

**REPORT TO:** Mayor and Members of Council

**PREPARED BY:** William Davidson, Director of Emergency & Safety Services

**DEPARTMENT:** Emergency & Safety Services

**MEETING DATE:** Wednesday, January-16-19

**SUBJECT:** Inclement Weather

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

Be it resolved that Council direct staff to prepare a Cooling/Warming Centre policy for review by the Policy Committee that is intended for use in non-state of emergency situations but compliments the Municipalities Emergency Plan in the event the situation worsens in nature and a state of emergency is declared.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report outlines the need for rate payer clarity of when municipally owned facilities will be open for the purpose of cooling or warming centres as well as clear direction to staff for providing the support for such facilities to operate in non-state of emergency situations.

### **LINK TO STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

**Leadership: To Create a Positive, Open Organizational Culture By Providing High Quality Public Services**

**Engages: To Encourage Community Participation That Helps Residents Feel Welcomed, Informed and Engaged By Providing Timely and Relevant Communication To Everyone**

**Plans: To Support Robust Industrial, Commercial and Residential Growth By Offering High Quality Public Spaces And Places**

**Sustains: To Cultivate An Active, Healthy And Livable Community By Enhancing Local Health Services**

Choose an item. Choose an item.

## **BACKGROUND**

At the December 19, 2018 Regular Council meeting, Council requested a report from staff regarding the opening of municipally owned facilities during non-state of emergency inclement weather situations.

On February 14, 2018 North Middlesex Council passed Policy CBL. 17, Inclement Weather Days. Policy CBL.17 outlines what steps the Municipality will follow when inclement weather affects employees' ability to attend work.

In April of 2018 the Municipality of North Middlesex had a wide spread power outage that was caused by wind and ice damage in surrounding areas. The power outage lasted for approximately 34 hours in some areas throughout the Municipality. At the time of the power outage single digit temperatures caused discomfort for many residents who did not have back up power capabilities. The Municipality did not declare a state of emergency throughout the entirety of the power outage and as such there were no municipally operated reception centres available for residents.

At the May 01, 2018 Emergency Management Program Committee Meeting North Middlesex staff recommended the need for a community services policy and program for warming and cooling centres that would complement the Municipalities Emergency Plan but would be outside of the Emergency Plan, capable of transitioning into the requirements of the Emergency Plan should the severity of the situation increase. At that time the Municipalities Community Emergency Management Coordinator (CEMC) Bettina Weber from the County of Middlesex explained that a stand-alone policy was not needed and that the Emergency Plan could be used for these situations.

## **DISCUSSION**

During times of emergencies we know that communication to our rate payers and to our support staff is a key step in providing timely effective essential services. The power outage of April, 2018 has offered the opportunity to review our service level in non-

emergency situations when residents require additional support. To provide that support in a cost effective manner there needs to be parameters set out for staff to follow as well as consistent messaging to the general public regarding what services can be expected in these non-emergency situations.

To that end, Council, in consultation with the CAO and senior management team have put forward the plan for designating the community centres in Parkhill and Ailsa Craig as warming and cooling centres during non-emergency events. These centres will provide temporary reprieve during non-emergency events including but not limited to power outage during inclement weather. Currently Staff is working toward rolling out Request for Proposal (RFP) for commercial grade generators for both of these centres. Staff anticipates reasonable completion of the project by early Spring of 2019.

Additionally, a policy framework needs to be in place to operate these designated centres for non-emergency events both from health and safety as well as insurance perspectives. Staff is looking for Council direction to draft such a policy primarily for policy committee and ultimately for Council review.

## **FINANCIAL**

### *Preapproval*

Financing for Commercial Grade generators have already been approved by Council and are coming from two different Reserves:

1. Generator Reserves: \$50,000
2. Emergency Preparedness Reserves: \$100,000 (allocation from 2017 operating surplus)

Prepared By: William Davidson, Director of Emergency & Safety Services

Reviewed By: Nandini Syed, CAO/Director of Finance (Treasurer)

Approved By: Nandini Syed, CAO/Director of Finance (Treasurer)