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Item No. 02
Halifax Regional Council
January 26, 2016

TO: Mayor Savage and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: Original Signed by Director

Bruce Zvaniga, P. Eng., Director Transportation and Public Works

DATE: January 5, 2016

SUBJECT: 2015-2016 Snow Removal Program for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities.

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

On November 24, 2015 Regional Council passed a motion requesting a staff information report in regards to the status, wait list and possible funding requirements of the 2015-2016 Snow Removal Program for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Section 79(1)(av)(vii) of the HRM Charter permits the Municipality to expend funds on a grant or contribution to a registered Canadian charitable organization.

BACKGROUND

The Seniors' Snow Removal Assistance Program pre-dated amalgamation in the former City of Halifax. The program, since its inception, has always been about snow removal on private property, administered by a charitable organization for specified individuals with specific needs. The program includes snow removal on: front steps, back steps, front walkways, a pathway to the oil tank and sidewalk, if required.

In 2006, there was a desire from Regional Council to extend sidewalk snow clearing service to include main arterial and transit routes on the peninsula. At that time, as an alternative, staff proposed servicing main arterials and transit routes on the peninsula and increasing the funding to the Seniors' Program to \$360,000 as part of the winter sidewalk service for main arterial and transit routes on the peninsula. This recommendation was subsequently approved and in December 2009 funding was approved to the current level of \$400,000, in order to reduce the waiting list.

On August 5, 2014 Regional Council approved a multi-year agreement with the Halifax YMCA to administer the Seniors' Snow Removal Assistance Program, subject to annual budget approval, which would allow for stability and confidence with residents and provide the YMCA a strong foundation for increased service delivery through efficiencies of a multi-year program.

DISCUSSION

The YMCA delivers the day to day operation of this program on behalf of the community at large with funding from HRM. Membership in the program is also administered by the YMCA.

Currently there are 455 approved clients on the Seniors' Snow Removal Program. There was \$3,090 in funding remaining from the 2014/2015 contract year and that combined with the \$400,000 for the 2015/2016 contract year is a total of \$403,090. The current cost per client is \$650 + 7.5% HST, plus if the snow fall exceeds 212 cm of snow for the season there is an extra cost per client of \$50 + 7.5% HST. The YMCA Administration fee is \$60,000 to administer the program.

As of the 5 January 2016 there were approximately 71 potential clients on the wait list. A large number of applications have been sent out this year. This would bring the total enrolment in the program to 526 clients.

Current number of clients with funding

# of clients	Cost/client	Total	HST (7.5%)*	Total cost
455	\$650	\$295,750	\$22,181	\$317,931
455	\$50	\$22,750	\$1,706	\$24,456
TOTAL				\$342,388
2014/15 funding surplus				\$3,090
TOTAL FUNDING				\$403,090
ADMIN FEE				\$-60,000
TOTAL FUNDING FOR CLIENTS				\$343,090
REMAINING FUNDING				\$703

Funding for wait list (71 clients)

# of clients	Cost/client	Total	HST (7.5%)*	Total cost
71	\$650	\$46,150	\$3,461	\$49,611
71	\$50	\$3550	\$266	\$3,816
15% Admin Fee as per contract				\$8,014
TOTAL				\$61,441

* Charities can claim a rebate of 50 percent of the GST/HST paid or owing on eligible expenses.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Funding for the annual snow removal program in the amount of \$400,000 is available in the approved 2015/16 operating budget in Account R885 – 6310 West Sidewalk Snow and Ice Control.

In addition, the YMCA has a carry over balance of \$3,090 from 2014/15 fiscal.

An additional cost of \$61,441 would be required to expand the program to 71 additional clients. This additional funding is not currently within TPW's envelope.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

No community consultation has taken place.

ATTACHMENTS

None

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.php> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210, or Fax 902.490.4208.

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