



PO Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

Item No. 10.1.5

Halifax Regional Council
October 23, 2007

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: 

Geri Kaiser, Acting Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: October 15, 2007

SUBJECT: **Special Election Halifax Regional Municipality
District 8 - Woodside - Eastern Passage**

ORIGIN

Resignation of Becky Kent, Councillor for District 8 - Woodside-Eastern Passage.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that :

1. Council accept the resignation of Councillor Kent from Halifax Regional Council.
2. Linda Grant be appointed the Returning Officer for the Special Election in District 8 to fill the vacancy on the Halifax Regional Council.
3. Halifax Regional Council approve the use of the Provincial Voters List used in the Provincial Election held on October 2, 2007.
4. Approve a withdrawal from the Election Reserve, Q313, in the amount of \$35,000.

BACKGROUND

Ms. Becky Kent, being a successful candidate in the recent Provincial election, has tendered her resignation from Regional Council. The Municipal Clerks office is in receipt of a letter confirming the vacancy and requesting a special election be held to fill the seat. In compliance with the Municipal Elections Act (Section 13) the date for the Special Election will be Saturday, December 15, 2007. Advance Polls will be held Saturday, December 8, 2007 and Tuesday, December 11, 2007.

DISCUSSION

Given that this election is for one matter for one district, this special election will be conducted utilizing our traditional method of paper ballot. Currently staff are in the process of exploring alternative voting methods for the 2008 Municipal Election as approved by Council on January 9, 2007.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

In 2001, Council approved the establishment of an Election Reserve (Q313) to provide the infrastructure for the conduct of the municipal elections as well as for any special elections which may become necessary. Accordingly, a portion of those reserve funds will be drawn upon to conduct a special election in HRM District 8. It is anticipated that approximately \$35,000 will be required to conduct this election, however, only the funds required will be withdrawn from the Reserve. Funding availability has been confirmed by staff of Financial Services.

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. If approved, this report will increase reserve withdrawals in 2007/08.

ALTERNATIVES

There are no alternatives. There is a legislated requirement to conduct an election to fill the vacancy on Regional Council.

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.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: Jan Gibson, Municipal Clerk, 490-4210

Financial Approval by: 
For Catherine Sanderson, Senior Manager, Financial Services, 490-1562