



STAFF REPORT

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

Meeting Date: December 10, 2019

Executive Summary:

On November 23, 2019 the Northern Lights Library System Board (NLLS) approved the 2020 budget which includes a 1.5% levy increase for Municipalities and their Library. NLLS has proposed a budget that includes a \$0.08 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 \$5.23. If supported, the total levy from the City of Cold Lake for 2020 would be \$78,246.03 which would be an increase of \$1,196.88. The 2020 increase was \$0.08 per capita, \$5.15 to \$5.23 per capita based on a population of 14,961. The NLLS requires a favorable vote of 2/3 of its members in order to amend the rates and is requesting the response by December 31, 2019.

Background:

The NLLS Budget Committee originally proposed a 2% increase which was discussed by Council at the November 12, 2019 Council Meeting. It should be noted that some concerns were raised by some of the membership relating to the proposed 2% in light of municipal budget constraints while other members remained neutral. It is understood that the NLLS previous projected 1.5% increase in membership fees.

The NLLS Board approved their 2020 budget at their November 23, 2019 meeting with a 1.5% levy increase (letter is attached). In order to not have a deficit budget and retain the level of services to the community of Cold Lake, the proposed budget includes a \$0.08 per capital levy increase for municipalities and their library board.

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 December 31, 2019.

Alternatives:

Council may consider the following options:



1. Council may pass a resolution to support the levy increase of \$0.08 per capita.
2. Council may defer to the budget process.
3. Council may chose not to support a per capita increase.

Recommended Action:

Administration recommends that Council authorize Administration of submit a letter of support for the proposed per capita levy of \$5.23 to the Northern Lights Library System.

Budget Implications (Yes or No):

Yes

Submitted by:

Kevin Nagoya, Chief Administrative Officer