



Municipality of the District of Argyle

Item: COCMA 2024

Date: August 18, 2020

VISION

We see Argyle as home to a healthy and thriving rural population. Our municipality promotes and supports economic and social opportunities for the region and engages in the active expression of our unique Acadian heritage. We are a place of choice for rural living and are widely recognized for our warm hospitality and joie de vivre. Surrounded by fresh air and cool ocean breezes, we work and play in the great outdoors. People choose to live in Argyle because of our commitment to each other, to our community and to our neighbors. Argyle is a place we are proud to call home.

Background:

The Municipality of Argyle received the following correspondence from the president of the COCMA 2024 committee, Allister Surette.

« Maintenant que le COCMA 2024 est incorporé et que son Conseil d'administration est complet avec ses 12 membres, plus un membre ex-officio de la SNA, nous sommes sur la veille d'embaucher une direction générale. Nous avons fait avancé plusieurs dossiers de gouvernance et somme prêt à passer à des dossiers plus opérationnels. C'est pour cette raison, que suite aux propositions ci-dessous, nous font requête pour ce financement de votre municipalité. Nous sommes très reconnaissants de votre appui du CMA 2024. »

Translated loosely – Now that the COCMA 2024 is incorporated and the 12 members of the board are now selected, we are in the process of hiring an executive director. We have advanced many governance initiatives and are ready to move into operational priorities. It is for this reason, and understanding that you have made the motions below, that we request funding from the Municipality. We are grateful for your support of the CMA 2024

The motions referred to in the request are as follows:

Dec 10, 2019 motion:

It is moved by Guy Surette and seconded by Kathy Bourque to approve the COCMA 2024 board of directors as presented. Motion carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

January 8, 2019 motion:

It is moved by Lucien LeBlanc and seconded by Glenn Diggdon to support the organizing committee in its bid to host the 2024 CMA and that the Municipality commit up to \$250,000 to that aim. Motion Carried (7 in favour, 0 against)

MGA considerations:

Section 65's enabling legislation allows for expenditures of this nature, specifically contributions to non-profit organizations. Council is required to publish all contributions to non-profit organizations, which it does each year. Any contribution to COCMA 2024 would be published.

Budget considerations:

The current budget anticipated a contribution of 12,500 in the current year, and a more aggressive contribution in future years. This amount was influenced partially by COVID restrictions, and partially due to anticipated speed upon which the Board would operationalize. At the time of the budget, the board was still forming, and moved quickly thereafter.

If COCMA 2024 is hiring a director, they will require more than \$12,500. Seeing as the commitment was for \$250,000 total, it would be logical to suggest that the annual contribution be \$50,000. I asked what the Municipality of Clare contributed to this point, and their contribution was \$100,000 (\$50,000 per year). While this would represent the second year since our commitment to fund, the society was only formed this year.

The Municipality of Clare and Argyle are co-partners in this event. It would be appropriate to match the commitment made by our partners, though there is no contractual obligation to do so. A decision to match will result in an additional \$85,000 expense (unbudgeted) in the current year, but the expense is not new, rather it is accelerated.

Other budgetary considerations:

As Council is aware, the operational budget was prepared with much fiscal uncertainty. Covid-19 related estimates placed prudence in revenues and increased concerns for slow tax payments. Staff is closely watching how this fiscal is playing out in actual terms.

Deed transfer tax revenues were budgeted at a low \$53,000 for the year. Our revenues as of July 31, 2020 are slightly over \$50,000, which is not only significantly ahead of last year, but well ahead of the current year. The real estate market is currently hot, with homes selling at a speed not seen in years. Projections would place Deed transfer tax revenues at \$100,000 ahead of predictions. Furthermore, collections are slightly ahead of last year at July 31, 2020 when compared to July 2019. While concerns surrounding COVID-19 impacts are not being seen this year, they could still impact future operations as federal and provincial supports expire.

CAO's Recommendation:

Although our current operational budget does not anticipate such a commitment, I would recommend an approval of \$100,000 for the current year. The recommendation accelerates funding compared to our budget for certain. The funding commitment of \$250,000 remains regardless, therefore any amount less than the \$100,000 recommended would have to be funded in future years.

Funding from other levels of government in future years may decelerate contributions in years three or four, but there is no guarantee of that.

Also recommend that Argyle reach out to Clare Municipality to update on municipal matters related to this big event.

Suggested motion:

Move to approve a contribution of \$100,000 to the Comité organisateur du congrès mondiale acadien 2024, representing years one and two of our \$250,000 funding commitment for CMA 2024.

Move that the Warden connect with the Warden for the Municipality of the District of Clare to discuss and coordinate municipal capital and operational priorities related to CMA 2024.