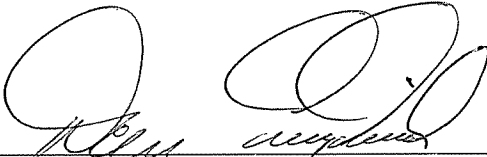


9.1.5

Halifax Regional Council
July 6, 2004

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:



Dan English, Acting Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: June 29, 2004

SUBJECT: Captain William Spry Lodge Elevator

ORIGIN

On September 24, 2002 Councillor Adams added an item to the agenda at Halifax Regional Council regarding the Captain William Spry Lodge Elevator. The motion that was subsequently put and passed read as follows:

“MOVED by Councillor Adams, seconded by Councillor Goucher, that the Mayor write a letter to the Honourable Peter Christie, Minister of Community Services, regarding the installation of an elevator at the Captain William Spry Centre to be cost shared with the Councillor. Motion Put and Passed unanimously.

The property referenced in the motion is Captain William Spry Centre, an HRM owned property. The property that should have been referenced in the motion and discussion at Council, was Captain William Spry Lodge, a non-HRM owned property.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended:

That Council approve the payment of \$10,000 from Councillor Adam’s District Capital Fund on a one-time basis, regarding the cost of the installation of an elevator in the Captain William Spry Lodge.

BACKGROUND

The Municipal Government Act prohibits the municipality from spending funds on non-HRM owned property. The guidelines for the Councillors' District Capital Funds also make this very clear. Following the Sept. 24, 2002 motion, the Mayor, on behalf of Halifax Regional Council, sent a letter to the Minister of Community Services requesting that they cost share for the installation of an elevator for the Captain William Spry Lodge. The Department of Community Services issued a press release on January 15, 2004 indicating that the residents of Captain William Spry Lodge would soon have improved access to their apartments, due to the new elevator. The tender has gone out, and the elevator will be in operation by late summer. The press release also indicated that HRM Councillor Steve Adams would be providing a \$10,000 contribution from his District Capital budget. The total cost of the elevator is estimated at about \$125,000. Through HRM's share of public housing costs, we would normally contribute 12.5% (\$15,600). Councillor Adams commitment of \$10,000 would bring HRM's total contribution to \$25,600.

DISCUSSION

Due to the confusion that surrounded the motion put before Council on September 24, 2002 regarding Captain William Spry Centre versus Captain William Spry Lodge, and the Councillor's continuing commitment to provide \$10,000 from his District Capital funds toward this elevator, staff are recommending that, on a one time basis, Council approve an expenditure of a capital nature for non-HRM owned property.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Funds in the amount of \$10,000 are available in the Councillors District Capital Funds and has been confirmed by staff of Financial Services.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Capital and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Capital and Operating reserves.

A letter is to be sent to the Minister of Community Services accompanying the cheque, indicating that this is an unusual situation, partially caused by a communication error and that although we will honour our commitment in this case, under no circumstances should this be construed as a willingness to fund projects which are clearly a Provincial responsibility.

ALTERNATIVES


We could write a letter to the Minister of Community Services explaining the limitations under the Municipal Government Act that prevents us from expending money on non-HRM owned assets and decline to honour our commitment regarding the elevator on these grounds. This is not a recommended alternative because it would negatively impact the relationship between HRM and the Province as well as the community as there is community expectations that HRM is contributing to this project.

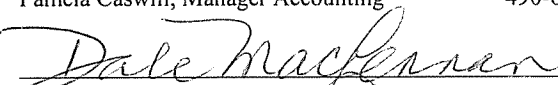
ATTACHMENTS

none

Additional copies of this report, and information on its status, can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

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