

Municipality Of Chatham-Kent

Finance, Budget, Information Technology & Transformation

Administration

To: Mayor and Members of Council

From: Gord Quinton, MBA, CPA, CGA
Chief Financial Officer / Treasurer /
GM, Finance, Budget, Information Technology & Transformation

Date: February 10, 2021

Subject: Municipal Owned Halls – Covid-19

Recommendation

It is recommended that:

1. Chatham-Kent waive the monthly \$2,500 + HST rental fees for the WISH Centre retroactively from April 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 at a total impact of \$37,500 funded by Safe Restart Funding.
2. Chatham-Kent grant \$700 a month reimbursement for the utility and maintenance costs paid for by the Merlin Community Hall retroactively from April 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 in the nominal amount of \$10,500 funded by Safe Restart Funding.

Background

Chatham-Kent owns the WISH Centre in Chatham and the Merlin Community Hall in Merlin and has agreements in place for the operations with third-party providers. Covid-19 has severely interrupted the activities of both non-profit groups.

At the December 14, 2020 meeting, Council approved the following motion:

“Whereas Covid-19 has created significant challenges to programs and activities and whereas due to the continued Covid-19 pandemic and the inability of those renting or operating municipally owned recreation hall facilities to pay their normal base rents as normal activities are not possible, I move that Administration bring a report back to the Jan 18th meeting with a recommendation and potential funding source to consider waiving a portion of fees retroactive to April 1, 2020 continuing through to June 30, 2021.”

Comments

Administration is recommending, due the properties being municipally owned and as a result of the extraordinary impact Covid-19 has had on the community activities of both

non-profit organizations, that the assistance recommended be approved on a one-time exception basis, with no impact on current agreements between the parties.

Areas of Strategic Focus and Critical Success Factors

The recommendation in this report supports the following areas of strategic focus:

Economic Prosperity:

Chatham-Kent is an innovative and thriving community with a diversified economy

A Healthy and Safe Community:

Chatham-Kent is a healthy and safe community with sustainable population growth

People and Culture:

Chatham-Kent is recognized as a culturally vibrant, dynamic, and creative community

Environmental Sustainability:

Chatham-Kent is a community that is environmentally sustainable and promotes stewardship of our natural resources

The recommendation in this report supports the following critical success factors:

Financial Sustainability:

The Corporation of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent is financially sustainable

Open, Transparent and Effective Governance:

The Corporation of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent is open, transparent and effectively governed with efficient and bold, visionary leadership

Has the potential to support all areas of strategic focus & critical success factors

Neutral issues (does not support negatively or positively)

Consultation

The Director of Parks, Recreation and Cemeteries was consulted and is in agreement with the recommendations in this report.

Financial Implications

The \$48,000 shortfall will be absorbed into the 2021 variance and be funded by the Safe Restart Funding provided for 2021 from the Federal and Provincial governments to offset Covid-19 related expenses. Any 2021 year end corporate shortfalls exceeding Safe Restart Funding will need to be funded from municipal sources.

Prepared by:

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Chief Financial Officer / Treasurer /
General Manager, Finance, Budget, Information Technology & Transformation

Attachments: None

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