



# Summary of Town Hall Meetings

January 30, 2019

Board members present for both meetings were John Foster, Paul Monahan, Chris Hauschild, Rob Taylor, Jeff Flanagan, Alan McKenna. Barb Wright and Dave Horie were also in attendance for the 6pm meeting.

President John Foster opened each meeting and **introduced the Ice Pad Committee members:**

- a. Chair Chris Hauschild
- b. Members – Barb Wright, Al McKenna, David Horie, Jeff Flanagan, Paul Monahan, Rob Taylor, John Foster, Melanie Hughes
- c. Assistance by – Peter Lamers, James McNabb, David James

Alan McKenna presented the **mitigation measures** used since the leak was discovered at start-up in September 2018:

- a. Discovered brine leak at start-up in September. At the suggestion of the club's mechanic, continued to cool pipes in the hopes they would contract and stop the leak. As far as we can tell the brine is contained. We dropped temperatures to keep everything in check. The important thing to remember is that there will be curling next year.

John Foster presented the **repair and replacement options:**

- a. Total replacement on top of current floor – remove headers, boards, drain and dispose of brine, clean out header trench, new headers, wire mesh, insulation, then concrete. We would be able to use year round (for non-ice activities between curling seasons). Various prices because not all companies quoted for the same scope of work. Range from \$285K-370K.
- b. Removable pipe system laid on top of current concrete floor. This has been used at other clubs. Would need to replace headers, dispose of and flush brine. Would also need to take up the system in the spring, store it in the rink area, and re-lay the system each year before start-up if we were to use the rink for non-curling rentals. Cost ranges \$150-175K.
- c. Expose trench, repair or build new header system, flush and dispose of brine, use walnut additive Rink Seal Pro to seal leaks if any additional ones are found. Cost ~\$70K. Temporary fix only.
- d. Hands-on approach – Essentially option A with help from club members to reduce labour cost. Would need to buy materials, retain Project Manager. Cost approx. \$200K.

Chris Hauschild spoke about **fundraising efforts to date:**

- a. Currently have \$70K in GIC fund available, approx. \$35K in donations through the National Sport Trust Fund program, and additional contributions from youth program, men's bonspiel, Galbraith Law and more.
- b. Hoping to get to \$150K, then will need financing of \$200K for full project.

- c. The initial ask was \$400 per member but it is not easy for everyone to do that. There is still some time and we are working on different options yet with National Sport Trust Fund (eg. Pledges). Pledges would be more difficult to administer but we would pay less in the long term in financing costs.
- d. Have gone to the City (Barry Ward, Mayor Jeff Lehman), referred to Sport Tourism Committee but that group is not giving out money. Asked about deposition (letters from members), loans, loan guarantee, etc. Have also spoken with MP Alex Nuttall, whose office will be sending info to get federal funding (would still need letters from members, city, county, etc.). Connected with MPPs as well but nothing productive yet.
- e. Tourism Barrie was very helpful, could boost club events with their help, but no funding available.
- f. Looking at engaging someone on commission basis to sell naming rights. This would cost money but on balance would be a big benefit (would pay for cost of financing).
- g. Trying to get an indication by the end of February of financial situation to see if we can go ahead with the RFP process.

Jeff Flanagan talked about the **financing options**:

- a. Jeff and Barb Wright (Treasurer) are working on the financing picture; they have been exploring a number of options.
- b. Barb and Jeff have spoken to 8-9 different banks and lending organizations. Discussions have gone well but no commitment yet. Banks are geared toward commercial or owner managed businesses. It is difficult for the club to guarantee \$200K bank loan. Other municipalities have offered loan guarantee. Institutions are hesitant because the club sits on leased property. With a guarantee it would be much easier.
- c. Met with RBC equipment leasing specialists this week. They are open to further discussions, Jeff and Barb are currently pulling together additional information. Cautiously optimistic.
- d. Naming rights – discussions are still ongoing. It would be a big win for the club to get yearly sum; it would help guarantee cash flow with bank.
- e. Also considering debentures from members of the club. With this program, members would loan money to finance capital improvements/expansion. Eg. 20 members loan \$10K each, pay back at 6%. Contact Barb or Jeff if interested.
- f. A lot of work has been done behind the scenes so far, these Town Hall Meetings are a chance to do a better job of communicating those efforts to the members.
- g. Would like to have a sense of position at end of February. Please donate now so we know what the next steps can be.

John Foster talked about the impact on **next year's membership fees**:

- a. The impact on fees depends on which option is pursued and status of fundraising. Eg. If a loan of \$200K is needed, we have to figure out how fast to pay it back (5-8-10 years), maybe \$60-100 per year to pay for financing.
- b. Also looking at different amount for once/week memberships vs unlimited memberships.



## Question & Answer Period

*Q: How much of the membership fee goes toward the Ice Pad Fund?*

\$40 per person goes to “capital” which is for upkeep of the 60 year-old building. Currently no portion of annual fees goes to the Ice Pad Fund.

*Q: If we do option 3 with additive and it works, how long would that last?*

It is a temporary fix only. The additive seeks out lesions, cracks, etc. but continues circulating and scales the inside of the pipes, and may have a negative effect on the chiller. Replaced about 1/3 of header system about 13 years ago and system should last about 30 years (ie. Living on borrowed time).

*Q: What is happening with Osmington? Long-term prognosis?*

There are no discussions with Osmington regarding the status of the long-term lease or possible move at this time.

*Q: The Gravenhurst club recently hosted a GoFundMe campaign. With a matching arrangement in place they raised the money needed (\$15K) in 7 days. May be able to reach more people in the community.*

We will be looking into this approach as well. A GoFundMe campaign does not provide charitable tax receipts, which is one of the reasons we are accepting donations through the National Sport Trust Fund.

*Q: Where does the money donated so far go if the club has to close?*

That is not going to happen. The club can currently afford options C and D but those are not ideal.

*Q: What is the cost of ice plant replacement? There were significant differences in the quotes provided on the website.*

The technical committee is going to keep investigating this. If we were able to do the floor then the plant would be next.

*Q: Is the government forcing us to change the ice plant?*

No. TSSA standards have not changed. It would be ideal to have it outside, at or above ground level. Can do the plant room one piece at a time. All of that is the next project after the floor.

*Q: If doing Option A, has a contractor confirmed the old floor can bear the weight of new floor?*

We would arrange to have a sample checked to confirm.

*Q: If doing Option C with removable pipes that roll up – how will these be stored?*

We would need to use some of the rink space to store it, every season. We do not yet know the cost to roll up then reinstall.

*Q: How thick would the new floor be?*



There would be 1.5-2" insulation then 5" concrete. All of our current side and back boards and doors can accommodate this.

*Q: We used to do lots of fun fundraisers at the club. This year we have passed a hat/sock at some events to make a contribution. Need more info on lottery licensing, etc.*

Raffles – raised \$1,600 minus cost of prize, license, etc. Cannot use funds raised for the floor but can use for equipment. Under the spotlight right now so do not want to jeopardize. Does not add up for effort needed.

*Q: What about Trillium Grants?*

The leak was discovered the day after the grant applications closed. There may be other grants available, we are looking at those.

*Q: Economic impact annual \$1.2M, what about approaching the Economic Development office? Have heard of other clubs getting generous amounts.*

We approached Events Sports Tourism Committee (subcommittee). We were rejected, but will ask for another meeting. Contact Haus if you are able to assist. The more help the better. Especially would like help with the City subcommittees. The timeline is tight to get everything together.

*Q: Would you keep 7 sheets of ice or fewer?*

Membership is at its highest, leagues are full (with byes), so we would continue with that. We are up 100 members this year over last (595 total in 2018 to 698 total in 2019).

*Comment: Nina Martin thanked the committee. She broke her wrist in the fall and could not curl for a while – it was awful! She urged everyone to dig into their pockets. The pricing is reasonable, especially for youth in comparison to other youth sports like hockey, figure skating, etc.*

*Comment: Option A provides more opportunity to bring in revenue as a four-season facility. There is some risk involved with other options because of their limited longevity. We need to bite the bullet now to sustain curling at the club. Year round use may make it more appealing for support from the City. Good creative thinking on financing options. Consider monthly membership payments if needing to increase fees a lot this year.*