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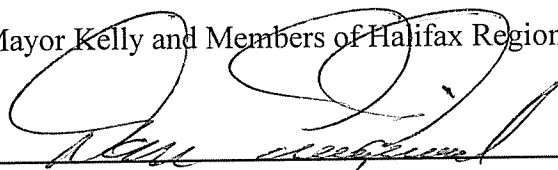


PO Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada


Halifax Regional Council
September 4, 2007

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:



Dan English, Chief Administrative Officer



Wayne Anstey, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer- Operations

DATE: August 24, 2007

SUBJECT: Turf Covering - Halifax North Common

ORIGIN

Following the success of the Rolling Stones Concert on the Halifax North Common in September of 2006, staff explored means to better protect the Halifax Commons during concerts and ensure its continued availability for everyday sport and informal use.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council authorize staff to issue a purchase order to Covermaster Inc. for a total purchase price of \$96,973.84 (net HST included) with funding from Capital Account No. CHG01002 as outlined in the Budget Implications section of this report.

BACKGROUND

Stemming from the success of the September 2006 Rolling Stones Concert on the Halifax Commons, Regional Council approved funding for the purchase of turf protection systems as part of its 2007/08 budget process. The turf protection measures are to be utilized for special events and concerts. The temporary covers help prevent turf degradation and the need for subsequent repairs thereby reducing the time lost to other sport and informal uses.

A turf protection system was demonstrated to Council which balanced low cost, ease of use and effectiveness. The system recommended was a combination of Enkmatplus and Enkamat Flatback. It is a common product utilized in the concert, sport and special event industry. The product is essentially a specialized three dimensional polyvinyl matrix with a road construction grade filter fabric bonded to the top. The product comes in 150 foot by 16 foot rolls. When unrolled it forms a mat which allows vehicle traffic and heavy foot traffic over turf while allowing the grass to receive light, air and water, thus giving a better chance of turf survivability during the several days of setup and tear down involved in concerts. The product is used by stadiums throughout North America. In extra heavily travelled areas plywood is temporarily laid on top of the Enkamat Flatback creating a "plywood road". HRM is looking to purchase enough material to cover approximately two acres around the stage area. Other products were explored and seem to perform well, however they range in price from \$3.35 per square foot to \$6.50 per sq foot. The Enka products are \$1.18 to \$1.28 per sq ft. HRM may order other more expensive product solutions in the future as some have a longer life span or specialized features which make them attractive for higher end uses, however, industry users advised staff that the basic Enka product is a good value for dollar solution for HRM's situation.

DISCUSSION

Staff have successfully sourced the protective materials to Covermaster Inc, a Canadian company who are the exclusive distributor for the Enkmatplus and Flatback products. Covermaster specializes in turf protection and turf care products for professional stadiums and teams. They are the firm which developed the product and have it manufactured by Coldbond Inc in North Carolina.

Owing to the tenuous nature of securing concerts and the space required to store this material, staff were not comfortable purchasing \$100,000 worth of the specialized material until a concert was secured. Instead, staff negotiated with the supplier for a supply (FOB Halifax) within four weeks notice.

In mid August HRM was approached with three possible dates for fall concerts on 2007. The opportunity for these dates arose very fast as can be the nature of the concert business. Staff put in a concerted effort to ensure that these dates would be successful if a concert contract was concluded. A component of that success will be the protection of the turf on the North Commons.

Staff contacted the supplier with an order for 28 rolls of Enkamatplus and 5 rolls of Enkamat Flatback. Currently there are 10 rolls of Enkamatplus in stock and 0 rolls of Flatback. Covermaster worked to schedule a special manufacturing run of the remaining 18 rolls of Enkamatplus and 5 rolls of Enkamat Flatback with the factory in order to meet HRM’s requirements. The production scheduling and tight HRM timelines required an immediate commitment from HRM to warrant factory change over from the production of other products and advise labour unions at the plant of the special overtime run in accordance with their labour contract.

This is a negotiated supply owing to the exclusive product rights of Covermaster. For operational reasons Community Development staff felt that this was the product that could meet HRM’s requirements, and there happens to be only one manufacturer. At the time Regional Council was on summer break and were not scheduled to be back in session until September 4th. In order to meet time requirements arising from these concert dates an absolute commitment was required by Monday August 20th at the end of business day. Senior Management weighed the options and felt that Council’s number one priority would be the protection measures for the commons. A letter was sent to Covermaster indicating the HRM was prepared to commit to the order and that a purchase order would be sent once Council returned and made formal approval.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Covermaster Inc. is to supply 28 rolls of Enkamat Plus turf protection mat and 5 rolls of Enkamat Flatback. FOB Halifax by Sept 14, 2007.

Budget Summary:	<u>Capital Account No. CHG01002 Commons Protective Overlay</u>
	Cumulative Unspent Budget \$100,000
	Less: Purchase Order <u>\$ 96,974*</u>
	Balance \$ 3,026

The balance of funds will remain in the project funding reserve of Q324 - Commons Legacy Fund.

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. This report does not comply with the HRM Procurement Policy or the Interim Award Policy. The Interim Award Policy does not specifically address the authority of the Chief Administrative Officer in the absence of Council, to make decisions around this type of negotiated supply purchase, or sole-source purchase. The Mayor and EMT approved the purchase (to mitigate operational and financial risk around damage to the Commons) and gave direction that this particular policy interpretation be reviewed as part of the Business Systems and Controls group review of Procurement Policy and Procedures.

ALTERNATIVES


There are no recommended alternatives.

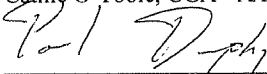
ATTACHMENTS

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.

Report Prepared by: Peter Bigelow, Manager, Real Property Planning 490-6047

Financial Approval by: 
Cathie O'Toole, CGA - A/Director of Finance

Report Approved by : 
Paul Dunphy, Director, Community Development