



Municipality of the District of Argyle

Item: Mariners Center expansion – request for spending approval

Date:

### VISION

We see Argyle as home to a healthy and thriving rural population. Our municipality promotes and supports economic and social opportunities for the region and engages in the active expression of our unique Acadian heritage. We are a place of choice for rural living and are widely recognized for our warm hospitality and joie de vivre. Surrounded by fresh air and cool ocean breezes, we work and play in the great outdoors. People choose to live in Argyle because of our commitment to each other, to our community and to our neighbors. Argyle is a place we are proud to call home.

### **Background:**

As recent as our last meeting, the Council has been asked to consider funding requests from the subcommittee responsible for the Mariners Center expansion. It has become clear to the committee that we are operating faster than expected, making many decisions that are required in order to continue the application for funding, and other work required to support the application, including communications, and engaging of other experts in varying fields to maximize the exposure of this project, therefore increasing its probability of success.

Recently, Council passed its portion of almost \$31,000 which was needed to support an application for funding (to be led by our engineers, .Exp. Rather than keep coming back for more spending authority, it was determined that a budget should be set by all three partners, so the committee can continue its aggressive pursuit of funding without having to obtain approval for each purchase.

The request coming from the committee is to approve up to \$100,000 in spending, of which our portion would be \$30,666. We have already approved ne third of that with the engaging of our engineers. Other spending is expected for energy audit (to prove the green component of the application), communications assistance from National firms that engage government for a living and other. We are not expecting it to reach \$100,000, but our Council is being asked to extend permission to a maximum of \$30,666.

### **MGA considerations:**

All expenditures are eligible under municipal related services, under Section 65 of the act. In addition, contributions to the Mariner’s Center, who will manage this budget on our behalf, are an eligible expenditure as a contribution to a non-profit entity delivering a municipal service.

### **CAO’s Recommendation:**

I am confident that the controls at the subcommittee level match our controls here in Argyle, and that proper procurement protocols will be followed. It is my recommendation that we approve this request, and allow the subcommittee to do its work independent of Councils step-

by-step approvals, and recommend permission be granted to spend up to \$30,666 of Argyle funds. These funds will be taken from the Capital Reserve.

**Suggested motion:**

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Recommend that the Mariners Center Expansion Committee, through the Mariners Center operations, be approved for up to \$30,666 of funding from the Municipality of the District of Argyle, relating to work required to apply for funding and other expenses related to advancing the expansion of the facility.