

**Item No. 11.1.5**

**Halifax Regional Council**

**February 25, 2014**

**March 18, 2014**

**TO:** Mayor Savage and Members of Halifax Regional Council

Original signed by



**SUBMITTED BY:**

Richard Butts, Chief Administrative Officer

Original Signed by



Mike Labrecque, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

**DATE:** 3 February, 2014

**SUBJECT:** By-Law B-502; Respecting the Amendment of By-law B-500: The Building Service Connections By-law

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**ORIGIN**

A motion passed by Regional Council on 16 September 2008: moved by Councillor Uteck, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee that Halifax Regional Council request that Halifax Water review their process in regard to By-Law B-500 with respect to the reimbursement amount.

**LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY**

Halifax Regional Municipality Charter, s.188(1)(l) – power to make by-laws with respect to services provided by, or on behalf of, the Municipality; By-Law B-500: the Building Service Connections By-law

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that Halifax Regional Council approve By-law B-502 respecting the amendments to By-Law B-500, increasing the authorized amount for reimbursement for CCTV expenses from the existing \$250 to \$400 effective immediately.

## **BACKGROUND**

Subsequent to the motion identified above, Halifax Water reviewed the average actual costs for CCTV in support of structural repairs and found the cost to be closer to \$400. As such, Halifax Water applied for and received approval from the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board (UARB) on 1 April 2009, to rebate customers \$400 for identified expenses.

Currently, Halifax Water: liaises with the resident; pays the reimbursement; arranges for the repairs to the lateral; and, bills back to HRM when and if the damages were caused by municipal tree roots. Under the current By-Law, HRM is restricted to reimbursement of a maximum value of \$250.

## **DISCUSSION**

A section of Halifax Water's Rules and Regulations is designed to mirror By-law B-500. Since April 1, 2009, there has been a discrepancy between the Halifax Water Rules and Regulations and By-law B-500 with respect to the reimbursement maximum limit of \$400. As a result of this discrepancy HRM residents are only reimbursed to a maximum of \$250 instead of \$400.

By-law B-502 will correct the discrepancy between Halifax Water's Rules and Regulations and By-law B-500.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Historically, the number of requests for reimbursement has been very consistent as highlighted in the following table:

Fiscal Year	# of rebates paid	Value
2010/11	33	7,653.42
2011/12	33	7,315.50
2012/13	30	5,533.75
2013/14 to date	33	7,574.00

With the average number annually at approximately thirty-three, the approval to increase from \$250 to \$400 would mean an annual increase in reimbursement of \$4,950. This increase could be absorbed by Municipal Operations without increasing budget allocations.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Nil

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

**ALTERNATIVES**

Council could decide not to approve By-law B-502 to amendment By-law B-500 and Halifax Water would need to determine how to proceed with the difference in amounts.

**ATTACHMENTS**

By-law B-502: Respecting the Amendment of By-law B-500

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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:

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Financial Approval by:

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Report Approved by:

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**HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY**  
**BY-LAW B-502**  
**RESPECTING THE AMENDMENT OF BY-LAW B-500**  
**THE BUILDING SERVICE CONNECTIONS BY-LAW**

**BE IT ENACTED** by the Council of Halifax Regional Municipality pursuant to Halifax Regional Charter as follows:

1. By-law B-500, respecting Building Service Connections, is hereby amended:

(1) by replacing “\$250.00” in section 3(2)(c)(ii) with “\$400.00”; and,

(2) by replacing \$250.00” in section 4(b) with “\$400.00”.

Done and passed in Council this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2014.

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

\_\_\_\_\_  
MUNICIPAL CLERK

I, Cathy Mellett, Municipal Clerk for the Halifax Regional Municipality, hereby certify that the above-noted by-law was passed at a meeting of the Halifax Regional Council held on \_\_\_\_\_, 2014.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cathy Mellett  
Municipal Clerk