

# HALIFAX

P.O. Box 1749  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 3A5 Canada

**Item No. 5**  
**Halifax Regional Council**  
**August 14, 2018**

**TO:** Mayor Savage and Members of Halifax Regional Council

**SUBMITTED BY:** Original Signed

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Jerry Blackwood, Acting CFO/Director, Finance & Asset Management

Original Signed by 

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Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer

**DATE:** July 12, 2018

**SUBJECT:** Minimum Reserve Bid Tax Sale – May 29, 2018

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## INFORMATION REPORT

### ORIGIN

This report originates from the HRM minimum reserve bid tax sale which took place on May 29, 2018.

### LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

**HRM Charter Section 158(4) states:**

(4) Where no bid is received for any land sufficient to satisfy the full amount of the taxes, interest and expenses due in respect of the land and the Municipality does not purchase the land, the Municipality may, without further notice to the owner and encumbrancers, again advertise the property and

(a) sell it at auction for the best price that may be obtained; or

(b) call tenders for the property and sell it for the highest tender,

and the Council may direct the Treasurer as to what constitutes an acceptable minimum bid or tender price.

**Administrative Order 18, The Revenue and Collections Policy section 4.2.3(h)(3) states:**

Where the property has been put up for tax sale three times in the past with no satisfactory offer staff will then proceed, as per section 158 (4) of the HRM Charter, and without further notice to the owner and encumbrances, to again advertise the property and sell it at either public auction or tender starting with the minimum reserve bid as set by Council resolution.

Any remaining arrears after the tax sale will be adjusted to the allowance for tax account (G/L 2521). Staff will then advise Council of the results, including any adjustments within 30 days of the tax sale via an information report.

### **BACKGROUND**

On May 22, 2012 Council approved the above-mentioned amendment to Administrative Order 18 (sec 4.2.3(h)(3)), The Revenue and Collections Policy, with respect to tax sale action for properties taken to tax sale 3 times and on which no bids were received.

Staff have tried 3 previous times to sell the properties as listed in Schedule 1 at tax sale. Taxes continue to accrue and bad debt allowances must be held against this receivable. Staff believes that it is in the best interests of all rate-payers that these tax accounts once again become active through minimum reserve bid tax sales to interested parties thereby ensuring increasing development, and ultimately revenue for HRM, rather than abandonment and unpaid tax accounts. Through this process, staff is hopeful that the properties under new ownership will become less of a collection risk, and be re-capitalized or developed, which in the long run would add taxable value to future assessment rolls.

### **DISCUSSION**

On May 29, 2018, staff held the eighteenth tax sale using the minimum reserve bid provision of Administrative Order 18. The properties offered at this tax sale are listed in schedule 1. The overall tax recovery rate for this sale was 52%. The recovery rates for the reserve bid sales previously held are summarized in the below table:

<b><u>Tax Sale Date</u></b>	<b><u># of Properties Sold</u></b>	<b><u>Recovery Rate</u></b>
July 17, 2012	18	28%
October 2, 2012	8	23%
March 12, 2013	3	8%
November 5, 2013	2	34%
March 11, 2014	2	38%
July 8, 2014	1	75%
August 19, 2014	1	9%
October 7, 2014	3	29%
December 2, 2014	5	29%
February 24, 2015	8	29%
September 8, 2015	3	80%
November 24, 2015	4	34%
January 26, 2016	1	28%
May 3, 2016	1	34%
July 12, 2016	1	35%
September 27, 2016	3	35%
January 24, 2017	1	89%
May 29, 2018	4	52%

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Each year an allowance for bad debt, the valuation allowance, is calculated based on estimates of amounts outstanding that may be uncollectible in future years. Accounts adjusted subsequent to the tax sale per

Schedule 1 (\$17,097) of this report have been 100% provided for in the annual valuation allowance expense, g/l 2521 allowance tax. The balance of this account as of July 12, 2018 was \$1,915,473.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

N/A

**ATTACHMENTS**

Schedule 1 - May 29, 2018 Minimum Reserve Bid Tax Sale Summary

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A copy of this report can be obtained online at [halifax.ca](http://halifax.ca) or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210.

Report Prepared by: Milvena Rose, Collections Supervisor, Finance & Asset Management, 902-490-8440

Report Approved by: Renée Towns, Acting Manager, Revenue, Finance & Asset Management, 902-293-7983

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**SCHEDULE 1: May 29, 2018 Minimum Reserve Bid Tax Sale Summary**

<b>AAN</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Legal Description</b>	<b>Taxes O/S</b>	<b>By-Law Chgs O/S</b>	<b>Expenses O/S</b>	<b>Interest O/S</b>	<b>Total Liens Due</b>	<b>Taxes/Liens Recovered</b>	<b>% Taxes/Liens Recovered</b>	<b>Amount for Write off</b>
02458039	Larry Trent Giles & Heather Leanne Giles	No 7 Highway Necum Teuch	\$ 700	\$ -	\$ 798	\$ 649	\$ 2,140	\$ 1,300	61%	\$ 1,840
02619105	Rhonda Lumsden	Naughlers Settlement Rd Naughlers Settlement Rd Land	\$ 511	\$ -	\$ 798	\$ 739	\$ 2,047	\$ 770	38%	\$ 1,277
02999803	Colin Malay	Sheet Harbour Trafalgar Rd Lot B - Malay Falls Lot B-C Malay Sub-Malay Falls	\$ 2,134	\$ -	\$ 1,006	\$ 1,564	\$ 4,704	\$ 2,100	45%	\$ 2,604
04294769	Ken Rayner & Haley & Associates	15 Hunters Hill Lane Terence Bay Land	\$ 19,072	\$ -	\$ 633	\$ 4,673	\$ 24,377	\$ 13,000	53%	\$ 11,377
			<b>\$22,416</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$3,234</b>	<b>\$7,625</b>	<b>\$33,267</b>	<b>\$17,170</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>\$17,097</b>