

Halifax Regional Council
July 9, 2002

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:



 George McLellan, Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: June 28, 2002

SUBJECT: 2002/03 Area Rates for Business Improvement Districts

ORIGIN

Deferral by Regional Council of May 21, 2002 pending confirmation of the proposed 2002/03 area rates approved by the Business Improvement Districts at their respective Annual General Meetings.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the following operating budgets, area rates, and minimums and maximums be approved for the Business Improvement Districts for the fiscal year 2002/03 to be levied on Commercial and Business Occupancy properties only within the respective Districts:

Business Improvement District	2002/03 Operating Budget*	Commercial Area Rate	Business Occupancy Area Rate	Minimum to be paid	Maximum to be paid
Downtown Dartmouth	\$83,725	\$0.2200	\$0.4400	\$50	\$500
Spring Garden Road	\$137,887	\$0.0177	\$0.4059	\$25	\$3,125
Downtown Halifax	\$451,540	\$0.0859	\$0.1718	\$35	\$3,000
Quinpool Road	\$53,039	\$0.0859	\$0.1718	\$35	\$3,000

* Portion funded by Halifax Regional Municipality. Includes a 3% provision for allowance in the event of decreases in assessment.

BACKGROUND

Section 56 of the *Municipal Government Act* enables Council to levy area rates applicable only to commercial property and business occupancy assessment to be used for:

1. the beautification, improvement, and maintenance of property owned or leased by the municipality;
2. the payment of grants to a body corporate for the purpose of promoting or beautifying a business district, and for airport, wharf or waterfront development (ie. Business Improvement District);
3. the identification and promotion of a business district as a place for retail and commercial activity;
4. the establishment or maintenance of parking facilities.

DISCUSSION

For three of the four Business Improvement Districts, the area rates and minimums and maximums are unchanged from the 2001/02 fiscal year. For the Spring Garden Road Business Improvement District, the area rates have increased by \$0.0030 for commercial properties, and by \$0.0677 for business occupancy assessment. The minimum increased from \$10 to \$25, while the maximum remained unchanged at \$3,125.

All of the area rates and minimums and maximums contained in this report were approved at the Annual General Meetings of the Business Improvement Districts held between April 18 and May 30, 2002.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Because all funding provided by the Municipality is through area rates without transfers from the general rate, there are no implications to the Municipality's Operating Budget.

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.

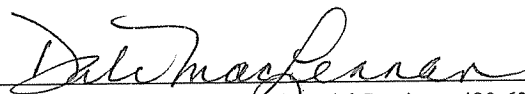
ALTERNATIVES

Council may choose to approve some area rates and defer others pending additional information.

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: Gordon Roussel, Budget Coordinator, Financial Planning 490-5534

Report Approved by:


Dale MacLennan, Director, Financial Services 490-6308