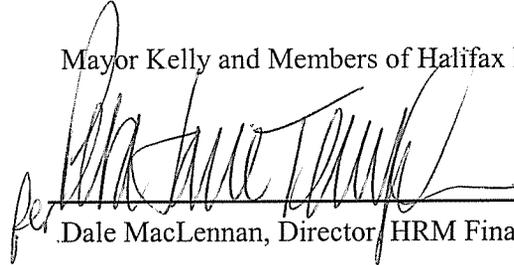


TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:



Dale MacLennan, Director, HRM Financial Services

DATE: January 9th, 2002

SUBJECT: **Postponement of Public Hearing: Property Sale - 116 Lakeview Road,
Halifax Search and Rescue**

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

At the meeting of Regional Council October 23rd, 2001, the date of the public hearing regarding the sale of HRM property located at 116 Lakeview Road to Halifax Search and Rescue was deferred to January 15th, 2002, pending further negotiations with the Lakeview Residents Association. An advertisement for the public hearing was duly posted.

Subsequent to the Council meeting, staff of the Grants Program and Real Estate Services met with community representatives to address the concerns of local residents in the immediate neighbourhood and to seek a mutually agreed upon solution. These negotiations are still in progress but staff anticipate substantive changes to the original recommendation such that a new report and approval process is warranted.

A revised report to the Grants Committee is expected in February, 2002, and pending approval will proceed to Regional Council through the regular process. Hence, notice has been given regarding the postponement of the public hearing and a new date will be scheduled accordingly.

BACKGROUND

The local Residents Association are strong advocates in support of the Halifax Search and Rescue's proposed ownership of the building but have expressed concerns regarding (a) continuation of the informal agreement which permitted their use of the premises at no cost, and (b) the purchase price of \$16,000 which they feel does not reflect the financial (about \$21,000) and labour invested by local volunteers at the time the facility was developed for a volunteer fire department.

Staff have indicated a willingness to re-consider the sale price on the proviso that Halifax Search and Rescue and the Residents Association can come to a mutually agreed upon arrangement regarding community access

to the facility. Both parties have agreed to formulate an agreement and report back to HRM by mid-January.

DISCUSSION

Given the established, mutual relationship between the two parties HRM staff are prepared to consider recommending the donation of the building for \$1, plus cost of sale recovery, in exchange for reasonable community access to the facility. The intent is to respect the investment made by local residents and the neighbourhood's access to the building and site (access to the lakefront).

The revised proposal is a substantive change to the original staff recommendation and therefore warrants approval through the HRM Grants Committee before presentation to Regional Council.

COMMUNITY IMPACTS

Recognition for the volunteer efforts of local citizens and on-going access to a popular recreational site. Mutually beneficial relationships between the local Search and Rescue outfit and local residents.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Pending the conclusion of negotiations, the revised recommendation would result in a loss of sales revenue for HRM. However, Search and Rescue services conform to HRM's core mandate in public safety. To forfeit \$16,000 would probably be viewed by the neighbourhood residents as compensation for their earlier investment in the volunteer fire department.

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 other relevant legislation.

ALTERNATIVES

This is an information report only. A revised report will be prepared by staff for review and approval once negotiations are complete.

ATTACHMENTS

None.

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

Report Prepared By: Peta-Jane Temple, Grants Coordinator 490-5469