SUBJECT: Community Emergency Response Volunteers (CERV) Funding (HES05005) (City Wide)

RECOMMENDATION:

(a) That the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services be requested to reaffirm their support of the Community Emergency Response Volunteers (CERV) Funding for the 2006 budget year and beyond, which in turn would augment the HES budget by approximately $7,500, if current funding amounts were approved.

(b) That the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services reinstate envelope funding to provide Municipalities throughout Ontario the opportunity to train and certify their residents to ensure that they continue to make communities stronger and safety resilient.

(c) That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to AMO, all Ontario Municipalities, and local MPPs for support.

Jim Kay
General Manager / Chief
Emergency Services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The CERV program was introduced to Ontario in the Fall of 2002 and Hamilton was announced as a pilot site in May of 2003. The original funding scheme was a $15,000 one-time Provincial grant for the first year and $7,500 the second year. By the third year each municipality was to fully fund their own program. Unfortunately, the second
year payment was never received due to the election, which resulted in a change of the Provincial leadership and consequently the commitment for this program was rescinded. At the end of October of 2005, Hamilton Emergency Services (HES) will have graduated a total of 283 Hamilton citizens. HES has been conducting two (2) classes per year with approximately 90 people per year from different neighborhoods throughout Hamilton.

The graduates of the CERV program remain committed and have continued to work hard and dedicate personal time into helping ensure that the CERV program is self-sustaining through fundraising to help offset the costs of the program.

Hamilton has created the largest CERV group in Ontario. Local municipalities are requesting the re-establishment of the partnership with the Provincial government through support of this initiative (Appendixes “A”, “B” and “C” to report HES05005). This will ensure that the delivery of this program is sustained; thus, making certain that municipalities maintain their ability to be self-reliant and capable of deploying appropriate resources in a timely and effective manner in order to mitigate the affects of an emergency within our community. It is a known fact that, when local resources are strained, as happens with the first responders dealing with a major emergency event, the capability of the community to respond with full strength is often compromised. This has a direct impact on the first responders. The CERV program helps bridge this gap by providing resources at the time they are most needed and allows the resources to be assigned where they can have the greatest impact.

Hence, the request for the Province to restore the CERV Municipal Grant Program.

BACKGROUND:

A natural disaster does not often follow a geographic boundary and as such, local and surrounding municipalities often come to the aid of each other. This seamless support is paramount for all municipalities in order to overcome the strain on the resources required to handle the initial affects of a devastating emergency. Hamilton has and will continue to support its neighbours and in turn, the Province, by directing its resources to assist outside our neighbouring communities’ first responders through mutual aid and auto aid agreements, when the need arises. The City of Hamilton has ten (10) bordering communities of various sizes and composition, which suggest that there is a strong probability that this reciprocal assistance, during a large-scale emergency, may occur. While providing valuable assistance to municipalities, these agreements to reciprocate are also indirectly supporting the Province by bridging the gap until the provincial and/or federal resources can respond. These types of reciprocal agreements make municipalities stronger. A strong municipality is more resilient and thus more self-reliant. From a Provincial standpoint, we need each municipality to be strong. Clearly, the chain is only as strong as its weakest link.
ANALYSIS/RATIONALE:

CERV is about readiness, people helping people, rescuer safety, and doing the greatest good for the greatest number. CERV is a positive and realistic approach to emergency and disaster situations where citizens will be initially on their own and their actions can make a difference. Through training, citizens can manage utilities and put out small fires; treat the three killers by opening airways, controlling bleeding, and treating for shock; provide basic medical aid; search for and rescue victims safely; and organize themselves, and spontaneous volunteers, to be effective.

CERV members can give critical support to first responders, provide immediate assistance to victims, and organize spontaneous volunteers at a disaster site.

CERV members have also assisted with non-emergency projects that help improve the safety of the community. The CERV program has already shown its worth in the City of Hamilton, as the CERV graduates have been requested and utilized, during a municipal emergency. They have been recruited to work at the World Cycling Races, the Ground Search and Rescue Team of the Hamilton Police Service and will undoubtedly play a role in future city events. They have taken their skills and training even further than our boundaries by responding to Mississippi to help after Hurricane Katrina's devastation. This group continues to grow in terms of education and experience and have become an asset to the City of Hamilton volunteer base.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION:

The preferred option is to restore the provincial funding and support. This would not only reduce dependency on the local municipality for financial assistance, but also alleviate the responsibility of these volunteer organizations from the demands of fundraising and competing against the myriad of other volunteer non-profit organizations in this community. A sustainable budget is necessary for this program to be able to fulfil the needs of the local community and the province now and in the future.

FINANCIAL/STAFFING/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

A variety of local approaches to funding are being employed across the Province with varying degrees of success. Some communities build costs into their local budgets, while others charge the volunteer participants to attend training to cover costs for instructors and course materials. In a few communities, CERV organizations have formed non-profit status, which allows them to do fundraising and seek corporate donations. The latter funding model is the current practice in the City of Hamilton.

The cost of this program is approximately $15,000 per year. The current HES budget and offsets are absorbing these costs by the CERV program; taking advantage of the fund raising initiatives.
POLICIES AFFECTING PROPOSAL:

None.

RELEVANT CONSULTATION:

None.

CITY STRATEGIC COMMITMENT:

This resolve not only strengthens Hamilton's ability to be prepared in the result of a devastating event, but also maintains an effective means of providing timely and efficient resources to assist its citizens in their time of need. Restoring the provincial grant alleviates competing interests within our community, which in turn makes our community stronger and healthier, and reduces the financial implications of sustaining this program.

The speed at which the City can deploy effective resources will not only reduce the impact of the disaster on the environment, but would also speed up the restoration of this community. This will assist the City in moving closer to our vision of a sustainable community by helping to ensure that the appropriate resources are available, its citizens are well protected, and the City remains responsive and versatile during a time when changing weather patterns, homeland security, pandemic outbreaks and economic volatility remain as potential external realities.

By evaluating the “Triple Bottom Line” (community, environment, and economic implications), we can make choices that create value across all three bottom lines; moving us closer to our vision for a sustainable community and Provincial interests.

Community Well-Being is enhanced. ☑ Yes ☐ No

Environmental Well-Being is enhanced. ☑ Yes ☐ No

Economic Well-Being is enhanced. ☑ Yes ☐ No

Does the option you are recommending create value across all three bottom lines? ☑ Yes ☐ No

Do the options you are recommending make Hamilton a City of choice for high performance public servants? ☐ Yes ☑ No
September 26, 2005

The Honourable Monte Kwinter
Minister of Community, Safety
and Correctional Services
6th Floor, Hepburn Block
80 Grosvenor,
Toronto, ON M7A 1E9

Dear Honourable Sir:

Re: Community Emergency Response Volunteers (CERV) Funding

The Municipal Council of the Town of Tecumseh, at their regular meeting duly held on Tuesday, September 13, 2005, adopted the following (RCM-352/05) resolution:

"That the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services be requested to re-affirm their support of the Community Emergency Response Volunteers (CERV) Funding; and further, that the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services re-instate envelope funding to provide Municipalities throughout Ontario the opportunity to train and certify their residents to ensure that they continue to make communities stronger and safety resilient; and furthermore, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to AMO, all Ontario Municipalities and local M.P.P. s for support."

Your favourable consideration to the foregoing is earnestly requested.

Yours very truly,

TOWN OF TECUMSEH

Laura Moy, AMCT
Clerk

LM:df
Encl.

cc. Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Bruce Crozier, MPP
Dwight Duncan, MPP
RESOLUTION OF COUNCIL

DATE: OCTOBER 3, 2005

That the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services be requested to re-affirm their support of the Community Emergency Response Volunteers (CERV) Funding;

And further, that the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services re-instate envelope funding to provide Municipalities throughout Ontario the opportunity to train and certify their residents to ensure that they continue to make communities stronger and safety resilient;

And further, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to AMO, all Ontario Municipalities and local M.P.P.'s for support;

And furthermore, that the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Service expand the parameters of this funding to be available to Municipalities to retain the services of any organizations that will assist Municipalities in a similar way as CERV to meet the volunteer needs of the community in emergency situation.

MAYOR

For further information please contact:
Nancy Wright-Laking, City Clerk
City of Peterborough
500 George Street N
Peterborough, ON
K9H 3R9
Tel 705-742-7771
Fax 705-742-4138
clerk@city.peterborough.on.ca
RESOLUTION NO. 2005-288

WHEREAS the governments of Canada and Ontario's objectives through the Canada-Ontario Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (COMRIF) are primarily to ensure that Ontarians in small urban and rural communities enjoy and maintain a quality of life;

AND WHEREAS the executed agreement of the COMRIF Program between the Federal and Provincial governments includes the provisions and the importance of recreational investment;

AND WHEREAS the priorities of Intake One and Two have focused strictly on projects relating to local bridges, roads, solid waste management, water and wastewater;

AND WHEREAS the provision of recreation services at the municipal level is a priority of equal importance which contributes towards the quality of life in each community throughout Ontario;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Corporation of The Township of Wilmot hereby petitions the senior levels of government through its local representatives, to give utmost consideration to recreational projects to be eligible for this funding program within the next third intake, and further;

THAT this resolution be circulated to the Honourable Steven Owen, Minister of State (Sport), the Honourable Jim Watson, Minister of Health and Promotions and Recreation, all municipalities in Ontario, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario for support.

"Wayne Roth"
Mayor

RESOLUTION NO. 2005-279

WHEREAS the price of gasoline has skyrocketed in recent weeks;

AND WHEREAS there is increasing concern about the affordability of gasoline in Wilmot Township and throughout Ontario;

AND WHEREAS gasoline is an essential good for consumers;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of Wilmot petitions the Federal and Provincial levels of government through Mr. Lynn Myers, MP Kitchener-Conestogo riding and Mr. Ted Arnott, MPP Waterloo-Wellington riding, that if gasoline is to be taxed, it be maintained at a fixed rate per litre to reflect a zero revenue gain at senior levels of government;

AND FURTHER that the Federal government take the necessary steps to protect consumers against opportunistic price gouging by the oil companies.

"Wayne Roth"
Mayor

Contact Information: Barb McLeod, Clerk
Township of Wilmot
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Email: barb.mcleod@wilmot.ca