

Type of Decision									
Meeting Date	Friday, March 14/08				Report Date	Wednesday, March 12, 2008			
Decision Required	x	Yes		No	Priority		High	X	Low
Direction Only		Information Only			Type of Meeting	X	Open		Closed
REPORT TITLE									
Missing Link and Free Use of Hall for Fundraiser									

Subject: The Missing Link has requested free use of the Township Hall for the Silent Auction that was held on March 14, 2008.

Recommendation: That the Missing Link be charged for the use of the hall for the Silent Auction based on the costs involved with the clean up after an event this large, the use of supplies, heat, hydro and the increased volume of garbage created.

WHEREAS the Missing Link Snowmobile Club has requested the Council waive the rental fee for the Township Hall for the Silent Auction Fundraiser that was held on March 8, 2008 on the basis that it is an event that relies heavily on volunteers and brings business into the municipality;

AND WHEREAS previous requests, aside from one, have been refused by Council based on the costs involved in cleaning the facility;

AND WHEREAS the use of the hall for this type of event results in an expense for the municipality in the form of wages, cleaning supplies, beverage cups, paper products, heat and hydro, garbage and lost opportunity costs;

AND WHEREAS the Missing Link Snowmobile Club is a private club that mainly benefits those who are members of the Club;

AND WHEREAS the Municipality contributes to and acknowledges the volunteers and the benefits to the community derived by the existence of the Missing Link through free use of the facility for the Missing Link's Volunteer Appreciation Dinner;

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Council of the United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria does request that the normal fee be paid for the use of the hall for all events other than the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner.

Background/Executive Summary: The Missing Link has repeatedly requested free use of the Township Hall and Council has decided in all but one instance that the Missing Link should be responsible for rental fees. The one exception was in 2006 when the fee was waived for the Silent Auction. Further, Council waives the fee for use for the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner each year in support of the club and its volunteers.

The costs for wages for cleaning up after a use such as this is considerable including the use of cups, paper products, heat, hydro, increased volume of garbage and missed opportunity costs as the hall is normally used for more than the one day that Council actually charges for.

There is a precedent in that other organizations use the hall for free but they are required to clean up after they have finished. The number of individuals and length of time in the hall do not generally require special clean up of either the hall floor or the washrooms. Often, these groups replace all tables and chairs, clean the kitchen and remove the garbage upon completion of their event. The use for a large event like this results in clean up of more than one day due to the finish being completely taken off the floor and having to be reapplied.

In 2005, Council decided that the Missing Link was a private club with limited benefits to the majority of ratepayers and as such, did not deserve special treatment. The fact that it is a volunteer organization is irrelevant. Although some of our businesses benefit from snowmobiling, the majority of ratepayers do not. A large percentage of residents do not even use the trails. That sentiment has carried through each time this issue has been raised aside from March of 2006 when fees were waived.

HISTORY

Minutes from Council meeting October 17, 2005:

- That Mr. Watters and the Missing Link Snowmobile Club be advised that the fees will apply for use of the hall for this function as they are required to cover our costs of cleaning and insurance.

Minutes from Council meeting March 7/06

- ♦ Missing Link - Silent Auction –request for free usage of hall for fund raiser
Resolution #4
Moved by Councillor Gibson and seconded by Councillor Foote

Whereas the Missing Link Snowmobile Club is one of the few remaining organizations that provides recreational activities for township residents
and whereas the Missing Link Snowmobile Club holds a silent auction as their major fund raising event each year
and whereas the funds from this auction all go to trail improvement
and whereas this auction is open to all Township residents to enjoy
and whereas the trail network maintained by the Missing Link Snowmobile Club significantly benefits local tourism businesses
be it hereby resolved that the Municipality of the United Townships of Head, Clara and Maria waive, without prejudice, the hall rental fee for the 2006 Missing Link Snowmobile Club silent auction

Call for recorded vote by Reeve Croshaw

Reeve Croshaw – No; Councillor Sonnenburg –No; Councillor Foote – Yes; Councillor Charron - Yes
Councillor Gibson – Yes

Minutes from Council meeting April 4, 2006 – request for free use refused.

Minutes from Council meeting December 18, 2006

1. L2 – Missing Link Snowmobile Club – re: request for use of hall - letter in response indicating fee of \$35/half day meeting applies

From Clerk's Report March 16, 2007

- Missing Link use of hall without authorization Wednesday of last week – Pauline had not completed clean up – filled hall during her break, a little upset. (This was the incident where the hall had been rented for the Auction on Saturday, Pauline was cleaning on the Wednesday evening, she went home for a break and upon her return, people were filling the hall with materials for the auction. There was no preauthorization to do so.) The one day rental became 4 days. Although not likely, it is possible that there would be a lost opportunity for other rental during that time.)

Council Minutes November 23, 2007

- Backgrounder – Request for Free Hall use-Missing Link – (Resolution Prepared)

Resolution # 4

Moved by Councillor Aiston and seconded by Councillor Foote **BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Missing Link be allowed free use of the Municipal Hall for its regular monthly meetings.

Defeated

Financial Considerations/Budget Impact: Average annual revenues from the rental of the municipal hall are in the range of \$1,000. The costs associated with cleaning the hall for an event such as this are in the range of \$200 plus costs for cups, paper products, oil, hydro and garbage. We already absorb those costs for the Missing Link for the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. It is not a revenue neutral agreement and does not make good business sense.

Policy Impact: We do not have a formal policy on this matter – one should be developed so that this issue is not raised each time an organization makes a request. It costs in wages for the research and preparation of these reports. Should a policy be created, an objective decision would already have been made and enforced by staff.

Approved and Recommended by the Clerk

Melinda Reith,
Municipal Clerk