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## **Community Hub/Recreation Centre Feedback**

The following feedback has been compiled from social media, written submission, email and the public engagement sessions on October 4 and October 25, 2017.

- Would like to see a facility that could better accommodate pickle ball and other similar activities (gym).
- Suggestion to have the YMCA come to council to present some options.
- Need to have a central location in our municipality that offers services for all ages. If we can't keep our people then we will not retain our businesses.
- Recommended to check out St. Marys audited statements to be released in mid-October. Should look around other facilities to learn what they did correctly and their mistakes.
- St. Marys pool operates in the red, as most do. Feels we could do the same.
- Concerned about putting 2.5 million into an 8 week pool with no alternatives presented.
- Most families want a quality of life and a facility the whole family can use. Rather than putting the facility in Exeter could it be in a more central location for everyone's enjoyment. (like New Hamburg)
- When looking at other centres many with Hubs have a larger population. Can this be a referendum? (place the question on the ballot) There is a large population in their area that does not draw on many services.
- We need to have more information in our conceptual design. What services will be included? The more services included the busier the facility will be.
- Full operation of the facility should be done by the Municipality.
- Do not want to see any double dipping. (having to pay for a facility in South Huron and Lambton)
- Would like to see exercise facilities for all demographics
- Would like to see a year round ice surface or a surface that could be used all year around for other activities.
- Meeting rooms and a Café.
- St. Thomas has a new facility with a walking track that was comfortable and free during the day
- Would like to see a gym.

- The current discussion about the scope of recreation facilities in Exeter fits well with the thoughts I was trying to express in my earlier note concerning South Huron being a high tax area. I fear we will be heading even more in that direction if council accepts the high end options put forward regarding a swimming pool and recreation center/arena. The consequence is that the outlandish taxes that result (paid by everyone not just those in Exeter) will discourage the reasonable objectives of more business investment and immigration into South Huron. In my view these ends will be better accomplished if you flaunted a slogan that says "South Huron – the lowest taxes in Huron County." But that cannot be achieved if you proceed with unreasonable spending. Unfortunately I was not able to attend any of the community meetings held to obtain public feedback on the projects, but I have read several notes and the long story in the Lakeshore Advance about the meeting held in Grand Bend. In all of this I am sensing the high end of the projects has the support of the CAO and the Mayor. I hope not.
- Good morning: I thought I would pass my thoughts on in writing on last night's meeting on the "hub" proposal. 1 - Do you really think proposing this idea now is fair to those who are being hit with the water/sewage costs? As Dan Best said last night on another issue 'there is only so much money to go around', well the same goes for those on limited incomes. How much more nickel and diming are we going to have to put up with. I did take exception when the man at the back who said he has to pay 8k in taxes and Dan replies that he pays more than that. Really - that is the answer? Well for those who are retired and on a limited income that was uncalled for. If you keep raising taxes to support Exeter's grandiose ideas you are going to lose your seniors tax base as they will not be able to afford it and no longer want to live here. 2 - I agree with most people in the room last night that this hub being built in Exeter will be of no use to those living anywhere else especially in the Cove area. We are paying out our money to help those in Exeter and Exeter alone. Speaking from experience, those in the Cove (600 people remember) have access to many of the ideas proposed for your hub here in the Cove. I would point out that the majority of people here choose not to use those things offered so why do you think they will opt to drive to Exeter to use them especially in winter. 3 - Dan mentioned that we needed growth. I get that whole concept but remember that people like us chose to move here from larger areas to enjoy the "quiet life". If I wanted to live in an area that was booming like the cities then I would have stayed where I was. So if you start to make the area grow too much with all these amenities being built in Exeter you will lose those people who came here to retire in a quiet safe community. To quote Dan's words when someone mentioned having to pay for our own roads, services (or lack of) here in the Cove - "you chose to live there" (again really? that is how we speak to taxpayers?), yes I chose to live in a quiet safe affordable community as opposed to pay for a nearby towns grandiose ideas. To keep adding to our taxes will no longer make this an affordable community. 4 - The indoor pool

while maybe good for Exeter, will not be utilized by those outside your town. Do you really think that people in the Cove will drive all the way down to Exeter to use YOUR pool in the winter time? If they wanted an indoor pool they could drive across the highway and use the one at Oakwood for minimal cost (or up the road). I can tell you that during the summer our saltwater pool in the Cove is used minimally so I can't see people going all the way to Exeter to use one, can you? So what you are again saying is let's get the seniors of the Cove to help pay for something they won't use. We will instead choose to support a local business and use that pool instead.

5- I think Council and Dan Best need to meet with CAPREIT and perhaps the Homeowners Association to understand what the cove is about. Council may know but Dan clearly does not. For Dan to say we do not pay property tax is absurd. Our homes each have their own property assessment and CAPREIT pays our taxes for us through our monthly fees. Our monthly fees are divided into two parts, fees and taxes. Each year we are individually given a tax receipt so how much taxes were paid by us for our homes and a receipt for the land lease and fees associated with it. Has Dan ever toured the Cove and asked how it works. I would be glad to arrange this if you wish. Maybe then he and others will realized we are not a trailer park as mentioned at a previous meeting.

6 - We chose to move to the Cove because of the affordability, sense of community and access to the Beach and the main strip. We did not care about all these amenities that were mentioned last night. Perhaps you should consider market this as a reason to move to your area. Building a hub will not do it for you. Remember, for each dollar we have to fork out for things like this it is one dollar less that is going to promote private businesses as there is only so much money to go around.

7 - As a point of interest I would like to point out something I noticed last night. For those that opposed the ideas, the voices were quickly cut off and Dan moved to the next person before they finished speaking. Yet, I notice that those who agreed with various things they were allowed to go on. Just pointing this out as an observation. To paraphrase my thoughts, when we decided to move from the city to the Grand Bend area (we looked at 3 communities in Ontario) we should have been told about all these extras we were going to have dumped on us. Had we known, we would have chosen to move elsewhere. This community is becoming more costly and we are now going to examine if it is worth it or should we move elsewhere. I would remind you all that seniors are on a limited income and while many are not as fortunate as us, this is creating a hardship for those with limited funds. A further reminder is that the Canadian Government sees this and gave those on Old Age Pension a raise next year of 25 cents a month. Thanks for listening, I needed to get it off my chest as I preferred to just listen to others last night.

- I have just become aware of the proposed upgrade to outdoor pool in Exeter and the build of a new recreational facility/community hub. I understand that if the proposals were to be accepted that all South Huron would be

expected to pay for the above. I live in Grand Cove, Grand Bend a retirement community. I'm wondering where on earth we are expected to find the money to finance these proposals that we would never use anyway. We have just been stung for thousands of dollars to pay for work done with Huron Water. ENOUGH IS ENOUGH don't you think?

- I guess I don't really have a problem with the pool option being included in the plans as an option but I really don't think that in the big picture this should be included in an initial build. While not always easy there are likely capital grants out there that could pay for capital structures. For sure if you added solar panels to the roof! My big concern is with the annual operations which we all know, and as mentioned last night, would be at a deficit. Has a feasibility study looked at the difference in an operations deficit for an indoor pool compared to our existing outdoor pool deficit? No grants for operation deficits!
- As a former educator in our community having an indoor would allow the Grade 3 students to learn the "Swim to Survive Program" (as outlined by the Province) in our community, rather than by bussing to outside the community. An indoor pool would allow students to go swimming and learn as a class. When I took my class to the previous indoor pool a student had never had the opportunity to swim in a pool and then took lessons for the summer. Awesome to be able to do activities within our community. An indoor pool could be used by Physical Education classes from Elementary and Secondary schools during the school year. Indoor pool could be used by seniors after hip and knee surgeries.
- A follow up on last night's, Oct 4/17 meeting at SH Rec Center as mentioned and encouraged. My impression is that the increase in property tax to accommodate an indoor pool is doable if companies in Exeter and area are willing to donate! Many have donated good amounts to Jessica's House but 2018 is another year in which many businesses budget a sum for a charitable project. There are people in Exeter, whom I know, who now drive to London twice a week to swim and also those who frequent the St Marys pool. Perhaps a second ice surface can wait till later, especially if kids' hockey is on the decrease! We heard last night that pools typically run a deficit therefore we may have to live with that. It seems to me that many favor an indoor pool rather than spending money on fixing the present outdoor one at considerable cost. In short these are my thoughts and impressions. Thank you for a comprehensive presentation.
- Totally unjustified, and unnecessary!!! The people paying for this are mostly retired with no kids to use this facility, and we will not pay for this like you made us pay for your damn sewer upgrades.
- I asked the council to consider the financial burden on all its tax payers before going ahead with wishes or wants of some.