

**Town of Lyons, Colorado
Board of Trustees
BOT Agenda Cover Sheet
Agenda Item No: X. 4.
Meeting Date: November 18, 2024**

TO: Mayor Rogin and Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: David Cosgrove, Director of Parks and Public Works
Lisa Ramsey, Parks and Recreation Coordinator

DATE: November 14, 2024

ITEM: LaVern M. Johnson Park Ice Rink Discussion/Direction

ORDINANCE
 MOTION / RESOLUTION
 INFORMATION

I. **REQUEST OR ISSUE:** Staff is seeking direction on 2024/2025 LaVern M. Johnson Park Ice Rink Operation and Resources

II. **RECOMMENDED ACTION / NEXT STEP:** Following the discussion, staff will follow the direction given by the Board.

II. **FISCAL IMPACTS:** Considerable staff resources are committed to the ice rink's set-up, maintenance, and teardown annually. Setup and tear down of the ice rink require a minimum crew of five (5) Parks and Public Works FTEs ranging from 250 to 375 total hours annually (\$6,250-\$9,375 in labor). Seasonal maintenance typically requires 1 to 2 Parks and Public Works FTE, an average of 1.5 to 3 hours a day for the duration the rink is set up, typically 65-80 days (end of December to the beginning of March). This ranges from \$2,500 to \$10,500 in labor costs for the season (depending on weather, snow removal requirements, vandalism, and other maintenance issues). Annual material costs for the rink for parts, resurfacing mats, pucks, lights, and other items typically range between \$1,500 and \$2,500 dollars. Bi-annual costs for larger items, primarily liner replacement and skate sharpening, can be as much as \$5,000-\$6,000.

Attached is programming and skate rental revenue information, which typically does not offset the aforementioned costs.

III. **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** Following the 2023/2024 season, staff began to discuss the challenges surrounding the ongoing maintenance and scheduling (both daily and for recreational programming) of the LaVern M. Johnson Ice Rink. For the past several seasons, the rink has become much more labor-intensive to try to keep open. The rink is entirely weather-dependent and typically takes a good week of below-freezing temps to freeze and be safe for prime skating conditions. With more days seeing milder daytime temperatures during the winter months, surface conditions have become much less dependable and, in some cases, unsafe. Please see the attached document "RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMING ICE RINK DATA" for information regarding programming, skate rentals, rescheduling and issues.

During the public comment period of the budget process, there were comments related to the ice rink. These comments alluded to the resources being committed to the current system, which is not usable for most of the winter. It was suggested that the town investigate an alternative system or make some improvements. Many other comments related to streets, potholes, street signs, and many other parks and public works projects suggested that resources may be better spent elsewhere.

The Parks and Recreation Commission discussed this topic at their regular meeting on 11/11/24, understood the issues surrounding the ice rink, and informed the BOT that they would be discussing the issue further.

Staff is seeking direction from the Board of Trustees on whether the Board wants to continue allocating resources to the ice rink for the 2024/2025 season or if staffing and other resources might be better allocated toward other projects/priorities until a more dependable alternative or improvements to the ice rink may be prioritized.

One alternative may be to research to find a third-party vendor who owns the infrastructure (chiller, liner, etc.) to come in and set up during the winter months and operate out of the concession stand so that the Town no longer takes on the ongoing expense involved with the operations and maintenance required to operate it.

V. **LEGAL ISSUES:** Unknown.

VI. **CONFLICTS OR ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES:** None known.

