

REPORT FROM NOVEMBER 24 MEETING

Township of McNab/Braeside hosted the meeting

Attending: Mayor Tom Peckett, Deputy Mayor Brian Armsden, Township Treasurer Kelly Coughlan, Township CAO Lindsey Lee, Arnprior Mayor Walter Stack, Arnprior CAO Robin Paquette, Library Board Interim Chair Josie Scott, Karen DeLuca, CEO. Also in attendance: Arnprior Treasurer Jennifer Morawiec.

Agenda set by CAO Robin Paquette who did round table introductions.

Distributed package included previous correspondence, updated 2020 Forecast, M/B Letter outlining reduction, Board Chair's letter outlining consequences of 2020 grant reduction, population distribution tables provided by the County of Renfrew.

No formal minutes were taken

PRESENTATION OF 2020 POPULATION DISTRIBUTION:

Arnprior Treasurer outlined the new population breakdowns as provided by the County of Renfrew. It shifts some of the base funding from M/B to Arnprior.

2020 REDUCTION:

M/B Treasurer outlined their rationale for the reduction in the grant. Stressed that the "Service Agreement" refers to "Service Rendered". Library closed = no service; fewer hours = reduced service. Precedent: pool closure and reduced grant in previous years. Negotiations currently underway to determine the reduction in the JSA for recreation grant

There was some expressed concern re: poor internet access in the township, and by extension that meant the majority of M/B residents could not access eResources during the closure.

Note: the library cannot determine which card accesses digital content. Memberships are validated on an individual basis and not identified. In-library circulation has been steady at about 32% circulation from M/B cards.

Deputy Mayor Armsden outlined the hesitancy to quantify the value of reduced services and the "high level" decision to reduce by ~25% pertains to the two week closure (mandated or not) and the loss of services – including those which create self-generating revenue such as printing, book sales etc.

There was no interest in budgeting on this point.

Arnprior did not offer to fill in the gap. Exact \$\$ figures on the deficit were not discussed.

MOVING FORWARD: 2021

There was expressed willingness to continue with an agreement. Both Mayor Peckett and Deputy Mayor Armsden indicated the Township could opt for the less expensive model of reimbursing non-resident fees. Historically, this has meant a revenue stream of about \$24,000 from Township ratepayers. DM Armsden did mention he is aware the current - and preceding- Councils were elected in part because of the Reading and Recreation election campaign.

Lengthy discussion on the notion that funding is not tied to hours of service per se. Township agrees in principle that funding will be based on whatever the library determines is the level of service given the constraints of the current COVID scenario. However, if the library were to close again (mandated or not) the township funding would be reduced proportionally.

The Township's placeholder budget amount is the \$129K as requested in the Board's letter as status quo moving into the new year. This will be reduced by the updated population figures. In theory, Arnprior will assume the differential.

It was agreed the updated JSA will be deferred until 2021.

CONCLUSION:

The Board's request to continue status quo for the new budget year and review the agreement funding base (negotiations) in the spring of 2021 is the moving forward approach.

Board motion from July:

Motion 2020-14 Moved by Bill Skinner, seconded by Elizabeth Stewart that the Board send a formal request to both municipalities to defer negotiations on financial contributions for an updated Service Contract with McNab/Braeside to May 31, 2021 and that the contributions as per the current JSA remain as the base figure – carried.

Hours / services and programming to be determined by the Board.

The outstanding issue is the funding reduction in 2020 which leaves the Board with a deficit.