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# HALDIMAND COUNTY

## Report CDP-06-2021 Community Halls Program – Pandemic-Associated Compensation (Second Quarter Report)



For Consideration by Council in Committee on September 14, 2021

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### OBJECTIVE:

To obtain Council approval to reimburse the volunteer Community Halls Boards of Directors for operating costs incurred at County-owned facilities during the second quarter of 2021.

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Report CDP-06-2021 Community Halls Program – Pandemic-Associated Compensation (Second Quarter Report) be received;
2. AND THAT the volunteer Boards of Directors managing Haldimand County's 18 Community Halls be reimbursed for actual operating costs for the second quarter of 2021, less 65% of any rental revenues received during the quarter, to an upset total amount of \$26,355;
3. AND THAT reimbursement payments outlined in Report CDP-06-2021 be funded from the provincial Safe Restart Program grant and continue to be reported on a quarterly basis.

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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:

During the second quarter of 2021, Haldimand County's 18 Community Halls—managed and maintained by volunteer Boards of Directors—continued to be unable to generate rental revenue to pay for ongoing operating costs due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and its associated restrictions.

Through report CDP-08-2020, Council directed staff to provide immediate reimbursement to the Community Halls Groups for actual utility costs from March 14, 2020 to the end of that year and report back with recommendations for an ongoing compensation process given the anticipated continuation of shutdowns associated with the pandemic.

In May 2021, staff presented report CDP-02-2021, which recommended that:

- Community Halls Groups continue to be reimbursed for ongoing, actual/fixed costs to operate and properly maintain their Halls for the duration of the pandemic or until the Halls are able to return to normal operations;
- Reimbursement amounts for each group were to be offset by 65% of any rental income received by the Halls; and

- Staff were to review financial reporting submissions from Hall Boards quarterly and provide recommendations to Council.

Report CDP-02-2021, specific to the first quarter of 2021, was approved by Council. Staff working with the Hall Boards have received and reviewed financials for the second quarter of 2021, resulting in a request for \$26,355 in compensation for that period.

## **BACKGROUND:**

Since 2002, Haldimand County has partnered with volunteer Boards of Directors to operate and maintain municipally-owned Community Halls. Currently, there are 18 such Halls. Through the Community Halls Policy (2003-01), these Groups are responsible for all operations and enhancements to these municipal buildings. Haldimand County is responsible for capital repairs and replacements associated with the structural integrity of the Halls as well as legislated life/health/public safety matters. The Community Halls partnership model has worked very well to the benefit of both the communities and the County.

The ongoing pandemic situation has continued to be extremely challenging for the Community Halls operators as provincial mandates have resulted in extensive periods of complete shutdown between March 14, 2020 and July 16, 2021, when the Province moved into Step 3 of its Roadmap to Reopen and very limited access to indoor events and activities was allowed.

## **ANALYSIS:**

In December 2020, Council directed staff to provide immediate reimbursement to the Community Halls Groups for actual utility costs from March 14, 2020 to the end of that year; those amounts were to be offset by any rental income generated by each Hall Board (report CDP-08-2020). Council further asked staff to report back with recommendations for an ongoing compensation process for the Halls, given the anticipated continuation of shutdowns associated with the pandemic.

Through report CDP-02-2021, Council approved that Community Halls Groups would continue to be reimbursed for ongoing, actual/fixed costs to operate and properly maintain their Halls for the duration of the pandemic and the associated restrictions; that reimbursement amounts would be offset by 65% of any rental income received by the Halls (in keeping with the funding principles of the Community Partnership Program and to ensure ongoing viability of the Halls Groups); and that staff would provide financial reporting to Council on a quarterly basis. Report CDP-06-2021—the subject report—represents the reporting for the second quarter of 2021.

In consultation with CDP staff, four Community Halls identified revenue in the second quarter to help offset ongoing operating expenses; these are the Cayuga Seniors Drop-In Centre, the Dunnville Community Lifespan Centre, the Hagersville Community Centre and the Selkirk Centennial Community Centre.

In the case of the Cayuga Seniors Drop-In Centre, 2021 operating costs are covered by separate historical grants – 20% from Haldimand County and 80% by a 2021 provincial government grant (provincial grant is expected to continue into 2022). The Selkirk Centennial Community Centre collects rental income from the Haldimand Public Library, the Hagersville Community Centre has collected some meeting revenue, while the Dunnville Lifespan Centre hosted a blood donor clinic during the second quarter.

On July 16, 2021 the Province moved into Step 3 of its Roadmap to Reopen, which allows Community Halls Groups to offer limited indoor rental opportunities. During Step 2 of Ontario's Roadmap to Reopening Plan, the Community Halls remained fully closed. As the County has begun to move through

Step 3, gatherings are still limited to a maximum of 50% of their normal capacity, with various health and safety measures in place such as mandatory masks, contact tracing, and the like. These continue to be significant restrictions, resulting in the majority of Halls continuing to remain closed due to lack of interest from potential renters. Given the trend heading into fall, it appears there is a good chance the County's Community Halls will continue to face limitations to opening and renting their facilities during the last half of the year. This is expected to result in at least one more request for compensation (i.e. for Q3 of 2021).

## FINANCIAL/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

Community Development & Partnerships Division staff have continued working with Community Halls groups to confirm actual fixed costs for the second quarter of 2021 as well as 65% of reported rental revenues. As indicated in the table below, Halls recorded minimal revenue during this time period, with many reporting no revenue.

Eligible operating costs include utilities (water, hydro, gas) and required maintenance (cleaning, inspections/maintenance of HVAC systems, grass cutting, waste removal). The chart below outlines the expenses and revenues for each of the Halls, as well as projected compensation amounts. The majority of the reimbursement amounts have been reconciled and are actuals; however, in some cases groups are waiting for documentation to confirm actual costs. Staff will review and check all payments continue to be based on actual costs before they are processed.

Community Halls	Total Request Q1 (CDP-02-2021)	Eligible Expenses Q2	Revenues (65% of Actuals) Q2	Total Request Q2 (CDP-06-2021)	2021 Year to Date (Q1 + Q2)
Caledonia LIONS Community Centre	\$0	\$3,800	\$0	\$3,800	\$3,800
Canboro Community Centre	\$500	\$1,750	\$0	\$1,750	\$2,250
Canfield Community Centre	\$1,350	\$1,250	\$0	\$1,250	\$2,600
Cayuga Kinsmen Community Centre	\$1,750	\$1,500	\$0	\$1,500	\$3,250
Cayuga Seniors Drop-In Centre	\$0	\$825	\$825	\$0	\$0
Cheapside Community Hall	\$500	\$1,280	\$0	\$1,280*	\$1,780
Dunnville Community Lifespan Centre	\$2,350	\$2,500	\$150	\$2,350	\$4,700
Fisherville Lions Community Centre	\$2,950	\$2,425	\$0	\$2,425	\$5,375
George Shippey Music Centre	\$400	\$250	\$0	\$250	\$650
Hagersville Community Centre	\$2,600	\$1,950	\$150	\$1,800	\$4,400
Haldimand Agricultural Community Centre	\$1,950	\$1,950	\$0	\$1,950	\$3,900
Jarvis Lions Community Centre	\$1,450	\$1,400	\$0	\$1,400	\$2,850
Lowbanks Community Centre	\$650	\$1,100	\$0	\$1,100	\$1,750

Nanticoke Community Hall	\$1,050	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000	\$2,050
Rainham Centre Community Hall	\$550	\$600	\$0	\$600	\$1,150
Selkirk Centennial Community Centre	\$3,000	\$4,800	\$1,900	\$2,900	\$5,900
Seneca Centennial Hall	\$450	\$450	\$0	\$450	\$900
Townsend Lions Hall	\$550	\$550	\$0	\$550	\$1,100
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$22,050</b>	<b>\$29,380</b>	<b>\$3,025</b>	<b>\$26,355</b>	<b>\$48,405</b>

\* includes payment withheld in error from Q1 data

Total reimbursement payments to the Community Halls for the second quarter of 2021 are to an upset total of \$26,355. Year-to-date reimbursement payments to Community Halls for 2021 total \$48,405, including the second quarter disbursement.

The 2021 Council Approved Tax-Supported Operating Budget does not include any budget associated with these costs. Haldimand County has received approximately \$3.7 million in funding from the provincial Safe Restart Program (COVID-19 grant) in total between 2020 and 2021 allocations. These costs will be covered by this funding source.

## STAKEHOLDER IMPACTS:

None.

## REPORT IMPACTS:

Agreement: No

By-law: No

Budget Amendment: Yes

Policy: No

## ATTACHMENTS:

None.