



Staff Report

If this information is required in an alternate accessible format, please contact the Accessibility Coordinator at 905-623-3379 ext. 2131.

Report To:	General Government Committee	
Date of Meeting:	May 9, 2022	Report Number: CSD-010-22
Submitted By:	George Acorn, Director of Community Services	
Reviewed By:	Mary-Anne Dempster, CAO	By-law Number:
File Number:		Resolution#:
Report Subject:	COVID Support for Community Halls and Arenas	

Recommendation:

1. That Report CSD-010-22, and any related communication items be received for information.

Report Overview

Staff presented report [CSD-007-21](#) on October 18, 2021. The report outlined the ongoing challenges being faced by Community Hall and Arena Boards in meeting the requirements of the Reopening Ontario Act (ROA). Through that report, Resolution C-322-21 directed the Director of Financial Services/Treasurer to provide funding for the proof of vaccination process, utilizing the COVID-19 Recover Funds and/or Safe Restart funds. The arrangement was to remain in place until March 31, 2022, or earlier if amendments were made to the ROA to eliminate the need for proof of vaccination.

Staff committed to reporting back in the spring of 2022 on the total costs of supporting the proof of vaccination requirements. This report identifies that the total cost for proof of vaccination is \$25,920.14 for the hall and arena boards.

1. Background

- 1.1 Starting at the beginning of the pandemic, staff recognized the impact of the closures on our Community Hall and Arena Boards. As a result, different financial supports were put in place to assist the boards.
- 1.2 Most recently, through report CSD-007-21, it was identified that to meet the requirements under the Reopening Ontario Act (ROA), vaccination status was required to be verified when entering recreation facilities, starting on September 22, 2021, including Community Halls and Arenas. The requirement was lifted by the Province of Ontario as of March 1, 2022.
- 1.3 To support our community hall and arena operations, Council, through resolution C-322-21 identified the need to support our Community Hall and Arena Boards to meet these requirements. Boards were able to access support in one of two ways. Boards could either choose to pay for their own verification process and then submit costs to the Municipality for reimbursement, or the Boards could choose to access the Security company under contract to the Municipality.
- 1.4 Community Services staff were responsible to work with each Board to, either make the necessary arrangements to schedule private security services, or to coordinate the reporting of costs incurred by the Board and arrange for reimbursement.
- 1.5 Staff also worked with Finance to track the costs of providing this support to the Boards and have outlined the financial impact in this report.

2. Financial Impact

- 2.1 Of the 11 eligible Boards, eight took advantage of the offered support for vaccine verification. The locations included: Brownsdale Community Centre, Hampton Community Association, Memorial Park Clubhouse, Newcastle Community Hall, Newtonville Community Hall, Tyrone Community Centre, Orono Arena and Community Centre and Newcastle Memorial Arena. The three Boards that did not use the service are Haydon Community Hall, Orono Town Hall and Solina Community Centre.
- 2.2 The total cost for support for vaccine verification was \$25,920.14 from October 2021 through March 1, 2022. As outlined in the resolution, the funding for this support was taken from the Safe Restart Program funding.

3. Concurrence

- 3.1 This report has been reviewed by the Director of Financial Services/Treasurer who concurs with the recommendation.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 Resolution C-322-21 requested that staff report back to Council on the financial support provided to Community Hall and Arena Boards to support the ROA requirements to complete vaccine verification. The report outlines that the total cost for providing support for that service was \$25,920.14 from October 2021 to March 1, 2022. At that time the requirement for vaccine verification was lifted by the Province of Ontario.
- 4.2 By directing staff to undertake this program, Council provided valuable assistance to our volunteer boards, that unburdened them of the added operating costs for vaccination verification. This helped remove one barrier as they worked through the many challenges of reopening their operations to the members of their communities.

Staff Contact: Lee-Ann Reck, Manager, Client Services, 905-623-3379 ext. 2508 or lreck@clarington.net

Attachments:

Not Applicable

Interested Parties:

List of interested Parties available from Department.