



## Staff Report

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**Report To:** Council Meeting  
**From:** Terri Towstiuc, Clerk  
**Date:** 2024-06-13  
**Subject:** Old Town Hall Options

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### **Recommendation:**

That West Elgin Council hereby receives the report from Terri Towstiuc, Clerk Re: Old Town Hall Options; And

That Council approve option:

**Option 1:** Remain “Status Quo”, directing the Old Town Hall Committee to continue pursuing avenues to increase funding for the revitalization of the building.

**Option 2:** That Council direct the Clerk to proceed with implementing the procedures prescribed in By-law 2019-14 being a By-law to Adopt and Maintain a Policy with Respect to the Sale and Other Disposition of Land Owned by the Municipality of West Elgin, beginning at the next regular meeting of Council.

**Option 3:** direct staff to initiate the formal process to create a Board of Management for the Old Town Hall.

### **Purpose:**

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with options to determine the future of the Old Town Hall Building, 217 Furnival Road, Rodney.

### **Background:**

At the Old Town Hall Committee meeting on June 4, Councillor Navackas requested a report be provided to Council regarding the options for the future of the Old Town Hall building, located in downtown Rodney. Currently, the building needs significant repairs to just be brought back to code (Building Code), and a revitalization has been estimated at \$5,000,000. A Municipal renovation must adhere to full AODA regulations, to allow full access to all patrons.

The committee held an Open House on May 13, with invitations extended to all community members, to provide their feedback regarding the building. It was noted that the community members that attended would like to see the building remain, with the result being a community hub, for all to enjoy. Ideas included a bigger library, community art space, theater, and licensed kitchen.

Council has options, to determine the future of this Old Town Hall;

1. Remain “Status Quo” with the committee, with the idea to continue the current revitalization proposal, which requires additional funding of at least \$2,500,000 (which is in addition to the previous grants obtained for the project). Staff and committee members will continue to search for additional grants, if available, however additional provincial or federal funding is unlikely due to previously receiving a grant for this proposed project.
2. Sell the building at a fair market value with the possibility of losing a treasured building in the community.
3. Create a board of management (similar comparison would be the Port Glasgow Yacht Club or Rodney Fair Board). A Board would be able to obtain their own grant funding, fundraising opportunities and strategic direction.

**Financial Implications:**

Potential of \$2,500,000, in addition to the approximate \$2,500,000 previously received in Provincial and Federal grant funding.

**Policies/Legislation:**

N/A

**Alignment with Strategic Priorities:**

Infrastructure Improvement	Recreation	Economic Development	Community Engagement
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> To improve West Elgin’s infrastructure to support long-term growth.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> To provide recreation and leisure activities to attract and retain residents.	<input type="checkbox"/> To ensure a strong economy that supports growth and maintains a lower cost of living.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> To enhance communication with residents.

Respectfully submitted by,

Terri Towstiuć  
Clerk