

Type of Decision									
Meeting Date	Thursday, June 6, 2019				Report Date	Monday, June 3, 2019			
Decision Required	X	Yes		No	Priority	X	High		Low
Direction	X	Information Only			Type of Meeting	X	Open		Closed

Report #06/06/19/502- Heli-pad

SUBJECT: Heli-pad

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council continue to support the Heli-pad in Stonecliffe and authorize staff to have the necessary work completed to resume operations.

BACKGROUND/EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In May 2018 we received information from ORNGE air that our helipad was restricted to day operations only, because of trees needing to be removed or at least trimmed. Our 2018 funding was not released based on our contract requirements not being met.

On May 29, 2019 we had our annual Helipad Compliance Inspection at which we were informed by the inspector that the helipad had to be shut down of operations, even for day landing, because the lights are not properly secured to the concrete pad. The inspector suggested that we anchor tires filled with cement to the asphalt so there is a buffer between the lights and the ground which will provide clearance for the plow.

There have been concerns with the costs associated with operating the helipad and the lack of use. Council needs to determine if they wish to proceed with having the Heli-pad available for use in our municipality. The cost associated with maintaining the Heli-pad is typically only snow removal over an accumulation of 2". No salt or sand is to be applied to the Heli-pad for safety reasons. The township is responsible for ensuring that the 100' radius surrounding the heli-pad, as well as the flight path coming in and out of the pad is clear of debris and trees/limbs.

Financial Considerations/Budget Impact:

The costs to date for maintaining the helipad have been minimal and covered (typically resulting in surplus) under the maintenance funding provided by ORNGE air. ORNGE provides the township with \$3,500 yearly for maintenance.

The exact maintenance costs are not segregated or therefore known because the Road Superintendent plows the Heli-pad surface at the same time as his regular plowing around the municipal buildings.

However, to provide the most accurate estimate for the previous season; the Road Superintendent plowed the Helipad approximately 18 times from November 2018 - April 2019. Based on these figures the approximate cost to remove snow from the Heli-pad for the 2018-2019 winter season was less than \$550 excluding fuel.

The cost of \$1 million liability insurance for the Heli-pad is \$1000 annually.

If you estimate the cost of plowing (to include fuel) at \$1000 and the insurance at \$1000 the total cost for the season would be approximately \$2000, leaving a \$1500 surplus.

The contract with ORNGE has been in place since 2015. If we estimated the surplus at a lower amount of \$1000 per year from 2015-2017, there would be approximately \$3000 of surplus maintenance money that could be used towards having the trees removed and lights anchored; revenue that is not coming directly from taxation.

It is estimated to cost \$450 to have the lights anchored to the asphalt including material and labour and \$1480 to have the trees removed (heavy equipment and staff labour time). Quotes will be obtained before completing the work if Council chooses to proceed with supporting the operations of the Heli-pad in order to determine the best method of having the trees removed.

Others Consulted:

Dave Phillips, ORNGE Air
Wilfred Lamure, Roads Superintendent

Approved and Recommended by the Clerk

Crystal Fischer,
Clerk/ Deputy Treasurer