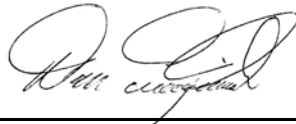


TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:



Dan English, Chief Administrative Officer



Geri Kaiser, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer - Corporate Services and Strategy

DATE: February 29, 2008

SUBJECT: District 21 Councillor's District Activity Fund and Building Communities Fund.

ORIGIN

HRM Finance support the North West Community Council recommendation of February 28, 2008 and seek Regional Council's approval to carry forward to fiscal year 2008-09 any unexpended and/or uncommitted funds from the 2007-08 District 21, Bedford, councillor's *District Activity Fund* and *Building Communities Fund*.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

Regional Council approve the carry forward of any unexpended and/or uncommitted funds from the District 21, Bedford, councillor's *District Activity Fund* and *Building Communities Fund* to fiscal year 2008-2009.

BACKGROUND

The councillors' *District Activity Fund* is a means to provide modest donations to local non-profit groups that are ineligible, time sensitive, or small to be efficiently addressed under a centralized grants program. Typically, the value of donations is small given the annual value of the Fund (\$3,000 in 2007-2008). Unspent funds cannot be carried forward from one year to the next.

The *Building Communities Fund* provides funding to local HRM or community capital projects at the discretion of the district councillor. The purpose of the Fund is to complete small-scale projects not included in the annual HRM departmental capital budget. In some cases the property is owned and operated by a non-profit group (eg. a park, wharf, community hall). In 2007-08, the value of this Fund was \$65,000 per district.

DISCUSSION

According to policy approved by Regional Council for the *Building Communities Fund*:

“5.1 Only funds committed to an HRM-owned capital project, or community-owned property, may be carried forward to the next fiscal year. The balance of any unspent funding (ie. the project is completed under budget or the funds are not utilized for that project) shall be deposited to capital from Operating to fund other HRM projects”

Such policy did not anticipate a situation where the death of an incumbent could potentially place a district at a disadvantage. Hence, staff recommend a carry forward of funds for best use as determined by the newly elected councillor for District 21. This action is supported and has been approved by the Community Council.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

None. The funds are budgeted in 2007-2008. If Regional Council approve the staff recommendation any unspent funds would be carried forward to 2008-2009 and consolidated with next year's budget allocation as determined through the regular budget process.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN

This report recommends an exception to the HRM Building Communities Fund: Policy and Procedures, Item 5.1.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Any uncommitted funds in either the *District Activity Fund* or *Building Communities Fund* would be deposited in Operating or Capital from Operating accounts.

This action is not recommended: Policy did not anticipate the exceptional circumstances in District 21; an exception to policy is warranted.

ATTACHMENTS

None.

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.html> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by: Peta-Jane Temple, Team Lead, Tax, Grants & Special Projects, HRM Finance 490-5469
(Original Signed)

Report Approved by: _____
Dale MacLennan CA, Director of Finance