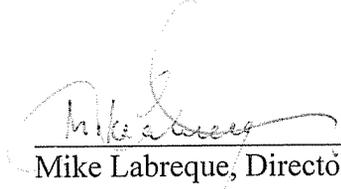
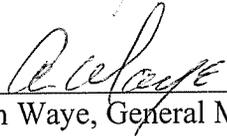

Halifax Regional Council
January 15, 2002

TO: Mayor Peter Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:


Mike Labreque, Director, Real Property Services


Allan Waye, General Manager, Community Projects

DATE: December 20, 2001

SUBJECT: Fairbanks Learning Centre License Renewal

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

Staff.

BACKGROUND

The Shubenacadie Canal Commission had its provincial funding significantly reduced which prevented it from maintaining all of its operations as of April 2000. After assessing the situation, HRM staff saw an opportunity to address some municipal needs by using the Centre, parking lot and green area. There was also concern that the closure of this valuable asset could lead to vandalism and demands on municipal services.

The HRM and Commission entered into a one year licensing agreement effective February 1, 2001 with annual renewal options. The license agreement details that the HRM pays \$ 1 per annum for the building, parking lot and immediate adjacent green area and is responsible for the maintenance of same. There was also a requirement for license renewal confirmation by November 1, 2001 if the HRM intended to renew the license agreement for another year. Approval for an annual lease falls within the purview of the CAO.

DISCUSSION

Staff have advised the Shubenacadie Canal Commission of the HRM's intention to renew the license agreement until January 31, 2003. Real Property Services prefers the additional year to assess the viability of the facility as part of its inventory to service the needs of the business unit. Since taking occupancy of the building, the HRM through the Community Projects business unit has established the following initiatives to date:

- a) Dangerous or Unsightly Premises Improvements Satellite Site has serviced 48 projects in the Eastern Region from this venue;
- b) Facility Rentals for HRM business units 73 days and external organizations 45 days;
- c) Job and Life Skills Workshops for Youth LIVE participants are held at this site;
- d) Office Space for Community Projects staff;
- e) Canal and Trail Maintenance Agreement for Youth LIVE initiative; and
- f) Special Projects creating contractual opportunities for the Youth LIVE initiative i.e. Canoe to the Sea.

To date, there has not been any discussions with the province regarding their long term intentions for this facility. Currently there are negotiations taking place between the HRM and the province on a number of outstanding issues. Staff suggests it would be more prudent to commence any discussions regarding the Fairbanks Centre after the negotiations on these outstanding issues have been resolved.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Utility costs are budgeted by Real Property Services and routine maintenance is completed through the Youth LIVE initiative.

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.

ALTERNATIVES

Regional Council has several alternatives including:

- a) cancellation of the licensing agreement and returning occupancy of the Fairbanks Learning Centre to the Shubenacadie Canal Commission with potential negative repercussions; and
- b) relocate the current operations with reduced service levels and no reasonable alternative in the inventory of HRM facilities.

ATTACHMENTS

None.

Additional copies of this Report, and information on its status, can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Municipal at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

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