

CITY OF FORT SASKATCHEWAN

Aquatic Services Question

Motion:

That Council approve the following question, with associated preamble, for the Aquatic Services vote:

“Council is seeking voter input on the following project: Aquatic Services

A new aquatic facility is proposed to be constructed at the Dow Centennial Centre. In 2017 dollars, the estimated project costs are: construction cost of \$35 million; annual operating cost of \$4.1 million. This represents a municipal property tax increase of approximately \$112 for an average residential property.

Are you in favour of a new aquatic facility at the Dow Centennial Centre?”

Purpose:

To provide Council with background information and a proposed question for the Aquatic Services vote.

Background:

As directed by Council, Administration will conduct a vote on an Aquatic Services question in conjunction with the 2017 Municipal Election. The focus of the question will be whether or not a new aquatic facility should be constructed at the Dow Centennial Centre (DCC).

The Recreation Facilities and Parks Master Plan Update (RFPMPU) developed a 12 year implementation plan which recommends a new aquatic center be constructed at the DCC. This facility would be in response to the growing demands for aquatic services within the community. In 2017 dollars, the estimated costs for the project are \$35 million for capital costs and an estimated annual operating impact of \$4.1 million. The operating impact is comprised of \$2.6 million annual operating costs and \$1.5 million annual debenture payment.

The RFPMPU identified that a critical step in engaging the public is to undertake a vote, which Council supported through resolution R49-16. The vote will be held in conjunction with the municipal election on October 16, 2017.

Recreation Services and Corporate Communications will conduct a thorough community engagement process in order to ensure that residents are aware of all aspects of the question that is being asked. This will include information on both the costs associated with the construction of a future aquatic facility, as well as the tax impact required to fund it. An extensive community engagement plan will be implemented and will include the following:

- question and answer information package (available through hard copies and on the City's website)
- poster for all municipal facilities
- utility bill inserts
- ads in the Fall Leisure Guide
- information inserted into Harbour Pool swim report cards
- display on all City monitors and DCC electronic sign

The proposed question, with associated preamble, is as follows:

“Council is seeking voter input on the following project: Aquatic Services

A new aquatic facility is proposed to be constructed at the Dow Centennial Centre. In 2017 dollars, the estimated project costs are: construction cost of \$35 million; annual operating cost of \$4.1 million. This represents a municipal property tax increase of approximately \$112 for an average residential property.

Are you in favour of a new aquatic facility at the Dow Centennial Centre?”

Legislation:

In accordance with Section 236 of the *Municipal Government Act*, a Council may submit a question to be voted on by the electors on a matter over which the City has jurisdiction. A vote of the electors in accordance with Section 236 does not bind Council.

Recommendation:

Administration recommends that Council approve the Aquatic Services question as presented.

Prepared by:	Barb Shuman Director, Recreation Services	Date: March 6, 2017
Approved by:	Brenda Rauckman General Manager, Community & Protective Services	Date: March 7, 2017
Reviewed by:	Troy Fleming Acting City Manager	Date: March 9, 2017
Submitted to:	City Council	Date: March 14, 2017