



TOWNSHIP OF NORTH HURON

REPORT

Item No.

REPORT TO: Reeve Vincent and Members of Council
PREPARED BY: Pat Newson
DATE: 18/09/2017
SUBJECT: Almost Famous Players MOU
ATTACHMENTS: Draft Memorandum of Understanding with Almost Famous Players

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Council of the Township of North Huron hereby receive the report on the Almost Famous Players MOU for information purposes;

AND FURTHER THAT the Clerk be directed to prepare an authorizing by-law for the Memorandum of Understanding between the Township of North Huron and the Almost Famous Players for the use of the Wingham Town Hall Theatre.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since 2004 the Almost Famous Players have used the Wingham Town Hall Theatre. The group practices weekly on Mondays between 1:00 – 2:30pm. The group has always used the theatre at no charge. The North Huron Donation and Fee Waiving Policy requires that fees may be waived under the following conditions:

- A Reciprocal Agreement Partnership Agreement is in place and adopted by the Township of North Huron as by-law. The agreement may outline rates or fees that differ from the Rates and Fees By-Law and would supersede this policy.
- A Committee of Council where the “Terms of Reference” for that committee has been adopted as by-law by council, and may outline a specific arrangement for rental rates or facility usage for that committee to carry out their mandate.

This report outlines the background and recommendation for the Almost Famous Players use of the facility and fees for use.

DISCUSSION

Reason for the MOU

The Almost Famous Players provide an essential service for adults with disabilities in the community. The organization is a Not for Profit Charity operated by an independent Board of Directors. The group meets weekly to rehearse in the Wingham Town Hall Theatre. They do not pay for the use of the theatre for rehearsals, and they rehearse at a time when groups are not permitted to perform or rehearse in the theatre according to the Wingham Town Hall Theatre Rental Terms and Conditions adopted by Council May 2017. Due to the disruption to the Administration Offices, groups are not permitted to perform or rehearse between 8:30am-4:30pm Monday to Friday. The exception has always been the Almost Famous Players. In the past, all their fees for the rehearsals have been waived by the Wingham Heritage Theatre Group that operated the theatre prior to its closing. Through the theatre closure, the Almost Famous Players have been

permitted to rehearse in the theatre on Mondays with permission and provisions outlined by the North Huron Fire Chief. The Almost Famous Players are requesting that their terms of use not change as a result of the new policies for renting the Wingham Town Hall Theatre in North Huron. To accommodate this request, the Almost Famous Players representatives from the Board of Directors, and the Director of Recreation and Facilities have drafted a Memorandum of Understanding for Council's consideration.

Rational

The Almost Famous Players are a Not for Profit Charity. They have been stakeholders in the Wingham Town Hall Theatre since 2004. They have representation on the Wingham Town Hall Theatre Renovation Committee. When the theatre was operated by the Wingham Heritage Theatre Group, the Almost Famous Players were not charged any rent for either rehearsals or performances. The draft MOU has permitted that rehearsal rental fees are waived, but fees for performances will be charged at the community rate. The rehearsals occur on Mondays when the building is already staffed, so there is no additional staffing cost to supervise the rehearsal. Staff are required during performances for public safety and facility management.

The Almost Famous Players organization provide a unique service in the community. Their members rely on this weekly activity for social and personal development. The Township of North Huron strives to be an inclusive community and a goal of Recreation is to "Counteract social exclusion". For these reasons, the Almost Famous Players are a community partner with the Recreation Department and warrant consideration for waiving fees to support their necessary work. As a charity they operate solely on donations and cannot afford to pay the weekly rental fee for their rehearsals.

The Memorandum of Understanding also outlines some terms by which the Almost Famous Players may store some of their electronic sound equipment and rehearsal props at the theatre.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The annual fee for using the theatre for their rehearsals would total \$1,764.00 (estimate)

Rehearsal Rate (Community Group)	\$24.50/hour
Mondays 1:00-2:30	\$36.75/Monday
48 Mondays per year (estimated use)	\$1,764.00

FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

If Council accepts the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Township and the Almost Famous Players, it would be prepared as a by-law agreement for Council to adopt at a future meeting.

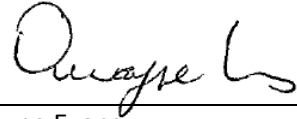
RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Our residents are engaged and well informed. Under this goal the Outcome: We cultivate a culture of volunteerism and belonging.

Our administration is fiscally responsible and strives for operational excellence.



Pat Newson
Director of Recreation and Facilities



Dwayne Evans,
CAO