

# Wheatland County

## Request for Decision

Regular Council Meeting

October 6, 2020

Report prepared by: Tracy Buteau, GM of Corporate and Financial Services



### Rescind Madsen Charity Guidelines Policy Section 2.4

#### Recommendation from Administration

That Council rescind the Madsen Charity Guidelines Policy, Section 2.4, and that the balance of the County portion be transferred to Project Hope (30%) and Hope Bridges (70%) to provide support for special needs youth in the County. Further, the balance of funds allocated for scholarships be transferred to Golden Hills School Division and administered by the Division rather than the County.

#### Chief Administrative Officer's Comments

N/A

#### Report

##### **Division: County-wide**

At the September 8th, 2020 Council Planning and Priorities session, Administration presented information to Council regarding the Madsen Charity Guidelines Policy, Section 2.4.

On January 1978, the estate of Hans Peder Madsen, provided a trust cheque to be administered by Wheatland County in the amount of \$27,838.77 to support special needs children in the County. A trust cheque in the amount of \$27,838.76 was also provided to Standard School (now called Wheatland Crossing School under the Golden Hills School Division (GHSD)) for scholarships. This was also to be administered by the County.

Annually, the County has administered these accounts and split interest earned between the County and the GHSD. As of December 31, 2019, the Madsen Charity fund had a balance of \$55,208.77 and the Madsen Scholarship fund a balance of \$42,100.59.

The last outflow from the Madsen Charity Account was in 2015 for \$2700. Administration is recommending that the balance of this fund be transferred to Project Hope (30%) and Hope Bridges (70%) and to GHSD to administer and ensure that the funds are being used actively to benefit youth in Wheatland County.

While researching appropriate organizations to ensure alignment with the intent of the Madsen Charity, Project H.O.P.E. was discovered on the GHSD website. Project H.O.P.E. is a community based program that provides therapy to children diagnosed with severe physical, communication, cognitive self-help, social-emotional and /or behavioral challenges including Down's Syndrome, Autism, Attention Deficit with Hyperactivity Disorder, Cerebral Palsy and numerous other conditions.

Project H.O.P.E. is a volunteer organization led by a devoted and hard-working Board which fundraises to meet the therapeutic needs of the children. Golden Hills School Division partners with Project H.O.P.E. to ensure that the students receive the therapy during school hours in their schools so the children have access to this valuable therapy when they are most alert and while they are in their own community. This successful

partnership has been in existence for over twenty years and offered to students at Wheatland Crossing School and all children in the County of Wheatland.

Administration is recommending that funds also be transferred to Hope Bridges, a not for profit organization that grew out of Project HOPE. As the first children involved with Project HOPE graduated, there were barriers to entering the next phase in their lives – no college programs or immediate job placements – very few opportunities that typical youth look forward to. To bridge this gap, Hope Bridges was formed. Its vision is to build stronger community using arts programming that promotes connection and wellness through participation and inclusion. Administration is recommending a higher percentage of funding for Hope Bridges as it does not have as much visibility as Project Hope which is promoted through the school division.

Staff have met with WFCSS who confirmed that Project Hope and Hope Bridges aligned with the intent of Mr. Madsen's will.

Administration also spoke to the school division who indicated that they have several scholarships that they administer.

### **Relevant Policies, Practices, and Legislation**

N/A

### **Alignment with the Strategic Plan**

Wheatland County is committed to serving the needs of our diverse rural community.

### **Response Options**

Option 1: THAT the proposed recommendation is accepted/approved.

Option 2: THAT the proposed recommendation is not accepted/approved.

Option 3: THAT an alternate recommendation is accepted/approved.

### **Implications of Recommendation**

#### **General**

N/A

#### **Organizational**

N/A

#### **Financial**

Finance will add remaining interest and write a cheque to Project Hope, Hope Bridges and Golden Hills School Division with a letter attached signed by the Reeve.

#### **Environmental, Staff, and Public Safety**

N/A

### **Follow-up Action / Communications**

N/A

## Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Rescind Madsen Charity Guidelines Policy Section 2.4 .docx
Attachments:	- Madsen Charity Attach.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Sep 28, 2020

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Henderson", written in a cursive style.

Brian Henderson