



WEST HANTS REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY REPORT

Information ☐	Recommendation ☐	Decision Request ☐	Councillor Activity ☐
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To: Committee of the Whole

Submitted by: Mayor Abraham Zebian

Date: February 11, 2025

Subject: Windsor Food Bank Funding

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Municipal Government Act

RECOMMENDATION or DECISION REQUEST

Council continue to provide monthly funding beyond March 31, 2025 to the Windsor Food Bank in the amount of \$3700/month or until a final budgetary decision can be made during 2025/2026 budget deliberations. Funds to continue coming from the Operating Reserve.

BACKGROUND

Last year, council had approved funding for the Windsor Food Bank in the amount of \$3700/month to help with operating costs. The term of the funding is set to end March 31, 2025. The funding was granted to alleviate the pressures on the volunteer run food bank that supports hundreds of families monthly in many communities within West Hants.

Property ☐	Public Opinion ☐	Environment ☐	Social ☐	Economic ☐	Councillor Activity ☐
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DISCUSSION

The food bank has benefitted from the funding West Hants has provided over the last year. They recently informed me that if the funding cannot be renewed, they may be forced to close as they would not be able to cover the expenses of their location. They are still actively in

search for a location that would provide more favourable expenses, but it has provided more challenging than originally expected. They are requesting the funding to be extended and still considered during the current budget season.

NEXT STEPS

If the recommendation is approved, staff to carry out the direction of council.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are financial implications with the approval of this motion.

ALTERNATIVES

Council may not approve the motion.

Council may choose a different course of action.

ATTACHMENTS

Previous Food Bank Report

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REVIEW

(For use if report is from a Councillor. CAO to provide additional comments on background, department/staff responsible and workload, budget, options, preferred strategy. State “Not Applicable” if report is from staff which already incorporates CAO review.)

Report Prepared by: Abraham Zebian, Mayor

Report Reviewed by: _____
(Name and Title)

Report Approved by: _____
(Name and Title)



WEST HANTS REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY REPORT

Information ☐	Recommendation ☐	Decision Request ☐	Councillor Activity ☐
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To: Council

Submitted by: Mayor Abraham Zebian

Date: January 23, 2024

Subject: Windsor Food Bank

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Municipal Government Act

West Hants Regional Municipality Committee and Procedural Policy

RECOMMENDATION or DECISION REQUEST

Council approves funding for the Windsor Food Bank in the amount of \$3,700/month beginning March 1, 2024 and lasting 1 year (end of March 31, 2024) to cover operating costs. Funds to come from operating reserve for the current budget cycle and then decided upon by council and staff for the 2024/25 budget cycle.

BACKGROUND

Property ☐	Public Opinion ☐	Environment ☐	Social ☐	Economic ☐	Councillor Activity ☐
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The Windsor Food Bank has been operating for 50 years serving hundreds of people in West Hants monthly. The food bank is run by a volunteer board and services all communities in West Hants as well as working with the Hantsport Food bank on occasion. In recent years, the food bank has had to relocate to 90 Sanford Drive, Windsor which created financial pressures due to increased costs.

DISCUSSION

In recent years, the demands on the food bank have risen exponentially as inflation continues to squeeze residents in West Hants. More families are now having to rely on the food bank to help feed themselves creating funding issues. Volunteers have had to think creatively, looking for solutions to make each dollar stretch further. Many times, they have had to substitute essential products for other items because of funding shortfalls. The pressures have mounted to a point where they believe they will not be able to operate beyond March 2024 leaving many within our communities hungry who rely on the help and generosity of the food bank.

Recently, Council helped the Hantsport food bank relocate from the Hantsport Fire Department property to another municipal property. The benefits that the Hantsport Food bank receives because of this are, in my opinion, a main reason for the longevity and strength of the organization. I have been looking at options for the Windsor Food Bank in regards to Municipal properties but none have been suitable to this point without major investment and upgrades. The intent of the 1-year funding would be to give time for Council, staff, and the food bank to look at options and alternatives to help the organization become sustainable for many years to come.

NEXT STEPS

If council approves this recommendation, Staff to do the necessary work to disperse these funds monthly.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There will be budgetary implications to the current budget cycle and 2024/25 budget cycle if council approves this funding.

ALTERNATIVES

Council may not approve funding.

Council may request something different.

ATTACHMENTS

None

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REVIEW

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