

# Talisman owners say they'll pay; tax sale put off

By [Don Crosby](#), For The Sun Times

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The owners of Talisman Resort have agreed to pay the municipality back taxes and other outstanding charges, so a tax sale of the property has been postponed.

The sale was supposed to take place Thursday. Closed bids had already been received when the process was stopped at the last minute.

"We got information from the owners that they are going to pay the cancellation price, which is what the minimum bid was on the properties," said Grey Highlands chief administrative officer Dan Best.

For the purpose of the tax sale the resort is made up of three different properties, each one with its own tax roll number and with a different amount of money owed.

The owners have until mid January to make good on their promise to pay the money owed the municipality. If they fail to meet the deadline the tax sale will start again.

"If we don't see anything by the middle of January then we can move forward with the tax sale proceedings which means we have to advertise for four consecutive weeks," Best said.

The amount owing continues to climb. It is now just over \$2 million for back taxes and outstanding municipal water and sewage fees. The owners will also have to reimburse the municipality for the costs incurred during a year-long court-imposed receivership and other legal fees involved in the tax sale.

"We still have to determine what the final cancellation price is because all of any costs that the municipality incurred will be built into that cancellation price," Best said.

Best noted that the legislation around tax sales strongly favours the rights of property owners and gives them great leeway and opportunity to retain control up to the last minute.

"We had a tax sale earlier this year where we were ready to go through the bids. We had opened them and the owner came in and paid all of the taxes and arrears. It's just part of the tax sale proceeding," said Best.

"Up until the time that we would actually transfer title . . . the owners can come in and pay the cancellation price and retain their property," Best explained.

Municipal officials have always expressed hope that the Talisman issue would be resolved outside of the tax sale and that the resort would once again contribute to the local economy.

"It's a key economic driver. So one way or another it would be great for the community and great for the local economy to see some type of development up and running at that location," Best said. Don Crosby

Sun Times correspondent

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