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Date: January 19, 2021
To: Mayor and Council
Author: Ryan McLeod, CPA, CA
RE: 2021 Kingsville Community Grants
Report No.: FS-2021-03

AIM

To provide council with the scoring results of the 2021 Kingsville Community Grant requests and to provide an update on the 2020 grant payouts.

BACKGROUND

Municipalities are often asked to provide financial and in kind support to various charities, not for profit organizations and other special interest groups. In an effort to respond these requests in a consistent and transparent manner, the Kingsville Community Grant Program was developed.

Council reviewed and updated its Community Grant Policy in 2019 to ensure it continued to meet the needs and objectives of the Municipality. As part of this policy, grant applications are scored by the Director of Financial Services or his designate.

DISCUSSION

For 2021, the Town received only 9 grant requests totaling \$63,100 compared to 2020 where it received 24 grant requests totaling \$162,917. The drastic reduction in the number of requests is primarily due to COVID-19 and the uncertainty surrounding future pandemic restrictions. Further, a number of 2020 grant recipients were forced to cancel their planned events and are requesting to carry-over their funds into 2021.

A summary of the 2021 grant requests and scoring results is outlined in Appendix A. The applications have been presented from high score to low score. To help facilitate discussion, Administration has also provided a recommended award amount. It is fully recognized that any grant awards are subject to Council's complete discretion and approval.

It should also be noted, that the Administrative scoring matrix is an effective tool to assess the completeness and eligibility of the applications, however, it does not fully account for the subjective merits of the proposals or the organizations putting them forward. Council should be aware of the limitations of the scoring matrix when making their final funding decisions.

A summary of 2020 grant recipients and their uses or planned use of the funds is outlined in Appendix B. Based on the information provided by the recipients, Administration is not recommending the repayment of any 2020 grant awards at this time.

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Promote the betterment, self-image and attitude of the community.

Improve recreational and cultural facilities and opportunities within the Town of Kingsville.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The Kingsville Community Grant Policy recommends annual maximum in grant awards of .5% of the previous year's tax levy. The 2021 Draft budget was prepared based on this threshold and currently provides for \$92,432 in grant awards, which exceeds the total grant requests received to date. Administration recommends reducing the Donation and Grants Budget (01-112-200-60390) to reflect the actual amount of grants awarded.

CONSULTATIONS

All 2020 recipients were contacted for comment on the status of their grant awards.

RECOMMENDATION

That council receive the grant application and scoring summary to assist with 2021 budget deliberations.

Ryan McLeod

Ryan McLeod, CPA, CA
Director of Financial and IT Services