




PO Box 1749
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Halifax Regional Council
November 18, 2003

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:



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

DATE: November 7, 2003

SUBJECT: Woodlawn Place, Dartmouth

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

Halifax Regional Council Meeting of October 21, 2003, Item 9.2.1.

BACKGROUND

Councillor Sarto served a petition from residents of Woodlawn Place, Dartmouth, requesting that HRM do a survey of their situation with a view to determining the costs to replace individual sewage holding tanks and pumping stations. The Councillor requested that the petition be referred to staff for a report.

DISCUSSION

The use of private holding tanks and pumps is sometimes used in HRM where there is insufficient grade to achieve gravity flows to a sewer main.

The portion of the sanitary services within the street right-of-way on Woodlawn Place is owned and maintained by HRM. This includes a common 3" diameter forcemain and shut-off valves located on the forcemains from each dwelling.

Private holding tanks and pumps on individual properties are the responsibility of homeowners. This includes maintenance and any costs associated with upgrades to individual systems. Upgrades may include back-up power and/or larger holding tanks. It is the recommendation of staff that residents of Woodlawn Place consult a person qualified in this area to make specific recommendations and provide cost estimates.

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

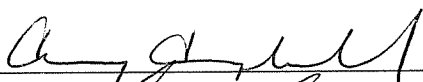
None recommended.

ATTACHMENTS

Petition from residents.

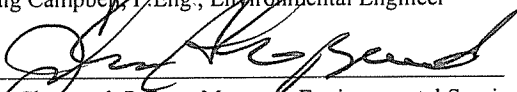
Additional copies of this report, and information on its status, can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by:


Craig Campbell, P.Eng., Environmental Engineer

490-6719

Report Approved by:


John Sheppard, P.Eng., Manager, Environmental Services

490-6958

Petition:

19 Oct., 2003.

We, the undersigned wish to petition Council Members of the Halifax Regional Municipality concerning a matter of importance to residents of Woodlawn Place, District No. 7, Dartmouth – Woodlawn, Nova Scotia.

- a): When the single-family dwellings were built on Woodlawn Place during the period 1992 to 1996, nine of the ten homes were fitted with individual sewage holding tanks and discharge pumps.
- b): Prerequisites for uninterrupted sewage disposal from these units has been dependant on the reliability of the pumps used and the continuous supply of electrical power.
- c): Generally, electrical power supply on our street has been good, but when a power outage does occur, our first priority must be to not flush toilets or bathe. Only minimal amounts of water may be used (for such things as cleaning teeth), for fear of our holding tanks overflowing.
- d): So it was when the hurricane storm, Juan, struck Halifax the night of September 28th and early morning of September 29th, 2003. Electrical power went out on our street at roughly 11:30 at night, September 28th. We realize that many thousands of homes lost their power around that time, but because of our situation with these holding tanks and pumps, we, on Woodlawn Place effectively also lost our sewage disposal systems. The problem, of course, is that when a power outage occurs, we do not know how full the holding tanks are. From the moment the outage occurs, we cannot take the chance of risking holding tank overflows resulting in further inconvenience with sewage odours and attendant health hazards, the expenses for cleanup of the sewage overflows inside our homes and possible repairs to these float-operated pumps. (Some of these pumps have already had to be replaced with better quality, diaphragm-operated ones.)
- e): While past power outages for from one to (up to) six hours have been a nuisance, this time the power was out for approximately forty-one hours on Woodlawn Place. The odours resulting from not flushing our toilets further resulted in not being able to use our bathrooms at all after about ten hours. Some of the home owners then had to rely on relatives and friends in other parts of the city for bathroom facilities. (While those relatives and friends also had no power, they did have sewage disposal.)

Therefore:

We, the residents of Woodlawn Place ask that Council Members of the Halifax Regional Municipality have the city's engineering department do a survey of our situation with a view to determining the costs to replace these individual tanks and pumping systems. The consensus of the residents — many of whom are senior citizens — is that larger discharge lines (than the current 2" size), routed to the existing street main where grades permit, would be the most logical solution. (The engineering department would have to determine if a common holding tank and pumping station on our street would be necessary.)

cc: HRM Councilman for District 7, Mr. Condo Sarto.

Signatures of residents of Woodlawn Place, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia:

Address:	Resident(s) signatures
No. 2:	R.D. Benville Verna Benville.
No. 3:	Ethel McEll
No. 4:	Gertrude Gertrude Picani
No. 5:	Margaret MacLeod
No. 6:	Judy Cloutier
No. 7:	
No. 8:	Carol Bell
No. 9:	Jeanette Rogers
No. 10:	Morgan MacLeod

Date: 19 Oct., 2003.

cc: HRM Councilman for District 7, Mr. Condo Sarto.