

Staff Report

To: Mayor Bazinet and Members of Council
Report From: Deanna Hastie, Director of Corporate Services/Treasurer
Meeting Date: March 17, 2025
Subject: Cash in Lieu of Parkland
Attachment(s): 1) Cash in Lieu of Parkland Report for 2024
2) By-laws 80 and 96 of 2010

Recommendation:

That Goderich Town Council receive this report for information and reporting compliance.

Report Summary:

The Planning Act, Section 42, indicates that a Municipality may require, as a condition of development, that land be conveyed to the municipality for a park or other public recreational purposes. Alternatively, a payment in lieu, to the value of land otherwise required to be conveyed may be required.

Payment in Lieu of Parkland must be held in a special account (reserve fund), allocated interest, and spent only on the acquisition of land to be used for a park or other recreational purpose.

The relevant by-laws have been attached to this report for ease of reference.

The Treasurer of the municipality is required to provide a Statement of the Cash in Lieu of Parkland Reserve Fund annually, and the statement is required to be posted on the Municipality's website.

Council has previously approved the allocation priorities for the amounts held as follows:

- Acquisition of parkland to be used for park or other recreational purposes;
- Development of parkland, including grading, drainage, seeding or sodding, provision of playing fields, playground equipment, pathways and pathway lighting;
- Maintenance of lands buildings or structures; and
- Acquisition of machinery and equipment for the maintenance of parkland.

Beginning in 2023 and each year after, Section 42 (16.1) requires that the municipality spend or allocate at least 60% of the funds in the Cash in Lieu of Parkland Reserve Fund.

The proposed allocation for 2025 is for an additional mower for the Parks Department at an estimated cost of \$25,000. The need for this mower has arisen due to added parkland.

Background and Analysis:

Nothing further to report.

Linkage:

No direct link to the Strategic Plan.

Financial Impacts and/or Source of Funding:

The financial impact is the use of the Cash in Lieu of Parkland Reserve Fund to support eligible projects.

Consulted With:

Approved By:

Janice Hallahan, Chief Administrative Officer

Andrea Fisher, Director of Legislative Services/Clerk