



Municipality of the District of Argyle

Item: YMCA - request for operational funding increase and facilities condition assessment

Date: February 10, 2020

VISION

We see Argyle as home to a healthy and thriving rural population. Our municipality promotes and supports economic and social opportunities for the region and engages in the active expression of our unique Acadian heritage. We are a place of choice for rural living and are widely recognized for our warm hospitality and joie de vivre. Surrounded by fresh air and cool ocean breezes, we work and play in the great outdoors. People choose to live in Argyle because of our commitment to each other, to our community and to our neighbors. Argyle is a place we are proud to call home.

Background:

The YMCA has fallen under considerable financial pressure over multiple years. The introduction of an expanded Mariners Center to accommodate an aquatics center generated some excitement and expectations as it related to the YMCA in the region. As outlined in the attached power point documents, the YMCA has had a long history in this region, providing a variety of recreational services; most notably the pool, which has been a source of many programs for all ages. The YMCA building is in need of renewal, assuming their location will remain in downtown Yarmouth.

With the status of a Mariners Center Expansion in an indefinite hold, we are being asked to consider our role in assisting the YMCA in its current location. 2 years ago, funding for the YMCA, from all partners, equaled \$72,500 annually, our portion being \$15,000. This year, the YMCA requested and received an additional investment from all three units. The amount was considered one time to catch up from prior year deficits. The amount (total) closed in on \$167,000. Recently, the Y Canada has made a request for \$200,000 which would enable a continuation of operation at the current location, and a further request to partner to find ways to, together, find a sustainable path forward.

The Y will provide management support for another 2 months, afterwhich a local leadership solution will be required. Previously, the CEO was shared amongst two YMCA organizations. Local leadership is likely to add costs to the Y operation in Yarmouth but will have the benefit of a 100% local management.

There are various aspects of the current building that are end of life. We are unaware of all the aspects at this time. There was a condition assessment done on the Y's current location approximately 8 years ago. There are positive aspects of that report, but also items identified as renewal worthy.

Since Y Canada has asked for further funding and municipal partnership, the Yarmouth Y has had to shut down the pool and the hallway to the pool due to repair needs. The board authorized a pricing of a building condition assessment, and the result was a \$26,000 price tag, that they could not pay.

As noted in the Power point presentation attached, the YMCA request is complex. In a regional meeting of councils, the decision was unanimous; before any operating funding agreement can be made, we must determine the condition of the asset. Which is why the group recommended each Council to consider its portion of support.

MGA considerations:

Contributions to non-profit organizations are allowed under section 65 of the MGA, 65 1 C provides for policy around disclosure of amounts contributed.

CAO's Recommendation:

The facility assessment is critical to providing an evidenced based platform for decision. MODA budgeted up to \$40,000 for studies related to the Mariners Center expansion. \$26,000 was expended, thus, if Council intends to support the study, it can do so for up to \$14,000 without overspending the budget item. The recommendation coming from the three CAO's stated a full support for the cost of the facility assessment for the YMCA, to a maximum of \$40,000.

One third of \$40,000 is below the \$14,000 amount, being \$13,333. I would recommend full support for this contribution, to a maximum of \$13,333 from Argyle.

Suggested motion:

Move that Argyle support the YMCA Yarmouth request for financial support for their facility condition assessment, to a maximum of \$13,333, being one third of \$40,000.