



STAFF REPORT

Title: Request for Funding - Northern Lights Library System 2020 Levy Increase

Meeting Date: November 12, 2019

Executive Summary:

Attached is a letter from the Northern Lights Library System (NLLS) Board advising that the NLLS Budget Committee is requested a 2% increase in membership fees to be voted on by the board representatives at the November 23, 2019 NLLS Board meeting. NLLS has proposed a budget that includes a \$0.11 per capita levy increase for municipalities and their library boards. The NLLS Board will be requesting a resolution of Council to support the proposed increase from \$5.15 per capita to \$5.26. If supported, the total levy from the City of Cold Lake for 2020 would be \$78,694.86 which would be an increase of \$1,645.71. The 2018 increase was \$0.08 per capita \$5.07 to \$5.15 per capita based on a population of 14,961. We attached a draft budget dated September 21, 2019 for reference purposes.

Background:

Upon approval by the NLLS of the annual budget NLLS provides the members with notification of the approved increase. In order for the increase to come into effect the NLLS agreement must be amended. The amendment formula requires written notification from 2/3 of the Parties to the Agreement, that they have so authorized such an amendment. The City would respond to the question with a motion from Council by a proposed date.

It should be noted that some concerns have been raised by some of the membership relating to the proposed 2% light of municipal budget constraints while others have remained neutral at this time. It is understood that the NLLS previous projected 1.5% increase in membership fees.

Alternatives:

Council may consider the following options:

1. Council may pass a resolution to support up to a maximum levy increase of \$0.11 per capita.
2. Council may accept as informational until the NLLS Board approves the budget.
3. Council may defer to the budget process.
4. Council may chose not to support a per capita increase.

Recommended Action:

Administration recommends that Council defer the decision to the budget process.



Budget Implications (Yes or No):

Yes

Submitted by:

Kevin Nagoya, Chief Administrative Officer