

---

**2020 Capital & Operating Budget Amendment – Ministik School Building****Report Purpose**

To amend the 2020 Capital and Operating Budgets to demolish the Ministik School Building and construct a new picnic gazebo adjacent to the remaining playground.

**Recommendation**

THAT an amendment to the 2020 Operating Budget, in the amount of \$550,000, for the purpose of demolishing the Ministik School Building, to be funded from Municipal Reserves, be approved.

THAT an amendment to the 2020 Capital Budget, in the amount of \$130,000, for the purpose of constructing a new picnic gazebo adjacent to the playground at the Ministik School Building, to be funded from Municipal Reserves, be approved.

**Our Prioritized Strategic Goals**

Goal 2 - Manage, invest and plan for sustainable municipal infrastructure

Goal 6 - Provide facilities and services that are available and accessible to residents

Goal 8 - Foster an environment for safe communities

**Report**

The Elk Island Public School Division decommissioned the Ministik School and planned for its demolition. A local group of County residents petitioned Council to keep the school from being demolished so they had time to develop a business case to create a community hub within the old school. To support this community initiative, Strathcona County acquired the school building and assumed all future liabilities for the facility.

The residents could not build the support in the community to form a community hub and make use of the facility.

With the condition of the current building, the costs to restore the building to a fully usable state is not practical.

Leaving this building vacant creates a liability for the County for the risk of vandalism and potential injury to those individuals who are accessing the property.

It is recommended that demolition of this building begin this fall to remove the liability of leaving the building vacant. With the building being demolished in the fall, there will be some minor landscaping required next spring to sod over the land where the building currently stands.

When the option of restoration or demolition was presented to Council on May 5, 2020, a discussion was held about adding a picnic gazebo to the playground to support the community's continued use of the site.

Administration has reviewed options to construct a picnic gazebo adjacent to the playground and in a location to support the continued use of the area by municipal or library rural summer programs. Based on the review a budget of \$130,000 is recommended for the

Author: Diehl Townsley, Facility Services

Directors: Diehl Townsley, Facility Services, Stacy Fedechko, Planning and Development Services; Laura Probst, Corporate Finance, Don Legge, Corporate Planning

Associate Commissioner, Division: Lori Cooper, Corporate Services; Kevin Glebe, Infrastructure and Planning Services; Gregory J. Yeomans, Chief Financial Officer

Lead Department: Facility Services

construction of the picnic gazebo and to add signage describing the history the Ministik School and local area.

If approved the picnic gazebo would be constructed during the summer of 2021.

### **Planned expenditures by year**

The following chart illustrates planned expenditures by year for multi-year projects.

#### **Demolition**

Year	2020	2021	2022	Total
Expenditure by Year	\$350,000	\$200,000	\$0	\$550,000

#### **Construction of picnic gazebo**

Year	2020	2021	2022	Total
Expenditure by Year	\$0	\$130,000	\$0	\$130,000

### **Council and Committee History**

May 5, 2020	Council requested Administration prepare a capital budget amendment
December 5, 2019	Council approved the 2020 Capital Budget
December 6, 2018	Council approved the 2019 Capital Budget
November 27, 2018	Council approved that Administration negotiate the purchase of Ministik School with Elk Island Public Schools and that Administration prepare a report on the estimated maintenance and costs required and any resulting proposed budget amendments, and that the Ward Councillor meet with community representatives to discuss next steps.

### **Other Impacts**

**Policy:** FIN-001-024: Financial Reserves; FIN-001-027: Tangible Capital Assets Financial Reporting Policy

**Legislative/Legal:** n/a

**Interdepartmental:** Corporate Finance, Planning and Development Services, Corporate Planning

**Master Plan/Framework:** Sustainability Framework