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**TO:** Mayor and Council

**FR:** Jennifer Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer, prepared with assistance from K. Leach

**DATE:** November 14, 2019

**RE:** **Wadena Players Theatre Concerns submitted by Mr. P. Casement**

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**ISSUE:**

An email addressed to Council was received from Mr. Casement on November 2, 2019 identifying several concerns (attached).

**BACKGROUND:**

Wadena Community Legion Hall rates are established in P2017-008 Recreation Rates and Use Policy. Community hall rental for each room in the facility is established in an hourly, half-day, day or multi day rates. Storage rates are clearly outlined in Policy P2017-008 at \$1/sq ft.

As a result of correspondence received at the October 22, 2019 from another hall user group, Council has directed Administration to review P2017-008 Recreation Rates and Use as it pertains to the Community Legion Hall.

**ANALYSIS:**

Jennifer Taylor and Karlee Leach met with Mr. Casement on November 5, 2019 to address the concerns of the Wadena Players Theatre. A positive relationship was established and going forward Administration intends to work with and support the Players Theatre in their volunteer efforts at the Community Legion Hall. Mr. Casement requested that this letter still be submitted Council for their information.

**ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION(S):**

Administration recommends that the correspondence received from Mr. P. Casement be recognized and acknowledged.

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To: Wadena Town Council

From: Pat Casement  
Wadena Players Theatre

Date: November 2, 2019

Re: Continuity of Community Planning and Wadena Community Legion Hall

I understand that the past few years have been a challenge due to the turnover in staff at all levels. I get that plans have been lost or forgotten. What I am asking for is some direction from council on where to go from here.

Among my many hats is a left over function from an earlier life where the Town of Wadena was interested in promoting the Town of Wadena. I am given to understand that this is no longer the case.

The initiative, I am concerned with, came from a joint Economic Development / Tourism committee formed by the Town. The idea in question was to take up Access TV on their offer of doing, at no charge, the "Talk of the Town" segments here in Wadena to help promote community events. As part of that committee, I offered the services of Wadena Players Theatre to act as the tasking agency. As this was a town initiative the full services of the Wadena Community Legion Hall were at our disposal. At that time there was a Hall Manager in charge to the facility and our requests were accommodated.

Today we have no Hall Manager and our requests are met with daunting rental charges. It is suggested we apply to council to wave the fee, however the event will have passed with no resolve to the question.

This is unacceptable.

Wadena Players Theatre has no option here. We are in the process of being evicted from the hall because we refuse to pay rent on the space leading to the roof that has more town property stored there than Theatre. As a space it would be condemned as an unsafe work area should it ever inspected as such.

Under these conditions, Wadena Players Theatre is being forced to withdraw from supporting the town on a volunteer basis. Should we be requested to act on the Town's behalf in the future we will be charging the loaded labour rate of \$50 per hour. As an FYI, not counting the hours spent putting this TV promotion together; from set up to tear down for this event would be 6 hrs at \$50 per, we would be billing the town a minimum of \$300.

Frankly, we prefer the old way of quid pro quo. However if you are fixated on a "charge for everything" process then please be prepared to pick up the cost of all the volunteer hours that were given freely in the past but will now be charged for.

Pat Casement  
Wadena Players Theatre