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Item No. 4

Transportation Standing Committee
December 8, 2016

TO: Chair and Members of Transportation Standing Committee

Original Signed

SUBMITTED BY:

Bruce Zvaniga, P. Eng, Director, TPW

DATE: November 22, 2016

SUBJECT: Overnight Non-Emergency Municipal Operations

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

Item 12.2.1 of the Sept.22, 2016 meeting of the Transportation Standing Committee:
MOVED by Councillor Mason, THAT the Transportation Standing Committee request a staff report regarding the financial and operational implications of eliminating overnight non-emergency municipal operations.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Section 322(1) of the *Halifax Regional Municipality Charter* provides that "The Council may design, lay out, open, expand, construct, maintain, improve, alter, repair, light, water, clean, and clear streets in the Municipality."

BACKGROUND

At the September 22, 2016 meeting of the Transportation Standing Committee, Councillor Mason introduced a motion requesting a staff report regarding the financial and operational implications of eliminating overnight non-emergency municipal operations. Ongoing noise complaints by residents regarding overnight street sweeping of residential streets was the generator of the request.

DISCUSSION

TPW's Road Operations and Construction section delivers 24/7 services throughout the year including litter collection, snow and ice removal, street and sidewalk repairs, street sweeping, leaf collection and tree cutting/pruning. Many of these functions are performed in emergency situations which are usually a result of extreme weather, regardless of the time of day or night. HRM's noise bylaw N-200 allows for such exemptions by stating "noises emitted by municipal owned machinery or equipment when used in the normal course of providing municipal services" shall be exempt.

Concerns with the overnight street cleaning of residential streets on Peninsula Halifax has been ongoing since the inception of the service in the late 1970's. At the time, residents were surveyed as to whether they wanted to have restricted parking during the overnight hours to allow for the provision of the service between the hours of 12:05 am – 8:00 am. The survey received positive support and parking prohibition signs were erected throughout these residential neighbourhoods.

HRM staff has been exploring options to change the street sweeping from overnight to daytime hours. In some areas, this involves only removing the overnight signage and sweeping the streets during the day as parking is minimal. In areas around hospitals, universities and businesses, daytime parking is at a premium and there are significant costs to implement change should overnight sweeping be eliminated. Options, such as alternate side parking restrictions could allow for day sweeping. Most streets on the Peninsula have parking prohibited on one side and allow parking on the other side, thus alternating sides will be more complicated for residents to understand and comply with.

Approximately 2,000 parking prohibition signs with overnight restrictions are currently on Peninsula Halifax. Removing, altering or adding new installations could incur significant cost to HRM depending upon the scope. If the entire overnight street sweeping program is moved to daytime hours, potentially two additional street sweepers would be required at an approximate cost of \$180,000 each to maintain the service level of sweeping each street 3 to 5 times per year.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

N/A

ATTACHMENTS

N/A

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

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Report Approved by: Beverley Audet, Manager, Road Operations & Construction
