

From: Jennifer Gourlie [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2024 9:19 AM

To: Jubb [REDACTED]
Subject: Ice fee Pre-payment

Good morning Mike,

I was hoping to address the 30 day ice pre-payment schedule that the Township has implemented and wondering if it could be brought to council to discuss.

We really don't think it's fair that we should have to pre-pay for services, especially when running a very small, not for profit club. The Cannington Figure Skating Club has run for decades and have always paid their bills. When the club had the unfortunate circumstances to have been embezzled from, leaving us in debt (to Brock Township) for tens of thousands of dollars, we did not go bankrupt and shut down. We pulled up our pants and dug in with extreme fundraising and hard work to ensure every last cent was paid.

We have received more than one email in the past threatening that we would be locked out of the arena if funds were not paid in advance of stepping on the ice. This is very difficult. For instance, this year we are required to pay October's fees by September 1st and November's fees by October 1st. That means the township will require 2 full months of ice fees before we even set foot on the ice on October 16th. That a lot of money when we haven't even collected registration fees yet! Many of our families require payment plans to be able to cover their fees (in today's economy, who can blame them?!) We are doing our best to try to meet the Townships demands. We used to hold registration nights starting in mid-September. Because we are expected to pay ice fees before registration even begins, we have have had to started promoting earlier in an attempt to get some funds in. We are even attempting summer fundraisers (when our volunteers should be getting a much needed summer hiatus) just to cover these demands.

Being a small club, we do not carry a huge bank balance and are lucky if we are in the black at the end of the year. Our registration fees alone do not cover the costs. We rely on fundraising, which has become increasingly more difficult in this economy.

Bottom line is, can't we continue to pay as best we can, sometimes incurring financing charges for being late? The strict demands and threats of being locked out are honestly making us volunteers (which are extremely hard to find) too stressed to want to bother anymore. Believe me, being a mother and wife, with a full time job and a side business, I don't really have the energy to have to constantly stress and fight for a non-profit. The Township should really pick on the big business and not us small volunteer groups who are only trying to give the children of our community some opportunities.

Thank you for listening to my emotional rant. I really hope that someone can help.

Jennifer Gourlie
President
Cannington Figure Skating Club
[REDACTED]