



REPORT OF COUNCIL-IN-COMMITTEE

For City Council – October 15, 2024

From: Office of the City Clerk

Date: Tuesday, August 27, 2024

Title: Report of CIC - RSA - Central York Rural Community - Aug 27 2024.docx

Description:

Council-in-Committee, at its session held on August 26, 2024, considered an administrative report from the Manager of Policy and Strategic Planning which requested Council authorization and approval of an agreement with Central York Rural Community (CYRC) for recreational services.

Since 2008, the City has provided access to the City’s recreational facilities, services and programming to various Local Service Districts (LSD), including the former Douglas LSD and Estey’s Bridge LSD, through a Recreational Services Agreement (RSA) between the City of Fredericton and the NB Department of Environment & Local Government (DELG). The City was informed in late 2023 by DELG that pursuant to Local Governance Reform (LGR), local governments must enter into their own respective agreements to facilitate the continuation of such services. For these reasons, Central York Rural Community is seeking to enter into an agreement with the City that extends the same level of access, at the same cost, to the portions of its community that were previously part of the Douglas and Estey’s Bridge LSD’s.

Pursuant to this direction from DELG, CYRC is seeking to enter into an agreement with the City that 1) continues the level of service previously provided through the City’s agreement with DELG to the portion of its community that previously formed parts of the Douglas and Estey’s Bridge LSD’s; and, 2) affords their participating residents the same level of access at the same cost. A draft agreement between the City and CYRC reflecting these changes is attached for City Council’s review and consideration.

The City has provided recreation services to residents of the former Douglas and Estey’s Bridge LSD’s, through such an agreement, for many years. Operationally, the City’s Recreation & Culture division is well positioned to continue to provide this service to this portion of the newly formed CYRC.

The proposed term of the agreement, ending December 31, 2027, is consistent with the term of the long- standing agreement between the City and DELG. The intent is to honour and advance the purpose and terms of the agreement between the City and DELG as a transitional agreement between the City and CYRC, with no substantive changes to the terms of the agreement at this time. However, it is noted that the previous agreement

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between the City and DELG included a Recreational Service Setoff Agreement with the Douglas LSD. This agreement recognized that some City residents benefit from use of the Keswick Valley Arena without payment of a non-resident user fee. Additionally, pursuant to Local Governance Reform it is recognized that some City residents benefit from use of the Estey's Bridge Community Centre without payment of user fees. Therefore, this agreement proposes the inclusion of a "Setoff/Reciprocal Payment" for the Keswick Valley Arena and Estey's Bridge Community Centre. For context the 2024 amounts are \$13,509.00 and \$29,036.16, respectively. As outlined in the agreement this amount would adjust annually to reflect the previous year's amount plus CPI. In staff's view including the setoff as part of the proposed interim agreement recognizes the reciprocal use off these recreation facilities located within CYRC.

Staff note that a comprehensive review and assessment of recreational service agreements will be needed prior to entering into any agreement for the provision of such services beyond 2027. This includes an assessment of service level provision and costing to support future discussions and negotiations with partner local governments that may be interested in entering into a subsequent agreement with the City. Additionally, reciprocal contributions will need to be considered as part of any future service agreement or associated negotiations. Information to support the development of any future agreements will be prepared as part of the Recreation & Leisure Master Plan and in accordance with the 2024 Corporate Action Plan. At the appropriate time, City Council direction will be sought regarding the terms of any future agreement.

The Committee directed that the following resolution be forwarded to City Council for consideration:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Council for the City of Fredericton hereby authorizes and approves the Recreational Services Agreement between Central York Rural Community and the City of Fredericton (the "Agreement") for a term of three (3) years, commencing on January 1, 2025 and expiring on December 31, 2027; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute the Agreement on behalf of the local government and such further legal documents as may be required to facilitate the Agreement and this resolution.