



**Subject:** *East Hants Sportsplex - Compressor Grant*  
**To:** Council  
**Date Prepared:** May 25, 2021  
**Related Motions:** C20(354)  
**Prepared by:** Adam Clarkson, Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture  
**Approved by:** Kim Ramsay, CAO

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### Summary

In November 2020 the East Hants Arena Association (EHAA) made a presentation to Council highlighting their financial challenges with COVID-19 on their operations and viability. The presentation included a financial picture of their operating budget, debts, and capital project plans.

In December 2020, Council requested an agreement be drafted with the ownership of the building to the Municipality with the East Hants Arena Association operating the facility. The draft agreement is currently sitting with Legal.

As part of the presentation to Council, the EHAA identified the immediate need to repair one compressor that failed and the need to replace the additional two compressors units. Council funded the initial compressor in early 2021. The EHAA applied for Provincial grant funding for the remaining two compressors.

On May 18<sup>th</sup> the EHAA received notification from the Province that they were awarded a \$28,000 grant for the remaining two compressors. This grant is contingent on confirmation by the EHAA of the entire project funding by May 30, 2021.

Attached to Councils package is an email from the EHAA president requesting Councils support for the additional \$92,000 in order to leverage the Provincial funds available.

### Financial Impact Statement

The \$92,000 for the compressors can be funded through the Sportsplex Reserve. This would leave the Sportsplex Reserve at a 2021/2022 year-end balance of zero.

Additionally, Council motion C20(354) provided an additional \$50,000 to the Sportsplex due to COVID-19 should the cash flow need be identified. Since this motion there have been two additional Provincial closures of the facility due COVID-19 that resulted in significant revenue loss for the EHAA. Staff anticipate a formal request to access the \$50,000 in the coming days/weeks.

### Recommendation

That Council provide the EHAA \$92,000 grant to fund the replacement of the two remaining compressors from the Sportsplex Reserve.

### Recommended Motion

Move that Council provide the East Hants Arena Association with a \$92,000 grant for the two remaining ice plant compressors to be funded through the Sportsplex Reserve.

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## Alternatives

1. That Council chose not to fund the project at this time.

The EHAA has identified that these units have reached their lifespan. One of the three compressor units already failed. Not replacing the remaining two units would run the risk of the failure mid ice season in 2021/2022. This would bring significant impact to the user groups and residents. Additionally, the Provincial funding of \$28,000 would not be available.

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