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PO Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

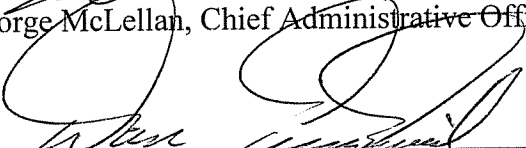
Halifax Regional Council
July 5, 2005

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:



George McLellan, Chief Administrative Officer



Dan English, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: June 27, 2005

SUBJECT: Area Rate for Maplewood Village Residents Association

ORIGIN

On June 30, 1998, Regional Council approved a new area rate for "Maplewood - a flat rate of \$50.00 per taxpayer" effective with the 1998-99 fiscal year for the purpose of enabling the Maplewood Village Residents Association to provide recreational amenities within the community.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that :

1. For the 2005-06 fiscal year, the area rate of \$50.00 per household continue to be applied against the properties indicated in the map in Appendix A of this report for the purpose of enabling the Maplewood Village Residents Association to provide recreational amenities within the mapped area. This does not represent a change from previous years.
2. For the 2006-07 fiscal year, the catchment area for this area rate be clarified and voted upon by the property owners within the clarified catchment area in accordance with the Interim Area Rate Guidelines.

BACKGROUND

The Maplewood Village Residents Association was formed for the purpose of “fostering and promoting the continuing association of residents concerned with the social, physical and economic development of the community; and to encourage residents to participate in programs and activities initiated by the Association and/or governments.”

On June 30, 1998, Regional Council approved a new area rate for “Maplewood - a flat rate of \$50.00 per taxpayer” effective with the 1998-99 fiscal year for the purpose of enabling the Maplewood Village Residents Association to provide recreational amenities within the community. The properties currently being charged the area rate fall within the mapped area depicted in Appendix A.

DISCUSSION

Maplewood Village sub-division is surrounded by other residential sub-divisions. Since this area rate was approved, enquiries have been received from property owners in the area claiming that they should not be charged the area rate because their properties are not located within the Maplewood Village sub-division. A review of Community Council and Regional Council minutes from 1998 appear to indicate that Council never formally approved a map of the catchment area for the area rate hence making it difficult for staff to determine the exact boundary of the area rate. (This requirement did not come into effect until the Interim Area Rate Guidelines were approved by Council in January 2000.) Therefore, staff is recommending that the boundaries be clarified and that the property owners within the clarified boundaries be consulted and permitted to vote on whether or not they wish to pay the area rate for the services provided by the Association effective with the 2006-07 fiscal year. (There is insufficient time to conduct such a vote and receive Council approval prior to the final tax bills being mailed).

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Because all of the funding provided by HRM is through the area rate (there are no transfers from the general tax rate), there is no impact on the budget.

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


Council may chose to maintain the status quo beyond the 2005-06 fiscal year or discontinue the area rate altogether.

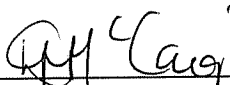
ATTACHMENTS


Appendix A: Map depicting the boundary encompassing the properties currently paying the area rate for the Maplewood Village Residents Association

Appendix B: 2005-06 Business Plan and Budget for Maplewood Village Residents Association

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/agenda.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: 
Gordon Roussel, Financial Consultant, Financial Services 490-6468

Financial Review: 
Debbi McCaig, Budget Coordinator, Financial Services 490-4280

Report Approved by: 
Dale MacLennan, Director, Financial Services 490-6308

Catchment Area for
Maplewood Village Residents Association Area Rate



Appendix B: 2005-06 Business Plan & Budget for

| | |
|--|---|
| Name of Association or Society: | Maplewood Village Residents Association |
| Registry of Joint Stock Companies ID#: | 1508363 |

| | Primary Signing Authority | Secondary Signing Authority |
|------------------|---|---|
| Name & Title: | Karen L. Fraser | Michelle Boone |
| Phone number: | 902-835-6536 | 902-835-4418 |
| Mailing Address: | 6 Evans Drive Hammonds Plains, N S B4B 1M8 | 6 Evans Drive Hammonds Plains, N S B4B 1M8 |

| | |
|--|---|
| Business Plan & Budget approved at Annual General Meeting held on: | October 28, 2004 (Ratepayers amount approved) May 17, 2005 (Full recreation plan approved) |
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Mission and Description of Services Provided

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| <p>1. The name of the association is the Maplewood Village Residents Association. This association includes the subdivisions of Maplewood Village, Sprucewood Estates, Halfway Lake Park, Cedarwood and Beaver Lake.</p> <p>2. The objects of the association are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. To foster and promote the continuing association of residents concerned with the social, physical and economic development of the community; b. To encourage residents to participate in programs and activities initiated by the Association and/or governments; c. To cooperate and exchange information with other organizations sharing similar concerns; d. To obtain and disseminate information and act on matters that may effect the Maplewood Village (and area) community; e. To acquire by way of grant, gift, purchase, bequest, devise or otherwise, real and personal property and to use and apply such property to the realization of the objects of the Association; f. To buy, own, hold, lease, mortgage, sell and convey such real and personal property as may be necessary or desirable in the carrying out of the objects of the Association. g. To collect via HRM, an annual ratepayers fee to be used for recreational purposes. This fee is to be set annually by vote at a public meeting. These funds will be the responsibility of the Treasurer, the use of which can be altered by public vote. |
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Accomplishments

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General maintenance of parks • Regrouping of recreation committee • Revised plan for recreation items • Approval of area rate for 2005-06 • Approval of recreation plan for 2005-06 |
|---|

Goals for 2005-06

(What does your organization plan to accomplish between April 1, 2005 and March 31, 2006)

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| 1. | See list of planned expenditures below |
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Area Rate Information

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|---|---|
| Purpose of Area Rate: | Recreation (e.g. land clearing; equipment etc.) |
| Will the Purpose <u>or</u> Amount of the Area Rate change in 2005/06? | No |
| If so, how and why has it changed, and have the majority of homeowners voted to approve the change? | n/a |
| Amount of Area Rate for 2005/06: | \$50 per household |
| Area subject to Area Rate: | Maplewood on the Lakes Subdivision |
| Year Area Rate to Expire (if applicable): | Voted on annually |
| Do you anticipate a surplus or a deficit at the end of this year (2004/05)? How much? | Actual surplus: \$15,568 |
| If a surplus exists at the end of the fiscal year, how is it to be applied? | Carried over to the next year to complete the project |

Revenue Budget for 2005-06

| Description of Revenue Source | Amount (\$) |
|--|--------------------|
| Surplus Carry Forward from 2004-05 | \$15,568 |
| Area Rate Revenue for 2005-06 | \$16,200 |
| HRM grant monies will allow for extra work (see last item below) | \$ |
| Total Revenues (must equal total expenditures): | \$ 31,768 |

Expenditure Budget for 2005-06

| Description of Planned Expenditures | Amount (\$) |
|--|--------------------|
| All purpose pad | \$19,309 |
| Hockey nets | \$ 100 |
| Basketball standards for pad | \$ 2,400 |
| Lines for pad | \$ 300 |
| Extending crusher dust path, removal of dirt from parking lot, bike rack | \$ 1,600 |
| Basketball hoops for tennis court fence | \$ 1,200 |
| Lock for gate | \$ 100 |
| Maintenance of parks | \$ 4,759 |
| Rink for Chipawa park | \$ 2,000 |
| Other potential items if HRM grant received, for example repair fencing at Chipawa Court; gravel at Micmac walkway; brick repairs; benches at Micmac; obstacle course; swings; paved roller blade path; culvert Patterson park; bike rack repair; picnic bench re-anchoring tree benches (\$4000) three for Patterson Park | |
| Total Planned Expenditures (must equal total revenues): | \$31,768 |