



Rural Municipality of Belfast

Mayor: Garth Gillis; Chief Administrative Officer: Bob Brooks; *Incorporated 1972*

COMMUNITY GRANTS COMMITTEE MEETING - AGENDA

Wednesday, September 7, 2022 at 7:00 PM
RMB Office (Unit 103), Wood Islands Market

Committee: Councillor Billy Gamble (Chair) (Voting)
Deputy Mayor Virginia Cooke (Voting)
Mayor Garth Gillis (Ex-Officio - Voting)
CAO Bob Brooks (non-Voting)
Administration – Ashley Feschuk (non-Voting)

Item Order of Business

1. **Call to Order** – Committee to be called to order at 7:00 PM
2. **Covid-19 Restrictions** – no capacity limits; 6-foot distancing and masking optional
3. **Declarations of Conflict of Interest** – Do any members of Committee have a conflict of interest with any items on today's Agenda?
4. **Approval of Agenda** – Any other suggested Agenda Items? (*To be placed under Item 7*)

Moved by _____ and seconded by _____ to
adopt the agenda as presented.

Votes for: ____ Votes against: ____ Result: _____

5. **Public Input/Presentations regarding any items on today's Agenda?** (*Five minutes is allotted for each speaker/presentation*)
6. **Possible Changes to the Community Grants Program Policy for 2023**
In 2022, Council and Committee Members, discussed the possibility of discussing and making changes to the Community Grants Program Policy, prior to the new Grants cycle in 2023. The CAO committed to doing the research necessary and bringing the item forward to a committee meeting some time in the fall.

Findings/Recommendations as follows:

(1) Current Bylaw:

The current Grants Bylaw # 2018-02 (*attached*), was reviewed to see if it was still up-to-date and if it was generic enough to make changes to the Grants Policy, without having to make amendments to the legislation. No issues were found.

Recommendation:

No changes to the current Grants Bylaw # 2018-02 are required at this time.

(2) Current Policy:

The current Community Grants Program Policy (*attached with track changes*), was reviewed to see if it was still up-to-date and if it was generic enough to make changes to the Community

Grants Program Policy, without having to make amendments to the legislation and if the Policy could simply be amended, should Council see fit. Yes, the Policy is up-to-date, and can be amended – depending on the ultimate changes that Council deems appropriate.

Recommendation:

Amend the Policy if Committee and Council deems it appropriate.

(3) Not-For-Profit:

One of the changes that the CAO was asked to look into, was the requirement that any Grant recipient MUST have a Not-For-Profit status. It was discovered that very few (if any) actually had a registered Not-For-Profit Status. Moreover, it was felt that the intent of the suggestion leaned more toward limiting the awarding to community groups and volunteer individuals/organizations, that operated within the RMB area.

It was discovered that ‘Area Development Corporations’, ‘Community Groups’, and ‘Voluntary Individuals/Organizations’ were more prevalent in the RMB area, but that most would not be a registered Not-For Profit. Bearing this in mind, the CAO made some recommended changes (*in Track Changes*) to the current Policy document for Committee consideration.

Recommendation:

Accept the recommended changes that would Amend the Policy if Committee and Council deems it appropriate, that would expand the definition of who can receive a Community Grant.

(4) Private Business Operations:

Another of the changes that the CAO was asked to look into, was to look at removing the eligibility of Private Business Operations. It was felt that as the popularity of the Community Grants Programs continues to grow; less funds would be available to community groups and volunteers. Removing the Private Business Operations eligibility would help free-up more grant funds. Similarly, the CAO made some recommended changes (*in Track Changes*) to the current Policy document for Committee consideration.

Recommendation:

Accept the recommended changes that would Amend the Policy if Committee and Council deems it appropriate, that would limit who can receive a Community Grant.

(5) Mosquito Abatement Programs:

Another of the changes that the CAO was asked to look into, was to look at removing the eligibility of Mosquito Abatement Programs. Some members of Committee and Council expressed concern that to-date, all of the Mosquito Abatement Programs that RMB has funded in the past; only serviced limited areas in the municipality. Recently, RMB debated at Municipal-Wide Mosquito Abatement Program, where, if accepted would have been funded through a separate budget line item, rather than the Community Grants Program. As that proposal was unsuccessful at that time, RMB now awaits a new proposal to consider. Removing the Mosquito Abatement Programs from eligibility would also help free-up more grant funds. Similarly, the CAO made some recommended changes (*in Track Changes*) to the current Policy document for Committee consideration.

Recommendation:

Accept the recommended changes that would Amend the Policy if Committee and Council deems it appropriate, that would limit who can receive a Community Grant.

(6) Liability Insurance:

Another of the changes that the CAO was asked to look into, was to look at requesting Liability Insurance coverage for any grant that RMB gave out within the Community Grants Program. Neither the Grants Bylaw or Program mentions this requirement.

In discussions with Municipal Affairs and the Voluntary Resource Centre in Charlottetown, most community type groups do not carry Liability Insurance for small local projects/events. An example was given that an Insurance Company was asking for a \$3,000 charge, to effectively receive a \$500 grant. Typically, organizations that are affiliated under large sport organizations, are already covered under an umbrella coverage.

An idea that Municipal Affairs suggested that we might consider, is to only look for Liability Insurance on grants of \$50,000 or more, with coverage of a minimum of \$1,000,000. All of the Development Corporations that RMB deals with has Liability Insurance coverage. Similarly, the CAO made some recommended changes (*in Track Changes*) to the current Policy document for Committee consideration.

Recommendation:

Accept the recommended changes that would Amend the Policy if Committee and Council deems it appropriate, that would add a limited Liability Insurance requirement.

(7) Promotion:

Upon review of the Grants Policy, the CAO noticed that the Policy only talked about promotion of the Community Grants Program through the RMB Website. In fact RMB promotes the Program in many ways. The CAO is suggesting a minor wording adjustment to the Establishment section: (iv).

Recommendation:

Amend the Policy if Committee and Council deems it appropriate, that would see more appropriate wording for the promotion of the Grants Program as provided.

Moved by _____ and seconded by _____ to recommend to Council to amend the Community Grants Program Policy as discussed by the Community Grants Committee. Effective for the 2023/2024 Community Grants Program cycle and beyond.

Votes for: ____ Votes against: ____ Result: _____

7. **New Business for the Agenda (as per Item 4 above)?**

- a. _____
- b. _____

8. **Next Meeting:**

- a. **Grants Committee Meeting** – unknown (some time in early 2023 for the next Community Grants cycle.

9. **Adjournment** – As there is no further business...

Moved by _____ to adjourn the meeting at: _____