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**TO:** Mayor and Council

**FR:** Jennifer Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer

**DATE:** November 4, 2019

**RE:** **Weneda Park Lodge Donation Request**

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**ISSUE:**

Weneda Park Lodge has submitted a request for a donation toward the installation of a back-up generator (attached).

**BACKGROUND:**

Councillor Eliason is the Town's representative on the Weneda Park Lodge Board. He indicates that the total cost of the project is \$70,000 and that they have received \$30,000 in donations to date including a \$15,000 private donation and \$5,000 each from the RM of Lakeview, RM of Sasman and RM of Elfros. The remaining balance will be funded through a loan.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Council could deny the request.
2. Council could table the item and defer to 2020 budget discussions.
3. Council could commit to an amount and defer contribution to the project until 2020.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

The Town of Wadena does not have any money budgeted in 2019 for discretionary donations; therefore, a donation of any amount would put us over budget.

**ANALYSIS:**

Weneda Park Lodge's project will provide significant improvement to their facility and the Town is represented on the Board of Directors. The Town doesn't have any policies providing direction on a donation of this nature.

**ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION(S):**

Administration requests direction from Council as to whether they wish to donate to the project or not. If Council wishes to donate, Administration recommends that the donation amount be specified and that the contribution be deferred to the 2020 budget.

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# Weneeda Park Lodge

## Enriched Housing

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RECEIVED

SEP 6 2019

August 21, 2019

### **Re: Consideration for Donation to Weneeda Park Lodge**

Dear Council:

Seniors are a large contributor to our population and we need to have the ability to provide for them. Facilities and living accommodations are an integral part of keeping our seniors in their home communities.

Weneeda Park Lodge was built in 1957 and the history of the building is still strong. The Board of Weneeda Park Lodge is dedicated to continuing to improve the facilities while maintaining the cost of living for our seniors as reasonable as possible. It is a constant challenge to financially maintain the health and safety standards. Currently, our objective is to install a back-up generator system to enhance the safety and quality of life prior to the winter season.

This project is of high priority with aging power infrastructure in rural Saskatchewan, power outages are becoming more frequent for longer periods of time. During these outages, safety of our seniors is always our first consideration as many are uneasy in the dark and fall risks are greatly increased. Back-up lighting is provided only for a limited amount of time. Medical challenges are on the forefront, as we have residents who require the completion of daily dialysis and some that require oxygen. During loss of power, the Lodge's communication and alarm systems are disabled, presenting many difficult situations for staff. Manual monitoring of facilities is required with limited abilities to contact emergency services.

Mechanically, the facilities boiler system is controlled by an electric controller, therefore heating services are non-operational during this time. During the cold of winter, it certainly does not take much time for an older building to get cold and drop below an acceptable standard. Finally, a massive concern that requires immediate attention is that the Lodge is equipped with an artisan well, with the volume of water dispersed at approximately 3 gallons per minute means that within 20 minutes this well will overflow if not connected to a secondary power source.

In the past, the board has explored many alternatives, such as possible retrofitting a used generator, however due to capacity, building codes and regulations have been unsuccessful. A secondary, emergency back-up system would be a tremendous facility upgrade, protecting our seniors' safety, as well as property from the consequences of losing the primary electrical system.

We greatly appreciate having your representative sitting on our board and would ask you to carefully consider giving towards this worthwhile project. Thank you for your consideration!

With warmest regards,



Tamara Ekstrom  
Administrator