

Type of Decision									
Meeting Date	Tuesday, November 14, 2017				Report Date	Thursday, November 9, 2017			
Decision Required	X	Yes		No	Priority	X	High		Low
Direction	x	Information Only			Type of Meeting	X	Open		Closed
REPORT TITLE – 2017-2018 Grant Funding									
Report #14/11/17/1203									

Subject:

Council commitment to ongoing seniors programming.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council approve the following resolution supporting on-going assistance for seniors within Head, Clara & Maria and surrounding areas.

Resolution #1

WHEREAS the province has announced continued funding for programming which benefit seniors including health and wellness and aging in place;

AND WHEREAS this is an important issue in our isolated community where winter travel significantly limits the ability and/or willingness of seniors to travel;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria does support staff grant applications towards improved senior programming within our community;

AND FURTHER THAT Council does hereby commit staff support and up to \$2,400 in cash and in-kind contributions in support of senior's activity programming;

AND FURTHER THAT Council does hereby authorize staff to investigate and apply for funding through the Ontario government and commits up to 20% or \$12,000 towards the cost of a vehicle to be used for seniors programming to be used with volunteer drivers in support of area seniors.

Resolution #2

WHEREAS Council has annually supported Canada Day celebrations and applications for funding through the Heritage Canada Grant program;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria does hereby support a grant application through this program and commits up to \$2,500 towards the costs food and/or fireworks for the 2018 celebration;

BACKGROUND/EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Staff have been successful in obtaining funding through this seniors program for the past 2 years and have hosted a number of different program events which have been fairly well attended. With ongoing funding, the events/activities which are more popular may be repeated and extended.

Staff will canvas attendees, and use documented records of attendance to determine which activities will be repeated, which won't.

One of the main challenges with hosting winter events is that many of our seniors who participate do not like to drive during winter weather or after dark.

As a result, staff are considering applying for grant opportunities to determine if a shuttle might be provided. We are in the early stages of determining what may or may not be covered in the grant funding but are considering such things as contracting with a firm to provide services through one of the "short" or half buses. Not sure that leasing would qualify under the grant programs yet.

The other option would be to purchase a van which we could use at our discretion, on short notice etc. with volunteer drivers. We have already determined that existing municipal liability insurance covers volunteers, and volunteer drivers. Policy would have to be put in place to vet driver's etc. but that work would only be completed once a vehicle has been obtained. In doing this, council would also be committed to ongoing operational, maintenance and ownership costs of this vehicle which would result in an increased budget for 2018 and ongoing.

Staff are asking for council's support and commitment of funding to investigate and apply for funding for these two purposes. As usual, the time between grant notice and application deadlines are limited. These resolutions are pro-active. Funding deadline for this program is November 30, 2017.

Canada Day grant deadline is November 21, 2017. Participants in 2017 were impressed by the fireworks show. It is anticipated that 2018s event may change from the traditional lunch to a later event ending with fireworks. Details have not been worked out yet but grant application is due. Please advise staff of your preference for consideration in drafting the grant application.

Options/Discussion:

Financial Considerations/Budget Impact:

Funds are available in reserves and surplus for 2017. Council had committed \$25,000 of 2016's surplus to Homecoming expenses which were not required. Those funds could be redirected towards the cost of a vehicle. Annually, HCM has recognized a surplus, a part of which could be used towards the operational and maintenance costs of operating this vehicle.

Larger communities operate public transportation, smaller communities cannot. This is a compromise. The vehicle could also be used for other municipal business as well.

Council has in the past funded Canada Day through in kind costs of staff time, paper, supplies etc. as well as sponsoring a lunch. Attendees at 2017s event suggested a change to an evening event with fireworks as 2017s event was such a success.

Policy Impact:

Others Consulted:

Approved and Recommended by the Clerk

Melinda Reith,

Municipal Clerk

Melinda Reith