

**Item No. 5**  
**Halifax Regional Council**  
**May 29, 2012**

**TO:** Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

Original Signed by Director

**SUBMITTED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Greg Keefe, A/Director of Finance & Information Technology/CFO

**DATE:** May 22, 2012

**SUBJECT:** Uniform Charge for Birch Bear Run Homeowner's Association

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**INFORMATION REPORT**

**ORIGIN**

On May 1, 2012, Regional Council approved a motion requesting "a staff report regarding the possibility of approving up to \$6,000 to be allocated from the Uniform Charge for the Birch Bear Run Homeowner's Association for two entrance signs to the Birch Bear Run subdivision."

**BACKGROUND**

On March 31, 2009, Regional Council approved the following motion:

"MOVED BY Councillor Lund, seconded by Councillor Sloane that Halifax Regional Council approve a uniform charge of \$60.00 per property to be applied against the properties within the mapped area depicted in Appendix A of the attached staff report dated February 19, 2009 for a period of four (4) years commencing with the 2009/10 fiscal year for the purpose of funding the construction of a new playground for Birch Bear Woods subdivision. Implementation of the area rate would be conditional on the Birch Bear Homeowners Association securing one-third funding from HRM and one-third funding from the Nova Scotia Department of Health Promotion and Protection. MOTION PUT AND PASSED."

A copy of the February 19, 2009 staff report is available on-line at:  
<http://halifax.ca/council/agendasc/documents/090331ca1021.pdf>

## **DISCUSSION**

In April 2012, the Councillor for District 23 received a request from the Birch Bear Run Homeowner's Association to reallocate some of the funds from the Uniform Charge towards the construction and installation of two entrance signs to the Birch Bear Run subdivision. Such a request is contrary to the motion approved by Regional Council on March 31, 2009 which was very specific as to the purpose of the uniform charge. Council directed that the funds were to be used only for the construction of a new playground in that subdivision. Therefore, in order to reallocate some of those funds for another purpose, another motion is required from Council to do so.

Because the uniform charge was only approved for a four year term, it was necessary to determine if sufficient funds were still available for the requested signage following completion of the playground. Staff have verified that the playground construction is now completed and all invoices and costs associated with the playground have been paid. Following is a comparison of budget to actuals for the project.

Funding Source	Budget*	Final Actuals	Variance
HRM (Project CPX01185)	\$ 23,333	\$ 23,333	\$ 0
NS Dept Health Promotion & Protection	23,333	20,000	( 3,333)
Uniform Charge	23,333	26,290	2,957
Councillor's Discretionary Funds	0	10,000	10,000
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>\$ 70,000</b>	<b>\$ 79,623</b>	<b>\$ 9,624</b>

\* as per the February 19, 2009 Staff Report

The February 19, 2009 staff report anticipated that one-third of the cost of the playground project would be funded from the Uniform Charge. As indicated in the table above, when the playground was completed, \$26,290 was required from the Uniform Charge which is still less than one-third of the final total project cost. A review of the revenue generated from the Uniform Charge indicates that once it expires after the current fiscal year, a total of \$26,340 will have been raised. This is only \$50 more than the amount required from the Uniform Charge for the playground project.

## **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

Staff have determined that insufficient funding remains from the Uniform Charge for the construction and installation of the two entrance signs to the sub-division. Therefore, so long as the request from the Association to reallocate funding for this purpose is denied, there would be no budget implications.

## **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES/BUSINESS PLAN**

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Project and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Project and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

The Birch Bear Run Homeowner's Association has been contacted and informed that there are insufficient funds available from the Uniform Charge to purchase two entrance signs.

**ATTACHMENTS**

None

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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 Roussel, Senior Financial Consultant, 490-6468

Original Signed

Report Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Bruce Fisher, Manager, Financial Policy & Planning, 490-4493

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