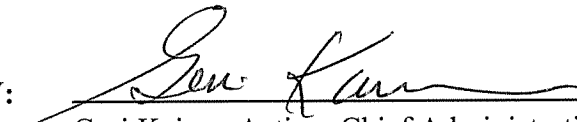


Halifax Regional Council
July 4, 2006

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: 
Geri Kaiser, Acting Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: June 27, 2006

SUBJECT: **Special Election Halifax Regional Municipality District 21 - Bedford**

ORIGIN

Resignation of Len Goucher, Councillor for District 21 - Bedford.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that :

1. Council accept the resignation of Councillor Goucher from Halifax Regional Council.
2. Jan Gibson, Municipal Clerk, be appointed the Returning Officer and Linda Grant and Sherryll Murphy be appointed the Assistant Returning Officers for the Special Election in District 21 to fill the vacancy on the Halifax Regional Council.
3. Halifax Regional Council approve the use of the Provincial Voters List used in the Provincial Election held on June 13th, 2006.
4. Approve a withdrawal from the Election Reserve, Q313, in the amount of 30,000.

BACKGROUND

Mr. Len Goucher being a successful candidate in the recent Provincial election has tendered his resignation from Regional Council. The Municipal Clerks office is in receipt of a letter confirming the vacancy and requesting a special election be held to fill the seat. In compliance with the Municipal Elections Act (Section 13) the date for the Special Election will be Saturday, August 19th, 2006. Advance Polls will be held Saturday, August 12th and Tuesday August 15th, 2006.

DISCUSSION

Given that this election is for one matter for one district, this special election will be conducted utilizing our traditional method of paper ballot. Currently staff are in the process of exploring alternative voting methods for the 2008 Municipal Election.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

In 2001, Council approved the establishment of an Election Reserve (Q313) to provide the infrastructure for the conduct of the municipal elections as well as for any special elections which may become necessary. Accordingly, a portion of those reserve funds will be drawn upon to conduct a special election in HRM District 21. This expenditure at approximately \$30,000 represents the withdrawal from the Election Reserve. Funding availability has been confirmed by staff of Financial Services. Upon the approval of this withdrawal from the Election Reserve a balance of approximately \$600,000 will remain in this account.

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. If approved, this will increase the withdrawals from the 06/07 Reserve budget.

ALTERNATIVES

There are no alternatives. There is a legislated requirement to conduct an election to fill the vacancy on Regional Council..

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: Jan Gibson, Municipal Clerk

Report Approved by: _____
Cathie O'Toole, CGA, Acting Director, Finance