

Report to Council

Report Title: Brockton Child Care Centre Fee Increase

Prepared By: Sharon Bross, Brockton Child Care Centre Supervisor

Department: Child Care

Date: December 8, 2020

Report Number: BCCC2020-08 **File Number:** C11BC

Attachments: Child Care Centre Fees

Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number BCCC2020-08 – Brockton Child Care Centre Fee Increase, prepared by Sharon Bross, Brockton Child Care Centre Supervisor and in doing so approves an increase of one dollar (\$1.00) to all parent fees effective January 1, 2021.

Report:

Background:

The Brockton Child Care Centre continues to be an essential service for the families within the community which has become increasingly more evident as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Brockton Child Care Centre's only revenue sources are through parent fees, County and Government grants, and a small portion subsidized through the tax rate for the new facility.

In 2020 fees were not increased as staff at the Brockton Child Care Centre originally forecasted revenue for the expansion of the Centre based on pre-Covid capacity. While the expansion is exciting for the future, the Brockton Child Care Centre cannot increase enrolment to the maximum capacity of the centre as expected at this time because of the covid-19 related limitations. These limitations have resulted in fewer children able to attend because of the room space limitations, need to cohort and additional staffing costs to screen families and ensure there is a "runner" to escort children to their parents.

Analysis:

As a result, the Brockton Child Care Centre will need to increase revenue to continue to fund operations into 2021. Staff are proposing that the user fees paid for the programs at the Brockton Child Care Centre increase by \$1.00 per program to raise \$49,130.00 to off-set increases to the tax rate (\$49,130.00 represents approximately 0.5% percent tax rate increase). The proposal is to begin charging the new fee as of January 1, 2020 and the revised Fees and Charges By-law has been brought forward for Council's consideration, as raised with the Brockton Child Care Centre Committee at the meetings on October 20, 2020 and December 1, 2020.

Staff continue to work closely with the County of Bruce for financial support as required and investigate Provincial funding as announced.

Sustainability Checklist:

What aspect of the Brockton Sustainable Strategic Plan does the content/recommendations in this report help advance?

- Do the recommendations help move the Municipality closer to its Vision? Yes
- Do the recommendations contribute to achieving Cultural Vibrancy? Yes
- Do the recommendations contribute to achieving Economic Prosperity? Yes
- Do the recommendations contribute to Environmental Integrity? Yes
- Do the recommendations contribute to the Social Equity? Yes

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding:

- Do the recommendations represent a sound financial investment from a sustainability perspective? Yes

On October 27th, 2020 staff report FIN2020-36 noted the financial support received by the County to assist with the decrease in revenue and increased expenses due to Covid-19. The County of Bruce provided the Municipal Child Care Centre \$196,331.44 to help alleviate the financial hardship that was experienced in 2020 due to Covid-19.

Reviewed By:



Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer

Respectfully Submitted by:



Sharon Bross

Reviewed By:



Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer