



City of  
**Peterborough**

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**To:** Members of the Budget Committee

**From:** Ken Doherty, Director of Community Services

**Meeting Date:** November 28, 2016

**Subject:** Report CSD16-030  
City Sponsorship of Special Hockey International (SHI)  
Tournament

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## **Purpose**

A report to provide information regarding potential City sponsorship support to the SHI Tournament planned for March 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

## **Recommendation**

That Council approve the recommendation outlined in Report CSD16-030 dated November 28, 2016, of the Director of Community Services, as follows:

That the \$24,018 in the Community Services Administration Draft 2017 Operating Budget, recommended as City sponsorship to cover the rental cost of City facilities during the proposed SHI Tournament, remain pending final confirmation that the tournament will proceed.

## **Budget and Financial Implications**

A contribution of \$24,018 has been included in the Community Service's 2017 operating budget as sponsorship support to cover the cost of City facility rentals for the proposed SHI Tournament. If the tournament is cancelled the funds can be re-allocated to other City sponsorship support for major local tourism initiatives during Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year.

## **Background**

Dave and Cathie Tuck, the founders of the Peterborough Huskies special needs hockey team, approached staff at both the Tourism Office at Peterborough Economic Development and the City's Arenas Division in early 2015 to enlist their support in the preparation of a bid to host SHI's annual tournament during the 2017 March break.

In July 2015, the Team announced that it had been successful in its bid. Plans were soon underway to organize a major international tournament from March 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Organizers anticipated 75 – 80 teams from across Canada, the United States, United Kingdom, Sweden, and Norway. To accommodate the number of teams, organizers booked all City arenas and several pads in neighbouring townships. Organizers also began planning a major banquet for the anticipated 4,000 players, coaches, families, and supporters. Based on the success of previous SHI tournaments, organizers projected a local economic impact of over \$1 million.

### **Request for City Support**

Soon after the bid was awarded, tournament organizers requested City funding support. In keeping with past practice, staff allocated \$24,018 within the Community Service Department's Sponsorship budget to cover the cost of City facility rentals including all four City arenas and the Morrow building with the expectation that funds would be allocated in both 2016 and 2017. No expenses have been incurred to date.

The City has provided similar sponsorship to major tourism related events to cover the cost of City services and facility rentals. Previous examples include: Canada Wide Science Fair, International Dragon Boat Races, International Plowing Match, the PGA Wildfire Golf Tournament, the TMAC Conference and, earlier this year, the North American Envirothon Conference at Trent, and the Ontario Contact showcase for performing artists at Showplace.

### **Tournament Plans**

The Tucks, with Dave now as President of the SHI Board, began planning for the tournament. They met with City and Tourism staff in February of 2016 to provide more detailed plans. Staff encouraged the organizers to become incorporated as a Not For Profit organization and required them to secure insurance coverage by having the event sanctioned by Hockey Canada as a condition of City support. While the organizers assembled a team of community volunteers and began fund-raising, they were slow to address City staff concerns.

### **Recent Developments**

On November 3, 2016, Dave and Cathie Tuck were arrested and charged with fraud over \$5,000 for the alleged misuse of funds from the team, which placed the future of the team and the tournament in jeopardy.

The community, however, quickly rallied around the team. Chris Williams, the team coach has worked with community leaders to rebrand the team as the Electric City Maroon and White.

In terms of the tournament, the SHI Board suspended Mr. Tuck as President and Jim Perkins, Vice-President, who organized the last SHI tournament in Ottawa, assumed leadership of the Board. Dave Smith, the convener of the Under the Liftlock Tournament, assumed the chair of the local tournament organizing committee. Together Mr. Perkins and Smith are assessing whether or not the tournament, even in a scaled down version, is viable. They are eagerly awaiting a decision from Hockey Canada about whether or not the event will be sanctioned.

In light of these developments, staff recommends that the City take a “wait and see” approach. Staff recommends that the funds allocated to cover the rental cost of City arena facilities within the Community Services proposed 2017 Operating Budget remain in the budget.

## Summary

Shortly after the Peterborough Huskies learned that they had been successful in their bid to host the 2017 Special Hockey International tournament, they approached City staff for support. In anticipation of as many as 4,000 visitors to the community, staff allocated almost \$25,000 in the Community Services sponsorship 2017 budget to cover the cost of renting City facilities.

In response to the recent unfortunate turn of events for the Huskies leadership, the community has rallied to save the team. Efforts are underway to also salvage the tournament, if possible. The City should continue to support these efforts.

Submitted by,

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