



Date 1 May 2011

City Council Committee Report

To: Mayor Canfield & Members of Council

Fr: Karen Brown

Re: 2011 BIZ Levy

Recommendation:

That Council hereby approves the Harbourtown Centre Business Improvement Board budget request in the amount of \$50,000 representing the 2011 Business Improvement Board levy; and

That Council hereby gives three readings to a By-law to adopt the estimates for funds to be raised for 2011 on behalf of the Harbourtown Centre Business Improvement Board; and further

That in accordance with Notice By-law Number 144-2007, public notice is hereby given that Council intends to formally adopt the 2011 Business Improvement Board Levy at its May 16th meeting.

Background:

In 2003, under By-Law #166-2003, the City of Kenora established an improvement area for the purposes of "the improvement, beautification and maintenance of municipally owned lands, buildings and structures in the area, beyond such improvement, beautification and maintenance as is provided at the expense of the municipality at large, and the promotion of the area as a business or shopping area". In this same By-Law, the City established a Board of Management, known as the "Harbourtown Centre Business Improvement Board", in accordance with Section 204 of the Municipal Act, 2001. This Board and area are often known as the "Kenora BIZ".

In accordance with the By-Law, the Kenora BIZ must provide to the City their annual report, as audited by the City's auditors, as well as a request for the current year levy. The 2010 BIZ annual report is not yet available, however the City required that the BIZ submit their 2011 levy request in order to approve the levy amount in time to include on the City's 2011 final tax bills. The BIZ Executive has submitted a levy request of \$50,000 for 2011. The request does represent an increase in the BIZ rate of about 8.6%. It is worth noting, however, that the BIZ rate has been frozen since 2008, at which time the BIZ

area lost a portion of their assessment due to the elimination of the BIZ related contribution from properties owned by the Province. The BIZ has been holding the rate at the 2008 level since this loss occurred. Reinstating the \$50,000 levy will bring the BIZ back to the level of the original levy request that was made by the BIZ in 2004, following its establishment in 2003. Most properties within the BIZ area are subject to the minimum levy of \$250, and will not be impacted by this increase.

Budget:

The BIZ levy is levied on the final tax bill directly from the applicable property owners within the BIZ area, in accordance with the provisions from the enabling By-law.

Communication Plan/Notice By-law Requirements:

Notice of the approval of the BIZ levy will be given in accordance with Notice By-law #144-2007.