

GRANTS COMMITTEE
MINUTES

May 6, 2013

PRESENT: Councillor Russell Walker, Chair
Councillor Barry Dalrymple, Vice-Chair
Councillor David Hendsbee
Councillor Waye Mason
Councillor Matt Whitman
Ms. Kate Watson
Ms. Lori Wozney
Mr. Darren Watts
Mr. Andrew Higdon
Mr. Geoff Baker

STAFF: Ms. Peta-Jane Temple, Team Lead, Grants and Special
Projects
Mr. Quentin Hill, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. in Halifax Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 4, 2013

MOVED by Mr. Hidgon, seconded by Councillor Dalrymple that the March 4, 2013 minutes be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

Additions:

- 8.1 2013-2014 Community Grants Program: Ineligible Applications

MOVED by Councillor Whitman, seconded by Mr. Watts that the agenda be approved as amended.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES- NONE

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS - NONE

7. REPORTS

7.1 Addendum to By-law T-229 Respecting Tax Exemption for Non-Profit Organizations: Appeals 2012-2013

A staff report dated April 18, 2013 was before the Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Dalrymple, seconded by Mr. Watts, that HRM Grants Committee recommend Regional Council:

- 1. Uphold their approval of increase in exemption level for the Society of St. Vincent De Paul, 438 and 440 Herring Cove Road, Halifax, as recommended under By-law T-229.**
- 2. Defer requests for an increase in exemption level from the Dartmouth Adult Services Centre, Canoe-Kayak Canada; the Deanery Project Cooperative; Musquodoboit Harbour Lions Club; the Kinsmen Club of Dartmouth,**

Canadian Blood Services; and the Village Green Recreation Association pursuant to section 89 (6) of the HRM Charter.

Ms. Peta-Jane Temple, Team Leader, Tax, Grants & Special Projects, explained the report to the Committee. She advised that the majority of the groups were not deemed eligible for funding because the legislation does not allow a tax exemption to a prior year.

Councillor Hendsbee requested clarification if the Deanery Project Cooperative would be paying taxes for the 2013 year.

Ms. Temple advised that they would receive a tax bill for the 2013 fiscal year. She noted that because they are not on the bylaw they will get a tax bill. She also noted that if Council accepts them on the Bylaw, they would be refunded any taxes that they paid.

Councillor Hendsbee asked for clarification on the Musquodoboit – Harbour Lions Club on why they are not on the Bylaw.

Ms. Temple noted that typically a service club gets a conversion rate from a business to a residential rate. She noted that if they were to get a full exemption they would need to be offering a service for the municipality, such as a playground or a comfort centre. She advised that if the club was offering a comfort centre, they would need to have a signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Municipal Emergency Measures Office (EMO). She explained that staff could provide a list to show which service clubs are providing services for the municipality.

Councillor Walker requested further information on why the Canadian Blood Services was included on the list.

Ms. Temple advised that they are considered a third party medical help agency which had been previously declined. She explained that if Canadian Blood Services have a MOU with the municipality that was new information and that would be followed up on.

Mr. Watts requested clarification on Dartmouth Adult Services Centre, and if it was receiving a tax exemption at the same rate as other groups offering similar services.

Ms. Temple stated that they do not get the same rate as some of the other services but it could be looked at for the upcoming year.

Further discussion ensued and the **MOTION WAS PUT AND PASSED.**

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Whitman that the Grants Committee request staff to prepare a report on the cost implications and budget impact of having the Tax Exemption program for Non-Profit Organizations, indexed to meet the annual property assessment adjustments.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

8. ADDED ITEMS

8.1 2013-2014 Community Grants Program: Ineligible Applications

A supplementary report dated April 16, 2013 was before the Committee.

Ms. Temple provided new information and requested that the Committee add the following items and information to the April 16, 2013 supplementary report:

Community History

Woodlawn Cemetery Company – Dartmouth

A capital grant of \$25,000 requested to replace cemetery fencing, entrance gate, and landscaping. The property is not a registered heritage property: the Community Grants Program does not fund cemetery upkeep. Refer applicant to HRM Heritage Planning staff for information regarding the heritage property registration process.

Arts and Crafts

Bus Stop Theatre Cooperative Limited – Halifax

A capital grant of \$13,000 requested to fully fund the purchase of lighting equipment, projectors and storage cases. The applicant does not meet the registration deadline of 12 months prior to the application deadline of March 31, 2013 (incorporated October 18, 2012).

Novanet – Halifax

A grant of \$1,000 requested to purchase books for HRM Libraries for One Book Nova Scotia Project, a adult literacy program. The Community Grants Program does not fund literacy programs. Refer applicant to Halifax Libraries regarding book purchases or alternate funding sources.

Recreation and Leisure

Acadia Recreation Society- Sackville (Late Application)

A capital grant of \$25,000 towards construction of a playground withdrawn. Request to change the project to \$25,000 to fully fund the purchase of a ride-on lawnmower. Request was denied as late application and its substitution accepted deferred to the 2014 program.

The Committee reviewed and discussed the report and the recommended additions.

MOVED by Mr. Higdon, seconded by Ms. Watson to that the Grants Committee approve the April 18 2013 staff report and include the following applications as ineligible: Woodlawn Cemetery Company; Bus Stop Theatre Cooperative Limited; Novanet; and Acadia Recreation Society.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE – June 13, 2013

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

Quentin Hill
Legislative Assistant