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**Halifax Regional Council**  
**April 20, 2004**

**TO:** Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

**SUBMITTED BY:**

  
George McLellan, Chief Administrative Officer

  
Dan English, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

**DATE:** March 8, 2004

**SUBJECT:** **Award - Tender 04-045, Hazard Tree Mitigation - HRM Parks and Greenbelts**

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### **ORIGIN**

Halifax Regional Municipality publicly advertised tenders to complete hazard tree mitigation for a number of HRM Parks and Greenbelts.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that Tender 04-045, Hazard Tree Mitigation - HRM Parks and Greenbelts be awarded to R. MacLean Forestry Ltd for cost of \$220,140.00 plus net HST for a total cost of \$234,292.80 with funding authorized as per the Budget Implications section of this report.

## **BACKGROUND**

On September 28, 2004, Halifax Regional Municipality and the surrounding area was hit by Hurricane Juan causing devastation throughout the municipality. This included extensive damage in the form of tree breakage, windthrows and uprooted trees and damage to some of the built infrastructure within a number of HRM Parks and Greenbelts.

As a result of this damage, HRM requires a professional forestry firm to conduct a Hazard Tree Mitigation Program for thirteen park and greenbelt locations throughout the municipality. The end goal is the remediation of the various hazards caused by broken, damaged and fallen trees.

## **DISCUSSION**

The following bids were received, evaluated and recommended by Real Property and Asset Management.

| <u>Bidder</u>                  | <u>Total Price (excl. HST)</u> |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>R. MacLean Forestry Ltd</b> | <b>\$ 220,140.00</b>           |
| Asplundh Tree Service Inc.     | \$ 347,246.00                  |

Staff is recommending the lowest bidder meeting specification, R. MacLean Forestry Ltd be awarded the contract.

As part of the bid, R. MacLean Forestry Ltd is committed to completing the work prior to the onset of the fire season.

## **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

Budget Summary      Tender 04-045, Hazard Tree Mitigation - HRM Parks and Greenbelts.  
Funds to be made available from W928 PJUAN 088.

The total cost of hazard tree mitigation for Tender 04-045 is \$234,292.80 including Net HST.

The net HST has been included in the award amount. The Federal Government, in the recent speech from the throne, has proposed changes that would provide a GST rebate to Municipalities. This legislation, once approved, will affect the total cost of this award. Once the legislation is in place, and the actual amount determined, the value will be adjusted accordingly.

The work is directly associated with the clean-up of Hurricane Juan and will be collected together with other Juan related costs. The cost of the Hurricane clean-up and recovery costs will be funded through a combination of insurance claims, HRM funds, and funding from the Federal Disaster Financial Relief Program. Based on our present information, the costs of hazard tree mitigation is eligible under the Disaster Financial Relief program. However, the total exact amount of federal funding cannot be determined until after the work is complete and the application is filed and adjudicated.

**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**

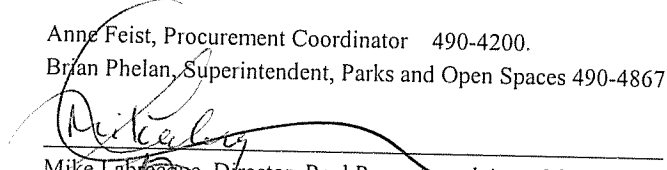
Council could choose not to award the contract. This is not the recommended approach as the risk of fire will be extreme if the hazard tree mitigation work is not completed.

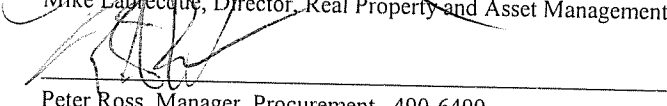
**ATTACHMENTS**

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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