



P.O. Box 1749
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Item No.
North West Community Council
January 27, 2011

TO: Chair and Members of North West Community Council

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jen's ll".

SUBMITTED BY:

For Cathie O'Toole, BA, CGA, MBA, Director of Finance/CFO

DATE: January 19, 2011

SUBJECT: **Hammonds Plains Common Area Rate**

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

On November 4, 2010, North West Community Council approved the following motion:

1. *Remove the properties within the Waterstone Neighbourhood Association and the Timber Trails Mobile Home Park, including any impacted properties on the Lucasville Road, from the Hammonds Plains Area Rate; and*
2. *Direct staff to prepare a report to provide clarification respecting the breakdown of the Hammonds Plains Area Rate.*

BACKGROUND

The Hammonds Plains Common Area Rate has existed since prior to municipal amalgamation in 1996. The rate has been set at \$0.005 per \$100 of taxable residential and resource assessment since at least 1998. The funding is used to provide recreational amenities and supplies to organized groups within the community of Hammonds Plains. The disbursement of funds to these groups is approved by motion of Western Region Community Council. Following the redistribution of the HRM district boundaries in 2008, part of the community of Hammonds Plains fell within District 19. Since District 19 is part of the North West Community Council, approval of disbursement of funds from the area rate to groups within the section of Hammonds Plains located in District 19 requires approval by motion from both the Western Region Community Council and the North West Community Council. The Hammonds Plains neighbourhoods which are in District 19 include Waterstone, the Timber Trails Mobile Home Park, and Lucasville.

DISCUSSION

At its meeting on November 4, 2010, North West Community Council requested information on the amount of revenue obtained in 2009-10 and 2010-11 from properties in District 19 for the Hammonds Plains Common Area Rate. A further breakdown of this information was also requested for Waterstone, the Timber Trails Mobile Home Park, and Lucasville. The details of this review are provided in the following table:

| | 2009-10 | 2010-11 | Total |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Waterstone | \$ 2,021.41 | \$ 2,141.24 | \$ 4,162.65 |
| Timber Trails Mobile Home Park | 599.38 | 626.46 | 1,225.84 |
| Lucasville Road area | 867.26 | 835.55 | 1,702.81 |
| Reminder of Hammonds Plains within District 19 | 1,145.07 | 1,405.10 | 2,550.17 |
| Totals: | \$ 4,633.12 | \$ 5,008.35 | \$ 9,641.47 |

Following is a list of disbursements to the Waterstone Neighbourhood Association from the Hammonds Plains Common Area rate. Staff were unable to find any indication of disbursements from this area rate to other parts of District 19.

| Fiscal Year | Description | Vendor | Amount |
|-------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 2008/09 | Landscaping | Humphrey's Landscaping | \$ 2,368.52 |
| 2008/09 | Rose bushes | Blomidon Nurseries | 578.17 |
| 2009/10 | Playground | Waterstone Neighbourhood Association | 8,037.12 |
| | | Total: | \$ 10,983.81 |

The following table provides a year-by-year comparison of the area rate revenue collected from the Waterstone neighbourhood since the first lots were approved in the subdivision in January 1999, along with funds disbursed from the area rate for projects in the neighbourhood. It shows that as of March 31, 2010, at least \$63 more in funds had been spent from the area rate account for the benefit of Waterstone than had been collected in area rate revenue since the neighbourhood was first established. However, since that date, area rate revenue collected now exceeds funds disbursed to the neighbourhood by \$2,078.

Funds Collected & Disbursed from the Hammonds Plains
 Common Area Rate for Waterstone Neighbourhood

| Fiscal Year | Area Rate Revenue | Expenses | Cumulative Balance |
|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| 99-2000* | \$ 195 | \$ 0 | \$ 195 |
| 2000-01 | \$ 195 | \$ 0 | \$ 390 |
| 2001-02 | \$ 363 | \$ 0 | \$ 753 |
| 2002-03 | \$ 556 | \$ 0 | \$ 1,308 |
| 2003-04 | \$ 774 | \$ 0 | \$ 2,082 |
| 2004-05 | \$ 1,018 | \$ 0 | \$ 3,100 |
| 2005-06 | \$ 1,217 | \$ 0 | \$ 4,317 |
| 2006-07 | \$ 1,371 | \$ 0 | \$ 5,688 |
| 2007-08 | \$ 1,458 | \$ 0 | \$ 7,146 |
| 2008-09 | \$ 1,754 | \$ 2,947 | \$ 5,953 |
| 2009-10 | \$ 2,021 | \$ 8,037 | (\$ 63) |
| 2010-11 | \$ 2,141 | \$ 0 | \$ 2,078 |
| Totals to Date: | \$13,062 | \$10,984 | \$ 2,078 |

* 99-2000 revenue is not known, so 2000-01 figure was used. The correct revenue for 99-2000 is likely lower.

Staff advises that any recommendation to change the catchment area for the Hammonds Plains Common Area Rate should have the support of the Western Region Community Council before proceeding to Regional Council for approval.

Staff also advise that if the intent is to remove all properties in District 19 from the catchment area for the Hammonds Plains Common Area Rate, the wording of the motion approved by North West Community Council on November 4, 2010 does not achieve that intent. That is because Gatehouse Run and streets adjoining to it would still be included in the catchment area.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

A total prior years accumulated surplus of \$62,242 is currently posted to the balance sheet account for this area rate. This provides some capacity to refund contributions without drawing down on the current year budget for this area rate.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES/BUSINESS PLAN

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Project and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Project and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

There was no community consultation conducted.

ATTACHMENTS

None

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.

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Report Approved by: 
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