

Council Notes Feb 5, 2008

Grant Application for New Arena and Banquet Hall

North Kawartha will be applying for a \$ 9.5 million grant under the Municipal Infrastructure Investment Initiative (MIII) program. The plans are far from finalized, but the grant is expected to cover a new arena, a banquet hall and a fully functional kitchen. The building would be modular so that future sections could be added later. Director of Parks and Recreation, Gary Geraldi, told council that the MIII grant is an “all or nothing” grant explaining that the government does not award partial amounts. The public survey has shown that the arena, banquet hall and kitchen are the community’s priorities. Other desires include a pool and curling facilities, but they would be beyond financial reach at this point.

Council discussions concluded that this matter is a priority because the current arena could be condemned in about 3 years.

Deputy Reeve, Barry Rand, asked Mr. Geraldi about the financial impact on the township if the grant was to be received. He responded that the government would expect that the township would pay the architect’s fees, environmental studies and possibly some site preparation costs. This could reach \$800,000. Council agreed to include funds in the next budget in case the grant application is successful.

The application is based upon preliminary studies by one consultant. An architect has not yet been chosen to prepare the final plans. Given the scope of the project, Deputy Reeve, Barry Rand moved that a citizens Working Group be formed to manage the details of the project. The motion failed as only councilor Dan Boyd supported the motion in a recorded vote. Reeve Jim Whelan said that Mr. Geraldi has enough technical contacts to assist in the project so a citizen’s group is unnecessary.

Apsley Eldercare Facility

Reeve, Jim Whelan will be working with Barry and Helen Richardson and some township staff to explore the terms of reference for an eldercare facility in Apsley. Council is concerned that seniors, who are no longer able to maintain their homes, are forced to leave the area because there is no facility in Apsley to accommodate them.