890/24** represent the final administrative step in a multi-stage legislative effort to modernize the funding framework for **Cortes Island community hall**. By authorizing the execution of "modification agreements," the Board has officially removed a four-year prohibition on utilizing regional funds for capital improvements at **Whaletown Hall (Gorge Hall)** and **Manson's Landing Community Hall**.

1. Technical Purpose: Transitioning from Operating to Capital

The primary objective of these motions was to fix a restrictive funding model established in 2020.

- **The 2020 Constraint:** Under the original agreements (governed by **Bylaw No. 341**), the Strathcona Regional District (SRD) was strictly limited to funding **core operating expenses** such as electricity, heating, insurance, and property taxes.
- **The Capital Prohibition:** The previous contracts explicitly barred any regional contributions toward **capital expenditures**, leaving the community associations responsible for all major structural repairs and equipment upgrades .
- **The Modification (SRD 890/24):** These new agreements formally delete the "operating-only" restrictive language, substituting a clause that allows the Regional District to contribute capital funds at its sole discretion .

2. The Catalyst: The Manson's Hall Heat Pump

The drive to amend these agreements was triggered by a specific infrastructure need identified in early 2024.

- **Heat Pump Installation:** The Southern Cortes Community Association (SCCA) sought capital funding for a heat pump installation at Manson's Hall.
- **Legislative Roadblock:** Staff advised that because of the existing bylaw restrictions, the SRD could not legally provide the requested funds until the underlying establishing bylaw was amended.
- **Bylaw No. 548:** This led to the drafting and adoption of Bylaw No. 548, which received provincial approval in June 2024 and paved the way for the October modification agreements.

3. Strategic Campaign Application for 2026

In the context of your "**Forward or Backward**" campaign, this file serves as a significant data point in the debate over **fiscal stewardship** and regional grants:

- **The Policy Conflict:** While these motions were moved and seconded by members of the "rural block" (**Directors Vonesch and Whalley**), they intersect with your push for a "full analysis" of the **Community Works (Gas Tax) allocation policy**.
- **The "Forward" Narrative:** You can frame the removal of these restrictions as part of your commitment to **functional governance**—ensuring that local associations have the flexibility to maintain essential assets while demanding that such funding be subject to a **standardized, accountable framework** rather than ad-hoc directorial discretion.
- **Protecting Regional Eligibility:** This modification allows for capital funding from sources **other than local property tax requisitions**, such as grants or gifts 2. This aligns with your platform's strategy of leveraging non-tax revenue to protect residents' pocketbooks.

- **Accountability Question:** You can use this record to ask opponents:
- *"While I supported the flexibility to fund capital projects like the Manson's Hall heat pump, I also moved to ensure these allocations are backed by a professional, regional policy. Why do you continue to fight for an informal system of 'optional' financial disclosures for community grants?."*

In summary, carrying motions **SRD 889/24 and 890/24** fulfills a local mandate to support Cortes Island's community infrastructure 2. For your re-election, this documents your ability to support **essential community services** while maintaining a superior record of demanding **fiscal discipline and transparency** across the district 10.