



Staff Report

Report Title: Whitechurch Hall

Prepared By: Mike Fair

Department: Community Services

Date: Feb. 1, 2021

Report Number: CS-2021-02-4

File Number: C 11 – R 05

Attachments:

Recommendation:

That the Township of Huron-Kinloss Committee of the Whole hereby approves Report Number CS2021-02-4 prepared by Mike Fair, Director of Community Services and bring forward in the 2021 budget.

Background:

On November 2nd, 2020, the Whitechurch Hall board brought forward a recommendation to discontinue the use, and removal of the Whitechurch Hall due to lack of use, in addition to significant capital investment required in the future.

Council instructed staff to send correspondence to the members of the Whitechurch community to determine if there was any interest in the hall. A letter was sent to the community members in late November 2020, asking for any suggestions or ideas to bring forward for consideration for this project, please forward them by December 31, 2020. The letter is attached.

Discussion:

Staff received one email, and a phone call from the adjacent property owner expressing interest in purchasing the front portion of the Whitechurch hall property after demolition. After careful consideration and consultation with all senior staff it was determined that the property should not be sold, to ensure that future development or considerations regarding the Whitechurch well be preserved. No other emails, phone calls, or letters of interest were received.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the Whitechurch Hall be demolished, and restored to grass, minor landscaping, and a memorial plaque be installed on the property. Staff will ensure that the oil tank and lines be decommissioned before the demolition and removed.

There are no significant contents in the hall of any value. Staff recommends that the Hall Board dispose of any contents such as very old tables, chairs, kitchen contents of the hall as they see fit. Any remaining contents to be included in the demolition. There are a few windows, that were replaced years ago, and staff recommend that any such items related to the building be included in the salvage and demolition of the property.

Staff estimates \$55 000.00 for demolition, restoration, and memorial plaque and recommends bringing forward to the 2021 budget.

Financial Impacts:

\$55 000.00 Staff will bring forward to the 2021 budget.

Strategic Alignment / Link:

We are an accessible community that offers opportunities for everyone.
By being open and transparent

We are an environmentally conscious community that are good stewards of our natural environment.

By protecting our natural assets

By using our resources wisely

By being aware and taking responsibility

Respectfully Submitted By:

Mike Fair, Director of Community Services

Approved By:

Mary Rose Walden, Chief Administrative Officer