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Halifax Regional Council
December 09, 2003

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Paynter", written over a horizontal line.

Rick Paynter, P. Eng., Director, Public Works and Transportation Services

DATE: November 28, 2003

SUBJECT: Street Sweeping/Sidewalk Repair/Audio Signals

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

The Halifax Regional Council meeting of November 18, 2003, Item # 12.1.

BACKGROUND

During the November 18th, 2003 Halifax Regional Council session (Item # 12.1), a motion was put forth by Councillor Blumenthal and adopted for a staff report to address the following issues:

- Has the street sweeping been completed for this year?
- Repair of sidewalk blocks that were broken due to Hurricane Juan.
- Why construction companies are not using audio signals at construction sites for sight impaired pedestrians.

This report is in response to this request.

DISCUSSION

Street Sweeping:

The street sweeping program usually ends with the changeover to winter operations, which generally occurs around mid November. However, the street sweepers were utilized in support of the leaf collection program, which continued until the end of November.

Sidewalk Repair Due to Hurricane Juan :

On Sunday, September 28th when Hurricane Juan blew through town it uprooted thousands of trees which caused damage to hundreds of sidewalk sections. Immediately following the storm HRM began the clean-up of fallen trees and debris. While the debris was being cleaned up an initial assessment of the damage indicated that approximately 750 sections (1.5 m X 1.5 m) of sidewalk needed to be replaced. It was found that most of the sidewalk damage occurred on the peninsular area of Halifax and the area inside the Circumferential Highway in Dartmouth.

Due to the magnitude of the sidewalk damage, the concern for pedestrian safety and the onset of winter, it was imperative to repair the damage as quickly as possible. While HRM staff were busy cleaning up the debris, removing stumps and damaged sidewalk, and placing gravel to make the sidewalk area safe, Design & Construction Services undertook an assessment of the sidewalk damage and prepared documents to tender the repair work. To expedite the work the project was divided into five zones, three in Halifax and two in Dartmouth. The documents for were sent out for quotation to five contractors on October 10th. Quotations were received on October 15th, and contracts awarded on October 17th as indicated below:

Halifax:

Zone 1 - Halifax - Lafarge Canada Ltd.	\$236,785.00
Zone 2 - Halifax - Dexter Construction Ltd.	\$246,675.00
Zone 3 - Halifax - Dexter Construction Ltd.	\$140,967.00

Dartmouth:

Zone 1 -Dartmouth - Silco Contracting Ltd.	\$ 39,675.00
Zone 2 - Dartmouth - Ocean Contractors Ltd.	<u>\$119,344.13</u>

Total \$783,446.13

Repairs to the sidewalk began on October 18th. The work was to be completed by November 15th, however due to wet weather repair work was delayed. As of November 28th, over 90% of the work is complete. It is anticipated that the remaining repairs will be completed by December 12th, 2003.

The majority of repairs were made with concrete. Where the existing sidewalk along a street was found to be over 70% deficient, the repairs were done in asphalt because all sidewalk on the street would be scheduled for replacement under the Capital Works Budget in the near future. Sidewalk that was identified to be repaired in concrete that cannot be completed due to cold weather, will be temporarily repaired with asphalt and replaced with concrete in the Spring. The damaged grassed areas adjacent to the section of sidewalk being repaired are being filled with gravel until sod can be placed in the spring.

Audio Signals at Construction Sites for Sight Impaired Pedestrians:

Construction companies have not been using audio signals at construction sites for sight impaired pedestrians for various reasons including:

- there are no federal, provincial or municipal policies or regulations that require the use of audible signals.
- noise on construction sites may distract or cause confusion with audible signals.
- usually there are traffic control personnel on site who could assist a visually impaired person.
- most construction sites do not have visually impaired pedestrians.
- in areas where there are visually impaired pedestrians, an extra rail is placed on the bottom portion of barricades which, when touched with a cane can help direct them around the construction site.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget implications at this time

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

There are no alternatives being recommended.

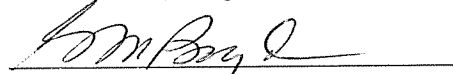
ATTACHMENTS

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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Report Approved by:



Gerry Boyd, P.Eng., Manager, Design and Construction Services, 490-4845

BC/kr