

## **COMMUNICATION 132023**

Received From: Diane Smithson, Chief Administrative Officer  
Addressed To: Committee of the Whole  
Date: February 9, 2021  
Topic: Review of Recreation and Culture Cost Sharing Agreement

### **SUMMARY**

The heads of Council and Chief Administrative Officers for the Town of Carleton Place, Municipality of Mississippi Mills and the Township of Beckwith have been meeting to discuss a way forward with respect to the 1987 Recreation and Culture Cost Sharing Agreement as a result of concerns raised last fall by the Council of the Municipality of Mississippi Mills.

One of the items discussed was that Allan and Partners be retained to conduct a review of the current study and the corresponding 2001 addendum to determine if any changes should be considered. A proposal not to exceed \$10,000 was received, the cost of which is being recommended to be shared equally between the partners.

### **BACKGROUND**

In 1987, the Town of Carleton Place, Township of Beckwith and the former municipalities of the Town of Almonte and Township of Ramsay (now Municipality of Mississippi Mills) retained the services of Howard Allan to review and recommend a cost sharing formula for recreation and cultural services between the respective municipalities and the Town of Carleton Place. In October 2000, the Council of the then Town of Mississippi Mills commissioned Allan & Partners Inc. to review the current Recreation and Culture Cost Sharing Agreement to determine the continued validity of the cost sharing arrangement and the formula used.

### **COMMENT**

Given that the Recreation and Culture Cost Sharing Study has not been reviewed in depth since 2001, it is recommended that a review be undertaken which would examine:

- The percentages used to calculate the pro-rata share of costs under the previous agreement which may be able to be better defined given technology available today;
- Provide a summary of costs on a per capita basis compared to each municipality's own recreation/culture costs;
- Provide comments on possible future regional facilities and how costs could be shared;
- Provide commentary on the appropriateness of basing costs allocations on assessment versus per capita charges or user fees

In addition, Mississippi Mills Council is questioning the ability under the Public Libraries Act of being able to cost share for library services, particularly when a municipality provides library services to its constituents. As a result, they are suggesting that Mississippi Mills and Carleton Place share in the cost of this legal opinion. This

particular matter does not impact on Beckwith Township as they do not have their own library service and provide this service to their residents via the cost sharing agreement.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

It is estimated that the cost of the review will not exceed \$10,000 plus HST with the cost of same to be shared equally between the three (3) municipalities party to the cost sharing agreement. This is a non-budgeted item in the 2021 budget so the funding for this review would have to come from the overall Town surplus at year end, if any, and if not from Administration reserves.

It is estimated that the Town's cost of the legal opinion would not exceed \$1,000 plus HST and could be paid from the Town's operating budget.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

THAT Council approves retaining the services of Allan and Partners to undertake a review of the 1987 Howard Allan Recreation and Culture Cost Sharing Agreement with the upset cost of \$10,000 to be shared equally between the parties; and

THAT the budget deviation for the review is to be paid from the Town's year end surplus if any, and if not from Administration reserves; and

THAT Council authorizes sharing in the cost of a legal opinion with the Municipality of Mississippi Mills with respect to the legality of cost sharing in library services when a municipality provides its own library services.