

COUNCIL REPORT

Meeting Date: December 21, 2020
Department: Chief Administrative Office
Report No.: CAO-2020-11
Submitted by: Fred Tranquilli, Chief Administrative Officer / Clerk
Approved by: Fred Tranquilli, Chief Administrative Officer / Clerk
SUBJECT: 137 Frank Street, Strathroy

RECOMMENDATION: THAT: The Municipal Lands located at 137 Frank Street be declared surplus to the Municipality's needs.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This matter is in accord with the following strategic priorities:

- Community Wellbeing – Replacement Plan for Seniors' Centre

BACKGROUND:

For clarity, the Seniors' Centre is a building at 137 Frank Street, Strathroy. The Seniors' Council is a group operating from that address which formerly offered programming and fellowship to its members. The Seniors' Council held a lease for that property and was responsible for the building's operating costs, which it funded through building rentals, memberships and programming fees.

In the fall, the Seniors' Council reached out to the municipality to advise that it could no longer afford the operating costs tied to 137 Frank Street partly due to the Council's inability to generate revenue from the facility because of the pandemic, and partly due to a gradual but significant decline over the years in its membership.

Over the past number of weeks, the Municipality and the Seniors' Council have had productive discussions resulting in a first of its kind local collaboration that will lead to a greatly enhanced suite of seniors programming being developed, operated and offered by the municipality in partnership with the Seniors' Council. This will also permit the municipality to develop a more fulsome engagement strategy with the seniors' population and an expanded and tailored programming offering, which is already under development.

The result of these talks have led the municipality to assess its future needs in terms of physical and facility assets. A 2019 facility assessment of the building at 137 Frank Street established that the required upgrades to the facility exceed the value of the building and property.

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COMMENTS:

Declaring the building and property surplus to the municipality's needs is expected to create opportunities for the Council to advance important initiatives in the Corporate Strategic Plan 2020-2029, including a replacement for the Seniors' Center and the intensification of residential development in the core.

CONSULTATION:

Rob Lilbourne

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

None.

ATTACHMENTS:

NONE