

SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - APRIL 5, 2004

CIVIC CENTRE FUNDING

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Economic/Technology Development and Communications in consultation with the City Solicitor recommends:

1. That staff be directed to negotiate an agreement with the Jaclon Group to provide consulting services regarding the securing of grants from the Federal and Provincial Governments in respect of the construction of the new Civic Centre, and;
2. That staff use as the basis of the agreement that Jaclon Group be compensated by way of a percentage of funding obtained as a direct result of their services, and that any such compensation paid shall include all time and expenses incurred by the Jaclon Group.

Background - Analysis and Options

Staff will be bringing forward to a future Council meeting a detailed report on the financing of the new Civic Centre. All options for funding are being considered, including Federal and Provincial funding. It is appropriate to pursue such funding, particularly given the acceleration of the timing of the Infrastructure Program as announced in the recent Federal budget and referenced in the Federal Budget report on this agenda.

The City has received a proposal from the Jaclon Group to provide consulting services in respect of securing grants to fund the Civic Centre. The Jaclon Group includes Mr. Jack Lonergan, Mr. Tom Fiore and the Platform Group Inc, Rick Padulo and Padulo Integrated Inc. This group has made representations to the City as to its experience in government relations, public affairs, policy development, communication strategies and the overall expertise in obtaining government funding. Although no specific successes in obtaining funding have been detailed, the proposal is that no fee would be paid unless funding has been obtained.

Staff have made enquiries as to the availability of funding for the Civic Centre and have found several possible programs that might be applicable if a concerted effort is undertaken to explore the numerous programs available.

The City Solicitor also consulted with Mr. David Petersen of Cassels Brock & Blackwell LLP and the former Premier of Ontario as to his interest in assisting the City in this respect. He advised staff that he was not aware of any specific program, but if he were retained he would charge a per diem for his services.

In addition, staff also met with Mr. Paul Pellegrini, the President of the Sussex Strategy Group. Mr. Pelligrini represents that his Group can be of assistance to the City and has proposed to charge a per diem or a monthly retainer for their services. This group indicated that it would be prepared to charge a fixed fee of \$7,500 to search out possible sources of funding.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated and approved.

Conclusion

As the availability of funding from the Provincial or Federal governments may be time sensitive, and the proposal from Jaclon Group is on a contingency basis, it is recommended that their proposal be accepted and staff negotiate a mutually acceptable agreement. It is the opinion of staff that a formal request for proposal for this type of service is not appropriate.

Attachments

None.

Report prepared by:

Frank Miele

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Miele
Commissioner of Economic/Technology Development and Communications