



## The Corporation of the Township of Huron-Kinloss

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### Staff Report

**Report Title: Lucknow Community Centre COVID-19 Relief**

**Prepared By: Jodi MacArthur, Treasurer**

**Department: Treasury**

**Date: Feb. 26, 2021**

**Report Number: TR-2021-02-19**

**File Number:**

**R06 LCC21**

**Attachments: Lucknow Community Centre Board letter**

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#### **Recommendation:**

THAT the Township of Huron-Kinloss Council hereby approves Report No. TR-2021-02-19 prepared by Jodi MacArthur, Treasurer AND authorizes staff to draft a memorandum of understanding for funding between the Township and the Lucknow Community Centre Board.

#### **Background:**

On February 16, 2021 a request from the Chair of the Lucknow Community Centre Board that the Township of Huron-Kinloss and Township of Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh financially assist the Lucknow Community Centre Board to cover the operating expenses of the Centre until income events return.

The Lucknow Community Centre was built in 1978 on the Lucknow Sports Complex property and has been operated by the Community Centre Board, which consists of members of the Lions, Kinsmen and Agricultural Society. The Township has appointed a Council member to act as a liaison.

The facility is fully licensed and has served the community for decades. It is also identified as a potential evacuation centre, in the event of an emergency. In 2007, we were approached by the Community Centre Board to provide financial assistance as revenue was declining and the Board was having difficulty covering the operating expenses.

The Township of Huron-Kinloss and the Township of Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh agreed to cover the costs of the hydro for the facility to assist the Board. At that time the hydro costs were significant. Subsequently, the Board has been able to complete an upgrade to the heating and cooling system to reduce the annual hydro costs.

We reviewed the financial arrangement in 2010 and the Board requested that we continue covering the hydro costs. Council consented to the arrangement, but we asked for regular financial updates which have not occurred.

**Discussion:**

With the cancellation of events due to the pandemic, the Board now finds they are struggling to cover the basic building maintenance costs. They estimate a shortfall of \$2,000.00 per month until rentals resume.

In order to justify the additional expenditure and provide financial accountability for the use of funds, staff recommend that a memorandum of understanding be developed. It will clearly define the responsibilities of both parties while permitting the Board to operate independently provided the funding conditions are met.

**Financial Impacts:**

Assuming the Township of Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh will support the proposal and depending on how long the rental income is affected, the 2021 financial commitment could be up to \$11,000.00. No monies have been included in the 2021 Draft Budget being presented.

We would endeavour to fund through the Ontario Safe Restart Funding, although if there are other Township expenditures or revenue losses due to the pandemic there could be a resulting deficit.

**Strategic Alignment / Link:**

The information contained in this report is consistent with and in keeping with the municipality's Vision & Mission.

We are a vibrant community that values our uniqueness and creativity by creating places where people want to be, celebrating what makes us unique, preserving and protecting our history and heritage and supporting and growing the arts and creativity;

We are a spirited community that takes pride in calling Huron-Kinloss home and welcoming others by engaging in our community;

We are an accessible community that offers opportunities for everyone by having amenities and services nearby and being open and transparent;

**Respectfully Submitted By:**

Jodi MacArthur, Treasurer

**Approved By:**

Mary Rose Walden, Chief Administrative Officer