

Type of Decision									
Meeting Date	Friday, September 7, 2012				Report Date	Tuesday, August-28-12			
Decision Required	X	Yes		No	Priority	X	High		Low
Direction	x	Information Only			Type of Meeting	X	Open		Closed
REPORT TITLE									
Upper Ottawa Valley Chamber of Commerce Proposal and Deputation - Report #7/09/12/401									

Subject: A summary of the meeting attended by the Reeve and Clerk on Friday, August 24, 2012 by the Upper Ottawa Valley Chamber of Commerce.

RECOMMENDATION: That Council seriously consider supporting the proposal of the Upper Ottawa Valley Chamber of Commerce.

Background/Executive Summary: On Friday, August 24, 2012 Reeve Stewart and I attended a meeting of area Heads of Councils, CAOs, AECL staff and members of the Upper Ottawa Valley Chamber of Commerce to hear a proposal put forth by the Chamber for consideration of participation in "A Center for the History of Canadian Nuclear Science & Technology" coupled with a Tourist Information Center for the Greater Upper Ottawa Valley.

The Chamber members will attend Council on September 7, 2012 but the basis of their presentation is as follows:

- They are currently looking for a commitment in principle from stakeholders prior to proceeding to the next level for support for a high level concept facility.
- Ultimately, a facility will be built, housing an AECL display as well as a separate section dedicated to local tourism and information.
- The Chamber will take the lead in applying for grants and procuring capital likely financing 50%. They will remain the landlords and once the facility is paid for, will not charge an annual rental fee.
- AECL will be responsible for furnishing and staffing the displays for their section.
- The three (possibly more) municipalities are being requested to consider supporting a pro-rated debt repayment schedule as well as financing annual operating costs specific to the tourist information section.
- The center will be operational year round.
- The entire concept is in its infancy and may develop in ways not yet even considered.
- The Chamber is simply looking for buy-in; prior to spending time and resources going forward.

Why should Council consider supporting this venture?

- It is a cost effective way of providing year-round tourist information.
- Provides unlimited opportunities for marketing, tourism and economic development.
- May provide a significant area attraction.
- Potential job creation.
- Supports the nuclear industry which has been the economic engine for this area for many years in the past and hopefully many years into the future.

Financial Considerations/Budget Impact: Obviously the Chamber is looking for a long term commitment to financing and support.

Using the data in the report presented on the 24th and the “usual” pro-rated per-capita split amongst the three municipalities; the \$45,330 annual expenses would result in approximately

- \$25, 838 – Deep River
- \$17,225 – Laurentian Hills and
- \$2,266 – Head, Clara & Maria.

The Chamber used in their presentation a 33% split however; the municipalities have agreed in the past to use the fairer per capita split. Details will need to be determined.

Obviously this is a very high level estimate, the details will need to be broken down however; the costs do not seem unreasonable for Head, Clara & Maria at this level.

Policy Impact: None, municipalities are free to enter into these types of agreements.

Others Consulted/Resources/References: UOVCC presentation. DRDH cost sharing estimates for physician recruitment.

Approved and Recommended by the Clerk

Melinda Reith,
Municipal Clerk

Melinda Reith