

**MINUTES  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2019  
SPENCERVILLE MUNICIPAL OFFICE  
6:30 PM**

**Present:** Mayor Sayeau, Chair  
Deputy Mayor Deschamps  
Councillor Cameron  
Councillor Dillabough  
Councillor Hunter  
Jack Bradley, Advisory Member  
Dave Robertson, Advisory Member

**Staff:** Dave Grant, CAO  
Debra McKinstry, Clerk  
Melanie Stubbs, Treasurer  
Rebecca Williams, Deputy Clerk  
Mike Spencer, Manager of Parks, Recreation & Facilities

1. Call to Order

Mayor Sayeau called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

**Moved** by: J. Hunter seconded by: H. Cameron that the agenda be approved as presented.

Carried

3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest & the General Nature Thereof – None

4. Discussion Items – Arena Cost Sharing

Committee reviewed the Minutes of October 15, 2019 and Council Resolution 2019-364. It was noted that the resolution was circulated to staff at Augusta and Prescott for distribution to their respective Councils. Committee reviewed the ICIP joint application requirements and highlighted the project requirements and eligibility conditions under sections 4.1 and 4.2.

Committee reviewed the user rental hours report and the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter facility stats report for the Cardinal and Spencerville arenas and noted that approximately 10% of the prime-time ice was not being rented. It was noted that South Grenville Minor Hockey (SGMH) has reduced their need by 100 hours in 2019. Members confirmed that staff offered SGMH available timeslots and weekends for

tournaments, however SGMH declined the offers. It was noted that SGMH participation has decreased in 2019.

Committee reviewed the arena financial reports and outlined the minor revenue and expenses value discrepancies, noting that there is a \$19,000 decrease in revenue each year at the Cardinal arena due to an annual decrease in the Port of Johnstown donations. Additionally, there was a \$30,000 transfer to reserves listed under the Spencerville arena expenses, which shouldn't reflect in the 2018 operating cost total.

The letter from Mayor Sayeau offering assistance, dated August 27, 2018, which was hand delivered to the Town of Prescott with respect to the closure of the Leo Boivin area was circulated and discussed. It was noted that the Town of Prescott did not acknowledge receipt of the letter. Members provided Committee with a summary of events, specifically with respect to the various meetings between the CAO's, Mayors and Deputy Mayors that began in March 2019 with a pitch to the Township for the future development of a new arena in Prescott. Members noted that during the March 21 meeting, the concept was outlined, along with possible capital contributions, however the attendees were informed that the Township would not have any input to the concept design or location of the new arena. It was noted that the CAO's met a number of times following the March 21 meeting, however, discussion was mostly focused around other cost sharing options, such as library and building/bylaw services.

Members commented on the ICIP guidelines, specifically with respect to understanding conditions surrounding capital and operating cost contribution requirements.

Members spoke to the 2016 census report, noting that the population for Augusta, Edwardsburgh Cardinal and Prescott combined was approximately 18,670. Members noted that approximately 20% of youth are playing hockey in Canada. Members noted that during Prescott's presentation to Committee on October 15, Mayor Todd indicated that they were not seeking capital contributions from the Township.

Members highlighted articles with respect to arena cost sharing agreement efforts in other surrounding municipalities such as Smiths Falls, Gananoque and Leeds and the Thousand Islands. Members commented on the concerns and disagreements that have resulted from the cost sharing agreements, noting that the agreements are not always easily managed with multiple municipalities involved. Members noted that cost sharing agreements are complex in nature and take time to properly discuss the terms before the final agreement is accepted and executed.

Members noted that approximately 50% of the arena expenses are due to staff salaries and wages. Members spoke to the concern that the demand for ice is

decreasing on a yearly basis. Members enquired as to how the Township could justify the construction of a 3<sup>rd</sup> arena in the area, if the current 2 arenas are not being fully rented. There was a general discussion with respect to groups seeking more convenient ice rental hours.

A member suggested that the Township consider an agreement with August and Prescott to share the operational costs and the new arena with an even 1/3 split, and for a term of 10 years (2020-2030). Members commented on concerns with respect to rushing the cost sharing discussions due to the ICIP application submission deadline. Members noted that the Township of Augusta Council has yet to fully discuss both Edwardsburgh Cardinal's and Prescott's proposals.

Members enquired about the lifecycle of the Spencerville arena. Staff provided an update with respect to the condition and recent work completed at the Spencerville arena, noting the following: arena floor is in good condition, header trench was replaced in 2016, in 2019 the chiller was replaced, currently reviewing the compressors as they will need to be replaced in the near future due to the number of hours they have been used. It was noted that the next 5-year structural review is due to be completed in 2021 and the current report indicates that the arena is in good condition.

There was a general discussion with respect to how Committee should proceed in the discussion, specifically with respect to agreement negotiations. Members commented on the lack of feedback from Augusta and the need for a fulsome discussion and negotiation rather than rushing into a cost sharing agreement. Members spoke to their individual appetite towards possible future cost sharing agreements, which ranged from disinterested, mildly interested, interested in collaborating only if the Township had input into the design//location of the building, interested if the agreement benefited all parties and citizens, and very interested in a cost sharing agreement.

Members noted a comment from a concerned citizen who commented that if the three separate municipalities were one municipality, would the Council still be considering the construction of a third arena. Members briefly discussed the notion and noted their doubts of needing an additional arena with a total population under 19,000.

5. Councillor Inquiries/Notices of Motion – None

6. Question Period

The following questions/comments were raised:

- Next steps in the process


7. Closed Session – None

8. Adjournment

**Moved** by: J. Bradley seconded by: D. Robertson that Committee does now adjourn at 7:45 pm.

Carried

These minutes were approved in open Council this 25<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2019.

Chair 

Deputy Clerk 