



P.O. Box 1749
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Item No. 6
Halifax Regional Council
May 29, 2012

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

Original signed by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "R. Butts", written over a horizontal line.

SUBMITTED BY:

Richard Butts, Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: May 22, 2012

SUBJECT: Relocation of Halifax Regional Council during Phase 3 City Hall
Restoration

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

April 17, 2012 Halifax Regional Council award of Tender 12-150 Stone Masonry Restoration
Halifax City Hall –Phase 3

April 30, 2012 Initial Project Meeting - Phase 3 City Hall Restoration

Occupational Health & Safety Act (Chapter 7 of the Act of 1996, as amended)- Legislated responsibilities of the CAO, Senior Management, project Architects and Engineers to protect employees, service providers, elected officials and the public.

BACKGROUND

On Tuesday April 24, 2012 Halifax Regional Council awarded the tender for Phase 3 of the City Hall Restoration project. The work to be undertaken in Phase 3 of the project is located on the east side of City Hall along Barrington Street, along with work in the moat, electrical room and corner of the building at Barrington and Duke Streets.

The initial project meeting with City Hall and the Project Team took place on Monday April 30, 2012.

DISCUSSION

At that initial project meeting the work and potential impacts on staff, the public, members of Council and meetings or events to be held in Halifax Hall and Council chambers were reviewed by project staff.

Based on the experience in other phases and the location and extent of the work in Phase 3 it was determined that there may be substantial occupational health and safety impacts in both Halifax Hall and Council Chambers that would be beyond the control of the project to manage.

Several options to mitigate and work with the project impacts were discussed including; working through construction issues as they arose, closing Halifax Hall but retaining Council Chambers for meetings of Standing Committees and Regional Council, or moving events and meetings to alternative locations during a substantial portion of Phase 3 construction.

It was the recommendation of the HRM Project Team and the Clerk's Office and CAO, in consultation with the Office of the Mayor, that based on health and safety consideration;

- Halifax Hall and Council Chambers be closed to the public during Phase 3 Restoration of City Hall
- Mitigation strategies and alternatives be put in place for occupants of City Hall during Phase 3 Restoration.
- Protective barriers be placed along all interior walls in Halifax Hall and Council Chambers to reduce the infiltration of dust and fumes from the work.

Based on those recommendations alternate meeting locations were reviewed and considered.

Meetings of Standing Committees of Council and other Boards and Committees of Council will be moved to alternative HRM locations suitable to their requirements. The Office of the Municipal Clerk is working with Committees to determine the best options.

Meetings of Halifax Regional Council will be accommodated by Trade Centre Limited (TCL) with sound, recording and voting systems and media feeds provided through the TCL audio visual (AV) service contract. The Trade Centre Limited option was determined to provide the least disruption, good public access and represent the best value for money to HRM. As a partner HRM receives a substantial discount in rental rates at TCL.

It is expected that the following meetings of Halifax Regional Council meetings would be held at Trade Centre Limited.

August 7th & August 14th

September 11th and September 25th

October 2nd, October 23rd and October 30th

And tentatively November 13th, November 20th and November 27th based on the construction schedule.

No space is available in TCL on October 16th. The Swearing In Ceremony for the new Council and will be held on November 6th at an alternate location.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Costs associated with the relocation of Regional Council will be covered under Project No. CBX01046, Halifax City Hall Stone Restoration.

Room rental/ setup and tear down: \$1,500 per meeting

AV/sound/recording/voting system (regardless of location) estimated at \$6,000 per meeting.

The budget availability has been confirmed by Financial Services.

Budget Summary: Project Account No. CBX01046 – City Hall Stone Restoration

Res. 1936.4 – WTC Leasing

Cumulative Unspent Budget	\$82,500.00
Up to 11 meetings Rental/Equip/facilities	<u>82,500.00</u>
Balance	0.00

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 Public will continue to have access to all meetings of Boards and Committees of Regional Council and at Regional Council. EastLink TV and Haligoniac.ca will continue to provide coverage of Regional Council meetings held at Trade Centre Limited.

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: Cathy J. Mellett, Municipal Clerk

Original Signed

Report Approved by:

Terry Gallagher, Manager, Planning & Infrastructure
