

THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF MISSISSIPPI MILLS

STAFF REPORT

DATE: August 10th, 2021

TO: Committee of the Whole

FROM: Calvin Murphy, Recreation Manager

SUBJECT: Agreement with the Almonte Curling Club 2021-2022 season

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Committee of the Whole recommends to Council to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to enter a one (1) year agreement with the Almonte Curling Club for the lease of the Almonte Curling Facility for the 2021-2022 curling season.

BACKGROUND:

For the past sixteen years (2003-2019 seasons), the Municipality has entered into a lease agreement with the Almonte Curling Club for the use of the Almonte Curling Facility.

In the 2000 Recreation Department's operational review, recommendation #68 was identified as follows:

"That the municipality develop a partnership agreement with the Almonte Curling Club to provide curling services to all interested residents in Mississippi Mills, beginning in 2000."

DISCUSSION:

Meetings took place with the members of the Curling Club executive just prior to the pandemic (COVID19) and more recently in June 2021 with Ken Kelly CAO and Councillor Dalgity to discuss a new contract for the Almonte Curling Facility.

During the discussions, an area of concern that presented itself was that of the deficit that the Municipality is faced with annually with respect to the Curling facility. In 2019 the Curling facility saw a deficit of approximately \$26,000 and a large portion of this deficit was due to hydro costs. Over the years the Almonte Community Centre has always operated on one (1) Hydro meter for the entire facility and there was no way of breaking down how much hydro was used in the Curling facility compared to other parts of the facility (the arena side). In February 2020, the Recreation Manager made arrangements to have separate hydro meters installed in the different areas within the Almonte Community Centre in order get a better indication as to what the actual breakdown in costs are for the two areas. The plan was to use the 2020-2021 curling season to gauge the breakdown of hydro costs of both locations so that a new agreement could

be negotiated on the understanding that the Almonte Curling Club would agree to contribute to the costs associated with the hydro on the Curling side.

The Curling Club understands that the Municipality would like to see a reduction in the overall deficit and has agreed to work with the municipality in recouping some of this deficit when entering a long-term agreement moving forward. Before proceeding with the long-term agreement, a breakdown of what the actual hydro costs are for the Curling facility in relation to the remainder of the facility is required.

Due to the COVID19 pandemic the 2020-2021 curling season never occurred, and the curling ice plant was never turned on therefore no breakdown of hydro costs is available. In addition the Almonte Curling Club is concerned with overall membership numbers not being as high as they normally would be for the upcoming season given the current circumstances. Although they are committed to working as hard as they can to increase their membership numbers there is still some uncertainty in this regard and remain hopeful to gain enough membership interest to have a curling season in 2021-2022. Because of these two circumstances the overall feeling is to enter into a one-year agreement until hydro costs can be broken down further and membership numbers can be determined. This one-year agreement would be based on the same monthly amount as 2019-2020 contract and will be paid over a (5) five-month period.

If this one-year agreement is not acceptable to Council, the only other option is for the Club to pay for the actual ice time that it uses. This is the type of arrangement that the Municipality had with the Club before entering into agreements with the club. When this was the arrangement, the Municipalities deficits were higher, and we had more staffing responsibilities.

Of the two scenarios, staff is recommending that the negotiated settlement of a one-year agreement in the amount of \$27,954 plus HST be accepted. This one-year agreement will permit both the Municipality and The Almonte Curling Club to gather the necessary information required to properly enter into a longer agreement in future years.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The negotiated amount of the one-year contract is as follows:

2021-2022 \$27,954 plus HST

It should be noted that in 2019-2020 the Almonte Curling season ran for a 6-month time period (Oct-March). For this upcoming season, the Club feels that they will not have their registration finalized in time for an October start date and have opted to begin their season at the beginning of November and running for a 5-month period thus reducing the plant operation costs for the Curling Facility this upcoming year.

SUMMARY:

The Municipality has entered into agreements with the Almonte Curling Club over the past sixteen seasons. The parties have worked well together to ensure the success of the Club to its members and are eager to continue this working relationship for many years to come. This one (1) year agreement will give us the time needed to explore the actual hydro cost breakdown in

more detail and give the Curling Club the time to gather their membership numbers to where it should be before the pandemic occurred. After this season, a long-term agreement can be worked and finalized.

The Curling Club is currently preparing for the upcoming season, and it is crucial that we finalize this one-year agreement in order to move forward at this point in time.

Respectfully submitted by,

Reviewed by:



Calvin Murphy,
Recreation Manager



Ken Kelly,
CAO

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 2021-2022 Almonte Curling Club lease agreement