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Halifax Regional Council
June 14, 2005

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:



Brad Anguish, P.Eng., PMP, MBA
Director, Environmental Management Services

DATE: June 8, 2005

SUBJECT: **Herring Cove Water and Sewer, Herring Cove, NS - Additional Surveys**

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

ORIGIN

Staff.

BACKGROUND

Over the past year, staff have been working with the Community of Herring Cove, through an elected Community Liaison Committee (CLC), to facilitate the process of developing a servicing plan to bring water and sewer service to Herring Cove. Additional background and details regarding this process were presented to Regional Council on May 24, 2005 in a staff report entitled "Herring Cove - Sewer and Water Servicing".

One piece of information included in the May 24, 2005 staff report was the summarized outcome of a survey asking the residents of Herring Cove if they were in favour of the proposed servicing plan (ie. a 'yes' or 'no' reply).

A document describing the project plan and the survey question was distributed throughout the community by the CLC. Residents were encouraged to submit their reply directly to HRM or to return the survey on April 20, 2005 at a Community Meeting where residents were encouraged to ask questions about the project. Staff asked that all surveys be returned to HRM by April 25, 2005. However, surveys were accepted after that date as the goal is to obtain community opinion regarding the project plan.

The survey was distributed to the entire community (ie. property owners inside the service boundary) as the project involved the use of a \$5M Community Integration Fund. The results of the survey were presented to Council in two tables, showing the results from the entire community and another showing the results of only those property owners included in the proposed servicing plan.

Results - Entire Community (original survey)

	Number	%
Surveys Delivered	526	100%
Surveys Returned	173	33%
Unreturned/Unmarked	353	67%
Affirmative Replies (of those returned)	98	57%
Negative Replies (of those returned)	75	43%
Affirmative Replies (of total delivered)	98	19%
Negative Replies (of total delivered)	75	14%

Results - Those being serviced under this plan (original survey)

	Number	%
Surveys Delivered	365	100%
Surveys Returned	148	41%
Unreturned/Unmarked	217	59%
Affirmative Replies (of those returned)	86	58%
Negative Replies (of those returned)	62	42%
Affirmative Replies (of total delivered)	86	24%
Negative Replies (of total delivered)	62	17%

DISCUSSION

On May 24, 2005, the Municipal Clerk’s Office received one hundred and six (106) additional surveys all saying ‘no’ to the proposed plan. Staff have reviewed the 106 surveys and have determined that eighty five (85) responses were valid. The results are summarized in the following table:

Results - of one hundred and six (106) additional votes

	Number
Responder is within the proposed servicing plan area	29
Responder is within the proposed servicing plan area and has changed reply, had previously voted ‘yes’	4
Responder is outside the proposed servicing plan area (and has services)	46
Responder is outside the proposed servicing plan area (and does not have services)	6
Number of valid surveys (sub-total)	85
Responder is not the documented property owner	16
Responder voted more than one vote per property	2
Responder had previously voted ‘no’ (and added a second ‘no’ vote)	2
Responder civic number does not exist	1
Number of invalid surveys (sub-total)	21

Staff has been advised that a group within the community have undertaken an initiative to obtain additional votes related to the servicing plan. A representative of the group who participated in compiling the additional surveys explained that the results were obtained by going door-to-door and asking residents to submit the surveys directly to the group. It was also stated that no property owner contacted by the group wished to vote in favour of the project; and that the group is continuing to collect additional responses.

Staff has no knowledge of what property owners were told about the project when solicited for ‘no’ votes. However, it was explained to staff that the main issues that motivated the collection of the additional surveys are as follows:

- some responders feel the proposed servicing plan is too expensive,
- some responders feel water service should be free,
- some responders don’t want water service (note: some already have sewer service) because of the distance from the road and high cost to connect,
- some responders feel Churchill Estates should contribute toward the cost of the project (note: Churchill Estates already has water and sewer services),
- some responders feel the process was not fair as they could not get into the April 20, 2005 Community Meeting because of the large number of people in attendance,
- some responders felt that there was not enough community consultation,

At a recent Herring Cove CLC meeting the issue of the additional surveys was discussed. The following is a statement made by the CLC following the meeting:

“The CLC discussed the issue of the 106 no votes received by HRM on May 24, 2005, following the discussion the following motion was tabled. Bruce Cooke – Motion tabled (The Herring Cove CLC supports the delivery of Municipal Water and Sewer Services to the community of Herring Cove. We support the proposals presented by HRM staff. However, we fully understand that the costs per property owner are excessive.) John Smith seconds motion.”

NO - 1 YES - 6 Motion Carried

Staff recommend that the project proceed to the Public Hearing stage.

If the additional surveys are included, the overall survey results become the following:

Results - Entire Community (includes responses received May 24, 2005)

	Number	%
Surveys Delivered	526	100%
Surveys Returned	254	48%
Unreturned/Unmarked	272	52%
Affirmative Replies (of those returned)	94	37%
Negative Replies (of those returned)	160	63%
Affirmative Replies (of total delivered)	94	18%
Negative Replies (of total delivered)	160	30%

Results - Those being serviced under this plan (includes responses received May 24, 2005)

Results - of those being serviced	Number	%
Surveys Delivered	365	100%
Surveys Returned	177	48%
Unreturned/Unmarked	188	52%
Affirmative Replies (of those returned)	82	46%
Negative Replies (of those returned)	95	54%
Affirmative Replies (of total delivered)	82	22%
Negative Replies (of total delivered)	95	26%

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

None

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

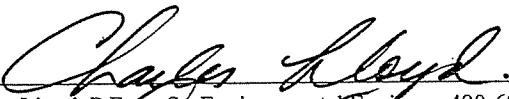
None recommended

ATTACHMENTS

None

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.

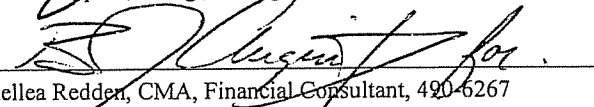
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