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Item No. 3

Halifax Regional Council
March 10, 2009

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Phil Townsend".

Phil Townsend, Acting Director Infrastructure & Asset Management

DATE: February 27, 2009

SUBJECT: Petition Re: Fast Ferry Construction

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

September 9, 2008 meeting of Regional Council item 10.2.2.

BACKGROUND

A petition was submitted by Councillor Murphy containing 47 names from members of the Marine Worker's Union Local #1 requesting that HRM maintain the construction of the fast ferries at the Halifax Shipyard.

DISCUSSION

HRM's Procurement Policy states that "Procurement methods are to encourage competitive bidding for the supply of goods and/or services." Competitive bidding is essential in ensuring that best value is achieved when public money is being spent. A direct award of this work to Halifax Shipyard, as implied by this petition, is contrary to the guiding principles of the Procurement Policy.

Expressions of Interest were received by HRM staff in September, 2008 from design-build partnerships describing their capabilities in the area of ferry design and construction. These Expressions of Interest will be used to draw up a list of qualified bidders to participate in a Request for Proposal if, and when, a decision is made to procure new ferries.

Amongst the Expressions of Interest received was one from a partnership which included Halifax Shipyard. It can be expected that Halifax Shipyard and its partners will be well-positioned to compete in a Request for Proposal call for the following reasons:

- expectation that one scoring criteria will be the ability to acquire local knowledge and expertise
- economic advantage to a proposal which includes maintenance and servicing being done locally
- potential for Halifax Shipyard to acquire needed infrastructure through ACOA grants

Furthermore, several of the proposing partnerships indicated an interest in establishing a long-term maintenance relationship with Halifax Shipyard.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget implications

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.

ATTACHMENTS

None

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 & Approved by:

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