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# HALDIMAND COUNTY

## Report CDP-05-2021 Community Partnership Program – Hagersville Firefighters Digital Sign Project Update



For Consideration by Council in Committee on September 14, 2021

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### OBJECTIVE:

To provide an update regarding the funding of the Hagersville Firefighters Digital Sign Project, approved through Report CDP-04-2020, including a request to amend the contribution from the Community Vibrancy Fund.

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Report CDP-05-2021 Community Partnership Program – Hagersville Firefighters Digital Sign Project Update, be received;
2. AND THAT capital funding contributed from the Ward 4 Community Vibrancy Fund, originally approved at \$6,000 through Report CDP-04-2020, be increased to an upset limit of \$21,600;
3. AND THAT project and funding approval remain conditional upon compliance with Haldimand County Policy 2011-01 and any legislated requirements and permits, including County standards and processes;
4. AND THAT the revised budget, as outlined in Report CDP-05-2021, be approved.

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**Reviewed by:** Katrina Schmitz, Manager, Community Development and Partnerships

**Respectfully submitted:** Mike Evers, MCIP, RPP, BES, General Manager of Community & Development Services

**Approved:** Craig Manley, MCIP, RPP, Chief Administrative Officer

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Hagersville Firefighters Association has long been an active and engaged group in the community, supporting local activities for the benefit of residents and visitors.

In early 2020, Haldimand County received and approved a request from the Firefighters—through the Community Partnership Program (CPP) and Report CDP-04-2020—to install a digital sign at the Hagersville Fire Hall/Emergency Services Station along Highway #6 and Concession 12 Walpole/Parkview Road. The new sign will be used to convey information to the community-at-large regarding fire prevention matters and other related issues of interest and concern.

The overall budget for this project has remained consistent since 2020 in spite of some minor changes in design. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the group has been unable to raise its share of funds towards this partnership project. In order to ensure the installation can proceed in a timely manner and within the original budget, the local Councillor has offered to commit additional Ward 4 Community

Vibrancy Funds to cover what would have been the required contribution from the Hagersville Firefighters Association.

## **BACKGROUND:**

Haldimand County's Community Partnership Program (CPP) is intended to encourage and enhance strategic partnerships to the benefit of community stakeholders, residents and the municipality, offering a simple, streamlined and customer-focused approach. The Program is intended to balance the rigor of the County review process—necessary to ensure legitimate public interest issues are addressed—with flexibility and respect for the volunteer commitment of the groups.

The new request, from the local Councillor, is for approval to increase the contribution from the Ward 4 Community Vibrancy Fund from the originally approved \$6,000 to \$21,600 in order to expedite the project.

## **ANALYSIS:**

The new Hagersville Emergency Services Station (Fire and Paramedic) was constructed in 2017 and plays a central role in the community through its provision of essential fire and paramedic services as well as community education and information. The original design plans for the Station included a digital sign at the roadway, near the intersection of Hwy. #6 and Concession 12 Walpole/Parkview Road.

The original request from the Firefighters for the digital sign was reviewed through Haldimand County's Community Partnership Program (CPP) and approved in March 2020 by Council (Report CDP-04-2020) with a total estimated budget of \$30,000.

At that time, the local Councillor indicated a desire to contribute \$6,000 towards the project from the Ward 4 Community Vibrancy Fund (CVF). Based upon policy (2011-01), the project was eligible for CPP funding in the amount of \$8,400, representing 35% of the \$24,000 balance of the project cost. The Hagersville Firefighters—with a track record of successful community fund-raising—were responsible for contributing \$15,600 towards the project.

Almost immediately after the project was approved the County and province moved into a lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which has continued for 18 months and counting. This restriction completely stalled the fund-raising efforts of the Firefighters and the digital sign project.

In an effort to allow the Firefighters to complete the project within the originally-approved budget, and given the benefit to the entire community of the project, the local Councillor has requested approval to provide the \$15,600 originally committed to by the Firefighters from the Ward 4 CVF.

## **FINANCIAL/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:**

The Hagersville Firefighters Association Digital Sign Project was originally reviewed through the Community Partnership Program (Policy No. 2011-01) and approved through Council Report CDP-04-2020.

Although the overall project budget has remained the same, Report CDP-05-2021 requests authorization to increase the originally-approved \$6,000 contribution from the Ward 4 Community Vibrancy Fund (CVF) to an upset amount of \$21,600. This is in recognition of the limits to community fund-raising during the pandemic and a desire to complete the project before associated construction costs increase. The CPP contribution of \$8,400 approved in the original report will remain the same. Both funding sources are to an upset amount and will be based upon actual costs.

As a result of the new request, the following budget amendment is required:

	<b>Current Approved Budget</b>	<b>Proposed Revised Budget</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>		
Hagersville Firefighters Association Digital Sign Project	\$30,000	\$30,000
<b>Total Expenditures:</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>
<b>Financing:</b>		
Community Vibrancy Fund Reserve (Ward 4)	\$6,000	\$21,600
Community Partnership Program Reserve	\$8,400	\$8,400
Community Contribution	\$15,600	\$0
<b>Total Financing</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>

### **STAKEHOLDER IMPACTS:**

This project has been reviewed by Emergency Services, Engineering Services, Building & Municipal Enforcement Services, Legal & Support Services, Facilities, Parks, Cemeteries & Forestry Operations and Roads Operations.

Staff have also been consulting with the Ministry of Transportation (MTO), on behalf of the group, which has given preliminary approval for the sign including specifications associated with the location, size and LED capacity. A permit application has been submitted to the MTO and, once approved, staff can apply (on behalf of the group) for a building permit, which is necessary to complete the project.

### **REPORT IMPACTS:**

Agreement: No

By-law: No

Budget Amendment: Yes

Policy: No

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

None.