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Item No. 2
Halifax Regional Council
February 16, 2010

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: 

Ken Reashor P.Eng, A/Director Transportation & Public Works

DATE: February 1, 2010

SUBJECT: Petition for Sidewalk Snow Plowing on Roome Street, Halifax

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

10.2.1, Halifax Regional Council January 12, 2010, Councillor Blumenthal submitted a petition containing 12 signatures on behalf of Mr. Doug MacDonald and the residents of Roome Street, Halifax, requesting that HRM use their equipment and contracts to plow the sidewalks on Roome Street.

BACKGROUND

At the Halifax Regional Municipality Committee of the Whole meeting of Feb 21st, 2006 service standards for sidewalk snow and ice control were debated as a result of a staff Supplementary Report dated Feb 8th, 2006. This report in part outlined the proposed service standards for sidewalk snow and ice control as follows

- Business Districts (P1) ----- cleared 12 hours from end of snowfall
- Main Arterials(P1)----- cleared 12 hours from end of snowfall
- Transit Routes(P2)----- cleared 18 hours from end of snowfall
- Residential(P3)----- cleared 36 hours from end of snowfall

After debate the following motion was passed and approved:

1. All arterials and transit routes within the Municipality be funded through the Urban general Tax rate;
2. An enhanced Seniors and Disabled individual's sidewalk snow removal program funded through the Urban General rate;
3. Continue the service in the areas which receive residential sidewalk snow removal and fund through a single area rate; and
4. That sidewalk snow removal program be set for a period of not less than five years so staff can make the necessary operational and service level improvements to ensure program effectiveness.

DISCUSSION

Normally during street plowing operations snow is stored in the grass median area between the curb and the sidewalk. In some locations, such as Roome Street, there is no median and residents may need to clear the sidewalk from snow pushed in by street operations.

Under By-Law S-300 abutters are required to clear a minimum of three (3) feet of the sidewalk. Whereas the sidewalk on Roome Street is full width, it does in effect leave sufficient snow storage area as if there was a grass median.

Within the remaining 210 kms of sidewalks that are not cleared by HRM, there is approximately 15 kms of sidewalk where there is an absence of a grassy median. The cost to provide snow and ice control for all the sidewalks similarly constructed would be approximately \$120,000.

Roome Street (in isolation)	\$ 4,800
All streets in similar circumstances	\$120,000

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget implications with this report.

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.

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: Gordon Hayward, Superintendent Winter Operations, 490-4956



Report Approved by: _____
Peter Verge, Manager Municipal Operations, 490-4673