



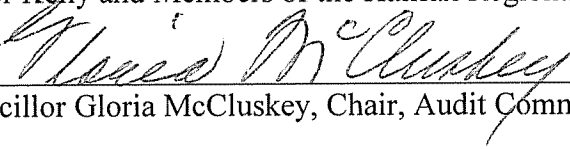
PO Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

Item No. 2

Halifax Regional Council
November 27, 2007

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of the Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:


Councillor Gloria McCluskey, Chair, Audit Committee

DATE: November 14, 2007

SUBJECT: Miscellaneous Donation Account - Operating Fund

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

The Audit Committee meeting of October 25, 2007.

Financial Services has committed to provide this report on an annual basis, in conjunction with the Miscellaneous Trust Funds Financial Statements.

BACKGROUND

See staff report dated October 16, 2007, Attachment 1 to this report.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

See staff report dated October 16, 2007, Attachment 1 to this report.

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, as well as any relevant legislation.

ALTERNATIVES

See staff report dated October 16, 2007, Attachment 1 to this report.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Staff Report dated October 16, 2007, Miscellaneous Donation Accounts - Operating Fund

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.

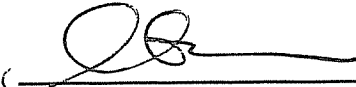
Report Prepared By: Melody Campbell, Legislative Assistant.



PO Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

Audit Committee
October 25, 2007

TO: Gloria McCluskey, Chair, Audit Committee
CC: Audit Committee Members

SUBMITTED BY: 
for Dale MacLennan, CA, Director of Finance

DATE: October 16, 2007

SUBJECT: Miscellaneous Donation Accounts - Operating Fund

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

Financial Services has committed to provide this report on an annual basis, in conjunction with the Miscellaneous Trust Funds Financial Statements.

BACKGROUND

The Financial Reporting and Accounting Manual (FRAM) requires municipalities to recognize and use Trust Funds in the case of transactions which arise from a formal or informal trust agreement pursuant to which a municipality is accountable to third parties for the use and disposition of trust assets and for the funds derived from those trust activities.

HRM has a number of formal trust agreements and these trust funds are reported separately in the Miscellaneous Trust Funds Financial Statements. From time to time, HRM receives donations, where there is no formal trust agreement in place. These donations are accounted for as separate liability accounts on the Operating Fund Balance Sheet.

DISCUSSION

The following six donation accounts are currently maintained on the HRM Operating Fund Balance Sheet:

(1) Parks Civic Support-General

This program, which is a carry forward from the former City of Halifax, provides individuals and organizations the opportunity to commemorate a person, place, or event, while at the same time improving the community's livability. Donations help fund projects such as new park benches, creative play structures, or preservation of existing natural features.

(2) Halifax Public Gardens Donate A Tree and Adopt A Tree

These programs, also brought forward from the former City of Halifax, were developed to encourage the continued tradition of citizen support and help maintain, identify and regenerate the fine display of trees in the Public Gardens. Donations for Donate a Tree include the cost of the tree, its planting and a plate listing the species and donor's special commemoration. The Adopt a Tree program helps offset the maintenance costs of the Garden's tree collection.

(3) City Hall Clock Project

This account was set up in 1998 and result from a number of donations made by the Halifax Foundation. These funds are to be used for the maintenance and upkeep of the two clocks as well as the Memorial bells.

(4) DeWolf Bedford Contribution

This account, created in fiscal 2001, results from a \$100,000 personal donation from Harry DeWolf towards the provision of a facility that is open to the public, located in and primarily for the benefit of the community of Bedford. To date, Council has approved two withdrawals from this fund, \$10,000 for the Bedford Youth Development Association and \$2,000 for the Bedford Legion Branch #95. On September 24, 2002 Council approved a \$50,000 loan from this account to the Rocky Lake Development Association. The terms of the repayment are 6% interest over a one-year period, with the provision that the repayment of interest can be forgiven by the DeWolf Family at a later time. A number of extensions have been granted in the past and correspondence received by the municipality over the past year indicates that the Association should currently be in a position to make full payment on the loan, however no payments have been received to date.

(5) Drake Athletic Field

The account created in November 2002 is the result of a donation from Loblaw Properties Limited (Atlantic Superstore). The intention of the fund is specifically for the development of this park site in Shel Drake Heights, which has been tentatively called the Drake Athletic Field. There has been no activity in this account to date.

(6) HRM Infrastructure Recovery Fund

On October 21, 2003 HRM Council approved the creation of the HRM Infrastructure Recovery Fund in response to generous offers of financial donations from the public in response to the damage caused to HRM parks and trees by Hurricane Juan on September 28, 2003. There were no expenditures during fiscal 2003/04, however, significant work has been carried out since, primarily in the Public Gardens and these costs will be recovered from this fund. In 2005/06 funding of \$125,000 was received from the Province and in 2006/07 an additional \$134,909 was received in donations.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

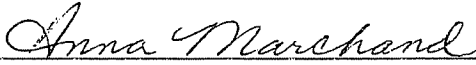
There are no budget implications.

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 as well as any relevant legislation.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A - Miscellaneous Donation Accounts - Operating Fund - Balances as at March 2007 and March 2006.

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.		
Report Prepared by:	Ian Hart, Financial Reporting Analyst	490-6329
		
Report Approved by:	Anna Marchand, Operations Manager, Accounting	490-7222

ATTACHMENT A

Miscellaneous Donation Accounts - Operating Fund

Fund	March 31, 2007	March 31, 2006
Parks Civic Support - General	\$11,176	\$ 15,008
Halifax Public Gardens - Donate a Tree and Adopt a Tree	\$11,577	\$ 11,577
City Hall Clock Project	\$18,279	\$ 18,279
DeWolf Bedford Contribution	\$51,559	\$ 49,505
Drake Athletic Field	\$5,000	\$ 5,000
HRM Infrastructure Recovery Fund	\$795,890	\$ 908,749