

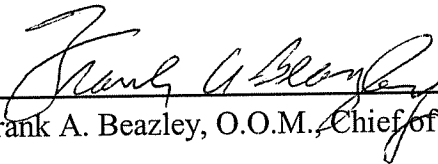
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**Halifax Regional Council**  
**January 11, 2005**

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

**SUBMITTED BY:**   
Frank A. Beazley, O.O.M., Chief of Police

**DATE:** January 4, 2005

**SUBJECT:** Norsonic Sound Device for Police Services

**INFORMATION REPORT**

**ORIGIN**

Item 10.3.1 (ii) of Halifax Regional Council Meeting held on Tuesday, November 23, 2004.

**BACKGROUND**

At the Regional Council meeting of November 23, a staff report on the feasibility of police using a Norsonic Sound Analyzer or similar device as a means of measuring noise levels within the Halifax Regional Municipality was requested.

**DISCUSSION**

The Norsonic Sound Analyzer or similar devices are used in the industry to measure the variances in ambient noise or noise intrusion. These sound analyzers have the ability to record and store noise data over a period of time, (e.g. 3 hours). The device may then create a time history which can give the user exact times of maxim ranges, or average levels from specific locations. The data, whether collected through time history or immediate response, can then be downloaded to a computer which will provide a printed report of the data for court purposes. This data would include date, time and decibel levels.

It is these types of sound analyzers which are currently being used by law enforcement and ordinance officers for detecting property boundary noise regulations.

Before any device is recommended or purchased, there are a number of factors to be considered, training, the establishment of acceptable noise levels with HRM and its communities, industrial ratio compared to residential ratio and the establishment of unacceptable levels for which charges would be expected to be laid.

The By-Law Rationalization Working Group will be reviewing By-Law-N200, Respecting Noise, to determine if amendments are required.

**BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

The Norsonic device has been quoted at a cost of \$5,415.00 in U. S. funds for each device.

Training by a local acoustic specialist, if available, would be approximately \$500.00 to \$1000.00 per day. Training of future users could be achieved through a train-the-trainer system.

No provisions have been made within HRP's 2005/06 budget submission for the purchase of any sounding device equipment.

**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**

**ATTACHMENTS**

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:

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490-5172