

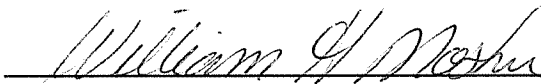


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Halifax Regional Council
November 14, 2006

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:


William H. Mosher, Acting Chief Director Fire & Emergency Service

DATE: October 25, 2006

SUBJECT: Feasibility of Combining Fire Stations 14 & 18

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

This report responds to an inquiry by Councillors at the Committee of the Whole meetings between June 14th and June 20th, 2006 regarding the feasibility of combining fire stations 14 & 18 in Dartmouth.

BACKGROUND

The feasibility of combining Fire Station #14 located at Walker & Second Streets and Fire Station #18 located on 690 Main Street, Dartmouth was first suggested in a Fire Station Location Report dated October 21, 1998. This study reviewed the Core area Fire Stations 2 - 18 only. A separate study was also conducted for the Zone 4 - Waverley/Fall River area.

DISCUSSION

Almost ten years has passed since the last Fire Station location study has been conducted. HRM has seen considerable change in relation to areas of growth, the implementation of the Regional Plan, and the approval of the Service Delivery Standard for the fire service in February, 2006. One of the first steps that is required to determine the future needs of the fire service will be to conduct a comprehensive review of all our fire stations. This review will identify locations for future fire station locations, station relocations, consolidations and/or closures to ensure the fire service has the required facilities in the right locations to meet the service delivery standard. This review will also assist to identify the future needs for equipment and resources that may be required. The establishment of the Building Recapitalization Program will also contain a strategy for building assessments, prioritization, funding and rationalization of all HRM-owned facilities.

Staff are working with the HRM's Geographical Information System (GIS) to assist in the fire station location planning. The very preliminary results of combining fire stations 14 and 18 reveals that this is no longer a viable option. In fact, with current and future developments the indication is that we will require both fire stations, with the possibility of a relocation of Station 18. We anticipate the comprehensive fire station review will be completed by the end of March, 2007.

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

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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