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# HALDIMAND COUNTY

## Report CDP-01-2022 Community Halls – Pandemic-Associated Compensation (Third Quarter Report)



For Consideration by Council on February 8, 2022

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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 third quarter of 2021.

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Report CDP-01-2022 Community Halls – Pandemic-Associated Compensation (Third 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 third quarter of 2021, less 65% of any rental revenues received during the quarter, to an upset total amount of \$18,180;
3. AND THAT reimbursement payments outlined in Report CDP-01-2022 be funded from the provincial Safe Restart Program grant and continue to be reported on a quarterly basis.

**Prepared by:** Sheryl Sawyer, Senior Community Partnership Liaison, Community Development and Partnerships

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

Through report CDP-02-2021, Haldimand County Council approved reimbursement to the Community Halls Groups for actual utility costs, offset by 35% of any rental income earned, throughout the pandemic and to report costs and disbursements on a quarterly basis.

Actual and projected invoice payments for the first half of 2021 total \$48,405 accounting for operating and maintenance costs of County-owned Community Halls. Staff working with the Hall Boards have received and reviewed financials for the third quarter of 2021, resulting in a request for \$18,180 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 has continued to be extremely challenging for the Community Halls operators. Ongoing provincial mandates (capacity limits, proof of vaccination checks) have resulted in little interest from the public to rent Halls and caution on the part of the volunteer operators to encourage gatherings.

## **ANALYSIS:**

In December 2020, (through report CDP-08-2020), Council directed staff to provide 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. 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;
- 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);
- Staff would provide financial reporting to Council on a quarterly basis. Report CDP-01-2022 – the subject report – represents the third quarter reporting.

### **Third-Quarter Reporting Details:**

In consultation with CDP staff, five Community Halls identified revenue in the third quarter to help offset ongoing operating expenses. The Cayuga Seniors Drop-in Centre's operating costs are fully covered through separate historical grants (20% from Haldimand County and 80% through the provincial government). The Selkirk Centennial Community Centre collects rental income from the Haldimand Public Library to offset much of its operating costs. The Hagersville Community Centre, the Dunnville Community Lifespan Centre and the Fisherville Lions Community Centre have each earned nominal revenue, of which 65% is withheld from Council-directed reimbursements, in keeping with Community Partnership Program principles, as noted above.

In October 2021, most provincial capacity restrictions were relaxed for community halls. At the same time, though, proof of vaccination procedures were established through provincial regulations and were implemented for renters. The requirement to monitor vaccination status at the door of events, which was mandated to be the responsibility of the Halls' operators, has been and continues to be challenging for both the volunteer Hall Boards as well as renters, and a deterrent to hosting events.

The pandemic continues to provide challenges for the sustainable operation of Haldimand County's Community Halls. Staff are supportive of continuing to compensate Groups for fixed operating and maintenance costs of these County-owned facilities during the pandemic.

## FINANCIAL/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

Community Development & Partnerships Division staff have continued working with Community Halls Groups to confirm actual fixed costs for the third quarter of 2021 as well as 65% of reported rental revenues. As indicated below, the Community Halls continued to record minimal revenue during this time, 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 estimated expenses and revenues for each of the Halls as presented in CDP-06-2021 Second Quarter Report, as well as projected compensation amounts. Payments to groups are based on actual invoices that have been presented to Haldimand County. Staff will continue to review and confirm all payments continue to be based on actual costs before they are processed.

It should be noted that for the fourth quarter of 2021, Halls Groups will be required to reconcile all final 2021 costs and revenue. Fourth quarter payments will be based on actuals and not estimates. All 2021 bills will be fully reconciled in an upcoming report encompassing all actual payments for the past year.

Community Hall	2021 Year to Date (Q1 + Q2)	Eligible Expenses Q3	Revenues (65% of Actuals) Q3	Total Request Q3 (CDP-01-2022)	2021 Year to Date (Q1-Q3)
Caledonia LIONS Community Centre	\$3,800	\$2,730	\$0	\$2,730	\$6,530
Canboro Community Centre	\$2,250	\$770	\$0	\$770	\$3,020
Canfield Community Centre	\$2,600	\$660	\$0	\$660	\$3,260
Cayuga Kinsmen Community Centre	\$3,250	\$1,580	\$0	\$1,580	\$4,830
Cayuga Seniors Drop-In Centre	\$0	\$850	\$850	\$0	\$0
Cheapside Community Hall	\$1,780	\$290	\$0	\$290	\$2,070
Dunnville Community Lifespan Centre	\$4,700	\$2,360	\$380	\$1,980	\$6,680
Fisherville Lions Community Centre	\$5,375	\$2,000	\$520	\$1,480	\$6,855
George Shippey Music Centre	\$650	\$100	\$0	\$100	\$750
Hagersville Community Centre	\$4,400	\$1,720	\$700	\$1,020	\$5,420
Haldimand Agricultural Community Centre	\$3,900	\$620	\$0	\$620	\$4,520
Jarvis Lions Community Centre	\$2,850	\$1,800	\$0	\$1,800	\$4,650
Lowbanks Community Centre	\$1,750	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000	\$2,750
Nanticoke Community Hall	\$2,050	\$1,050	\$0	\$1,050	\$3,100

Rainham Centre Community Hall	\$1,150	\$990	\$0	\$990	\$2,140
Selkirk Centennial Community Centre	\$5,900	\$3,370	\$1,880	\$1,490	\$7,390
Seneca Centennial Hall	\$900	\$220	\$0	\$220	\$1,120
Townsend Lions Hall	\$1,100	\$400	\$0	\$400	\$1,500
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$48,405</b>	<b>\$22,510</b>	<b>\$4,330</b>	<b>\$18,180</b>	<b>\$66,585</b>

Total reimbursement payments to the Community Halls for the third quarter of 2021 are to an upset total of \$18,180. Estimated year-to-date reimbursement payments to the Community Halls in the third quarter total \$66,585.

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:**

Not applicable.

### **REPORT IMPACTS:**

Agreement: No

By-law: No

Budget Amendment: Yes

Policy: No

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

None.