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Finance Committee Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, December 5, 2023 – 9:00 a.m.

MODL Council Chambers – 10 Allée Champlain Drive, Cookville

- 1. Call to Order**
 - 1.1 Mi'kma'ki Territorial Acknowledgement
- 2. Announcements, Acknowledgements, Recognition**
 - 2.1 Day of Remembrance and Declaration on Gender-based Violence 1-2
- 3. Public Input (15 Minutes)**
- 4. Changes/Approval of Agenda (as circulated)**
- 5. Approval of Minutes – November 21, 2023 (as circulated)**
- 6. Business Arising from Minutes**
- 7. Presentations/Scheduled Times - Nil**
- 8. Consideration of Correspondence - Nil**
- 9. Recommendations from Council - Nil**
- 10. Staff Reports**
 - 10.1 Finance Department**
 - 10.1.1 Decision on Tax Sale by Tender for the March 6, 2024 Tax Sale 3-4
 - 10.2 Recreation Department**
 - 10.2.1 New Germany Legion Capital Grant Request 9:15 a.m. 5-11
 - 10.3 Administration Department**
 - 10.3.1 Funding for Food Banks & Homeless Shelters 12-14
- 11. Mayor's/Deputy Mayor's/Councillors' Matters**
 - 11.1 Bathroom Building at Lake Mush-a-Mush (Councillor Statton) 15-16
- 12. Added Items**
- 13. In Camera - Nil**
- 14. Adjournment**

Day of Remembrance and Declaration on Gender-based Violence

Acknowledgements – December 5 Council Meeting

I'd like us to take a moment to recognise that December 6, is the day of remembrance and action on violence against women, and to make a declaration that acknowledges gender-based violence as an epidemic we are committed to ending.

We continue to recognize December 6 across Canada, 32 years after the mass killing of 14 young women in 1989 at l'École Polytechnique de Montreal. But Nova Scotia is now home to the largest mass casualty in Canadian history and in their report, "turning the tide together" the mass casualty inquiry identified gender-based violence as one of the key contexts in the deaths of 22 people, and one of the three pillars demanding concerted action by all levels of government and a "whole of society" approach.

This day is about acknowledging and remembering these young women and all women and girls who died as a result of gender-based violence. We have an opportunity for all of us to acknowledge and not ignore that women and girls in the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg and across the world face violence as part of their everyday lives. No community is immune to the challenges posed by gender-based violence. By recognizing the prevalence of such violence, we open a gateway for empathy, understanding, and advocacy.

The day of remembrance and action on violence against women and declaring gender-based violence an epidemic is a call to action for everyone. It prompts us to confront the harsh reality that women and girls face violence as part of their daily lives. This is an opportunity for communities, organizations, and individuals to unite in a collective effort to raise awareness, challenge societal norms that perpetuate violence, and work towards creating safer environments for women and girls.

December 6 is not just a day of remembrance; it is a catalyst for change, urging us all to take meaningful action to end violence against women. Through education, open dialogue, and policy changes, we can foster a culture that rejects violence and empowers individuals to speak out against it.

Some of the actionable steps we can take in our everyday lives to help prevent gender-based violence include:

- Become informed about gender-based violence and what steps we can all take to prevent it by reviewing volume 3 of the mass casualty commission report, *Turning the Tide Together*.

- Learn about how to be an ally to people working in the gender-based violence advocacy and support sector.
- Challenge the condoning of violence against women in our workplaces and social settings.
- Challenge gender stereotyping and traditional forms of masculinity.
- Strengthen positive, equal, and respectful relationships between all people in our homes, communities, workplaces, and other settings.
- Become a champion for broader prevention efforts.

We must renew our commitment to creating a world where every woman and girl can live free from the fear of violence, where their contributions are valued, and where they have equal opportunities to thrive.



Municipality of the District of Lunenburg

Request for Decision

Report to: Finance Committee

Submitted by: Elana Wentzell, CPA, CMA

Date: 2023-12-05

Re: 2024 Tax Sale

Recommendation

The Finance Committee recommend that Municipal Council authorize the Treasurer to proceed with a tender call for the March 6, 2024, Tax Sale.

Executive summary

The annual Tax Sale is scheduled for March 6, 2024. Prior to the COVID pandemic, all tax sales were held as a public auction per Section 141 (1) of the Municipal Government Act (MGA).

For the past three years, Council approved that the Treasurer proceed with the annual Tax Sale through a tender call as per section 141 (2) of the MGA. The use of a tender call was successful. Most properties that went into these tax sales received bids and were sold.

Discussion

The Municipality's annual public auction tax sale has been historically well attended, with upwards of 90 people present. This can be cumbersome to manage, RCMP security is required, and it does not lend itself to be fully accessible to bidders who cannot attend in person on the tax sale day.

Because we have been successful with the tender tax sale process over the past 3 years, staff are suggesting that the upcoming tax sale in March 2024 proceed in this manner.

Alternatives

1. Tax Sale by Public Auction - Council can decide to proceed instead with a public auction for the upcoming tax sale.

2. Defer the Tax Sale - Council also has the authority to defer tax sales for up to two years. However, that could create a collections problem, where property owners could defer payment even longer. As well, it would become an administrative burden to let more property payments lapse.

The tax sale collection process is legislated by the MGA and includes preliminary and final tax sale notices, posting of properties in the tax sale as well as advertising in late January and again in February.

Staff make collection calls and payment arrangements to reduce the number of properties that are in the tax sale. Deferring the tax sale would mean additional resources would be required to manage a subsequent tax sale that would most likely include more properties.

Budget implications

There would be additional costs if the tax sale was deferred. These costs are passed on to the properties in the tax sale.

Conclusion

Staff recommend that due to three consecutive tax sales via a tender process, that the 2024 Tax Sale be held by a tender call as legislated in the MGA.

Report Preparation	
Department	Finance
Report Prepared by	Elana Wentzell
Report Approved by	
Date Reviewed by C.A.O.	



New Germany Legion

BRANCH 102

1

About Branch 102

Main purpose is to serve veterans (including RCMP) and their families.

Since the mid 1950's have provided essential services to New Germany and the surrounding area.

Built essentially to meet the needs of veterans – over the years has expanded its reach to serve a much wider audience.

Both the building and the grounds are the largest public venue in New Germany and surrounding area. To find a larger venue means going to Bridgewater.

Both the building and grounds are essential for the New Germany Canada Day Celebrations and other events hosted in the community.

2

The Challenges

Actual number of Veterans decreasing, along with it, the membership.

Building is aging.

Upgrades need to meet changing codes and regulations.

With fewer veterans, the understanding of what the Legion has to offer diminishes.

Without creative solutions, we like many other Legions are at risk of closure and with closure comes the loss of an extremely important community resource.

3

Efforts Being Made to Meet Challenges

- Massive efforts being made to replace revenues that came from regular attendance by membership with special events such as dances, live music nights, etc.
- These events not only help with revenues to help with operating costs, but bring in community members who then see the value of the organization and membership has slightly grown because of this.
- Efforts made to access grants.

4

Efforts Being Made to Meet Challenges

- Expanding the use of the facility. i.e. community warming centre.
- Massive efforts to host each year a significant Remembrance Day event
- Efforts being undertaken to help ensure the closure of the Legion does not occur.

5



Events at the Legion

6



Events at Legion

7



Events at Legion

8

The Ask of MODL

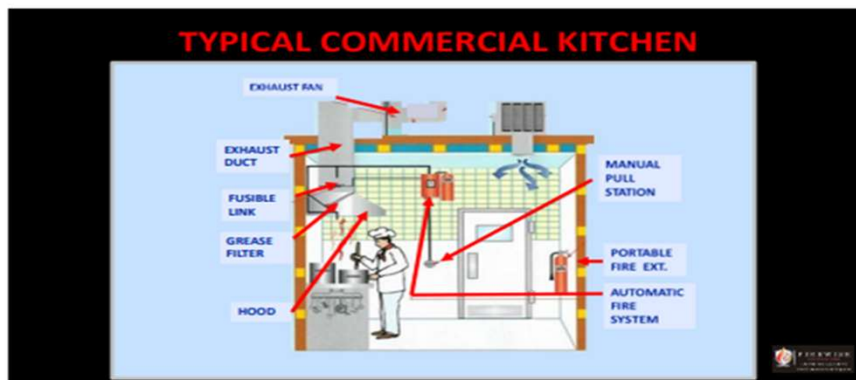
Financial support to upgrade the kitchen, specifically acquiring and installing a NFA 96 compliant commercial cooking hood and ventilation system equipped with fire suppression system.

This upgrade would allow the Legion to maintain a vital revenue stream.

Estimated costs for new (with warranty) is approximately \$20,000 and with installation could cost up to \$30,000.

Seeking other funding sources – i.e. National or Provincial Legion Command

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TYPICAL COMMERCIAL KITCHEN

10



Picture 1 – Existing Range Hood

PICTURE 2 – UNDERSIDE OF EXISTING RANGE HOOD

11

The Ask of MODL

Major Recreation Capital Grant - Funding will not exceed 50% of the total capital cost of the project, to a maximum of \$15,000.

The ASK is for \$15,000 to assist with this upgrade to help sustain the Legion not only for today but for tomorrow as a vital community asset.

Time is of essence to help secure the tenant currently leasing space from the Legion.

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Questions?
THANK-YOU!





Municipality of the District of Lunenburg

Request for Decision

Report to: Finance Committee
Submitted by: Alex Dumaresq, Deputy CAO
Date: December 5, 2023
Re: Funding for Foodbanks and Shelters

Recommendation

Move that Council approve matching funds for the Wellness Committee food drive up to a maximum of \$1,000 per food bank, and further that Council approve funding in the amount of \$3,000 for Souls Harbour Warming Centre and \$3,000 for the overnight shelter operated by the South Shore Open Doors Association, with the funds coming from the Council Approved Contingency Fund.

Executive summary

Economic conditions have increased the prevalence of housing and food insecurity in the Municipality. The combined impact of post-pandemic inflation and the housing crisis have increased the instability for many households in MODL. While Council pursues policy, advocacy, and infrastructure work to address housing and economic growth, many households are experiencing acute pressure and are relying on service organizations to meet basic needs.

Foodbanks

Feed NS reports that 22% of households in Nova Scotia are experiencing food insecurity. This is approximately a 5% increase in foodbank usage since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic. Feed NS also reports that one third of the Nova Scotia population supported by food banks are children.

Staff have regularly completed food drives in previous years, accepting both cash and food donations and providing the donations to the four food banks serving MODL residents. In

addition, MODL last supported food banks with funding from the municipal budget in March of 2020, with support totalling \$10,000:

- Bridgewater Food Bank - \$5,500
- Town of Lunenburg Food Bank - \$1,500
- Town of Mahone Bay Food Bank - \$2,000
- New Germany Food Bank - \$1,000.00

Staff on the MODL Wellness Committee are organizing a cash-based food drive this holiday season. and have inquired whether Council would consider matching some of the funds raised with the Council Approved Contingency Fund. Given the size of staff and council, its recommended that the fundraising effort focus on a single foodbank, with municipal funds matching that donation and providing an equivalent donation to the other banks (I.e. A fundraising campaign raising \$1000 from staff and council would result in a \$4000 contribution to foodbanks from the council contingency fund).

Housing-Related Services

South Shore Open Doors Association (SSODA) works to identify citizens who do not have stable housing and connect them with services to address housing insecurity. They have completed intake for 415 citizens since May of 2022, with 115 (28%) of those citizens coming from MODL.

In response to demand in the local area, SSODA has opened an overnight shelter for people experiencing homelessness. The shelter can support up to 15 people and will operate for a 6-month period in the Town of Bridgewater. SSODA is receiving base funding from the Department of Community Services but is currently engaged in fundraising initiatives to provide basic services including food, and toiletries. SSODA will be presenting to Council on the housing crisis and the services it is providing to MODL residents in the new year.

The overnight shelter operates from 8pm to 8am seven nights a week. In response to this new service, Souls Harbour is operating a warming center to complement the overnight shelter. They have expanded their service to be open seven days a week from 8am to 8pm and they provide one hot meal per day.

In December of 2022, Council awarded \$15,000 from the Council Approved Contingency Fund to support the Town of Bridgewater's Tiny Shelter Grant. The Town did not receive any applications to the fund, and those funds returned to MODL's reserves as part of the 2022/23 operating surplus. The \$15,000 funding that the Town set aside was redirected towards the daytime service provided by Souls Harbour.

Budget implications

The total recommended support for those experiencing housing and food insecurity would be a maximum of \$10,000 depending on the results of the staff fundraising efforts. There is currently \$62,375 available in the Council Approved Contingency Fund.

Alternatives

Council could determine to proceed with donations regardless of the staff fundraising efforts. Council could also decline to contribute municipal funds to these service organizations.

Conclusion

Both the visibility and incidence of food and housing insecurity have increased in recent years in our communities. Providing financial support to the service organizations noted in this report will help bridge some of the worst impacts of the housing crisis currently affecting MODL citizens.

Report Preparation	
Department	
Report Prepared by	Alex Dumaresq, Deputy CAO
Report Approved by	
Date Reviewed by C.A.O.	

**Request for Agenda Items under
Mayor's/Deputy Mayor's/Councillors' Matters**

TO: Chief Administrative Officer
FROM: x Councillor Sandra Statton _____
DATE: nov 28,2023 _____

- 1. Agenda Item Bathroom building at Lake Mushamush
- 2.

3. On what agenda do you want the item placed?
Finance to go to Budget

4. Do you have written material to circulate with the agenda? Yes _____ No x

If you do, please attach it to this form. If you do not, please explain.
After three years on Council and various conversations around the care and consideration given to the facilities at this location, it is time to budget funds to have this building in place.

5. What is its relevance to Council or the committee?
 this expense will need to be part of the budget for next year, as I see this as a necessary addition to this Park that has on some days hundreds of visitors per day in peak season _____

6. What outcome(s) are you seeking?

A motion to Council to add this to the budget for 24/25 so that this can become a part of the park infracture in this construction year.

Sandra Statton
 Sandra Statton _____ nov 28.2023
Councillor's Signature Date

Approval for agenda: Yes No

Reason for Denial:

Mayor or Chair of Committee

Date