

THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF MISSISSIPPI MLLS

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

DATE: August 25, 2020
TO: Committee of the Whole
FROM: Rhonda Whitmarsh, Treasurer
SUBJECT: 2020 MUNICIPAL GRANTS AND COVID 19

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Committee of the Whole recommends that Council support Option 2- Organizations that received 2020 municipal grant allocations for events that have been postponed due to Covid 19 can retain their 2020 grant to offset the costs of the event when it proceeds.

BACKGROUND:

The Covid 19 pandemic has resulted in the postponement of 2020 events into 2021 for organizations that received funding through the municipal grant program in 2020. When funding through the municipal grant program is not spent the municipal grant policy Section 6 (g) reads "Any municipal grant or sponsorship funding that has not been spent, in the year that it is received, shall be returned to the municipality".

In the past, there have been few instances where municipal grant allocations have not been entirely spent in the year they were issued to an organization but when it happened, the remaining funds were not returned but deducted from the next years allocation.

DISCUSSION:

2020 municipal grant allocations were approved by Council at the meeting held on December 17, 2020 as follows:

Resolution No. 766-19

Moved by Councillor Maydan

Seconded by Councillor Dalgity

THAT Council approve the following 2020 municipal grants:

Applicant	Recommended Funding for 2020
North Lanark Agricultural Society	\$5,000.00
Royal Canadian Legion Pipe Band	\$3,000.00
Old Home Week	\$2,500.00
Almonte Fish & Game Association	\$4,100.00
Almonte in Concert	\$1,750.00
Mississippi Lakes Association	\$500.00
Almonte Celtfest Society	\$2,500.00
North Lanark Highland Games	\$2,500.00
Pakenham Civitan Club	\$1,500.00
Total	\$23,350.00

CARRIED

At the time of writing this report, the North Lanark Agricultural Society and the North Lanark Highland Games have inquired as to the status of their 2020 grant now that their planned 2020 events have been postponed. There are others on this list, although they have not contacted the municipality, that may also not be able to host their events as planned due to Covid 19.

If the municipal grant policy is followed, then those organizations would be required to return their 2020 grants to the municipality. Before enforcing this provision of the policy, I want to confirm that this is the wish of Council considering the circumstances that organizations find themselves in due to the pandemic and recognizing that their events are only postponed, not cancelled, and they have likely incurred costs to prepare for these events prior to their postponement. The following options are offered for consideration:

Option 1-Enforce Section 6 (g) of the policy

Under this option, those organizations that are unable to host their events as planned in 2020 would be required to return their 2020 municipal grants. This option follows the policy as written.

Option 2-Allow organizations to keep their 2020 municipal grant allocations

Under this option, organizations could keep their 2020 allocations to go towards their events when they are able to proceed, likely in 2021. Municipal grant allocations in 2021 for the same organizations would then be reduced by the 2020 grant that they retained. This option would allow these organizations to offset some of the costs that they have already incurred to prepare for the events prior to their postponement.

The risk with this option is that if an organization for some reason does not proceed with their event in 2021 they would still have 2020 funding from the

municipality that would need to be returned which would require follow up by Staff.

Both the Department of Canadian Heritage and Celebrate Ontario chose not to recall grants from events that had to cancel or postpone. They said the funds could be used to support festival and event organizers with rescheduled, postponed or reprogrammed events to help maintain the capacity and future success of the festivals and events sector.

By March many festival organizations had already paid performer deposits and ran advertising. Grant funding is most likely their only source of funding for 2020 with no gate sales, donations or sponsorship revenue. Recalling grants could actually cause further hardship. These community groups operate on a tight budget any additional funds they would be carrying forward could help them sustain and survive.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

There are no known financial implications resulting from Option 1 or 2.

SUMMARY

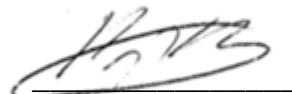
I am recommending that Council support Option 2 allowing organizations to retain their 2020 municipal grant allocations to offset any costs already incurred prior to the postponement of their 2020 events due to Covid 19 recognizing that these events will likely proceed in 2021.

Respectfully Submitted



Rhonda Whitmarsh,
Treasurer

Reviewed by



Ken Kelly,
CAO