

HALIFAX

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

Item No. 11.1.1
Halifax Regional Council
August 31, 2021

TO: Mayor Savage and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:

Original Signed by 

Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: June 25, 2021

SUBJECT: Administrative Order 17 Amendment - 2021 Remuneration Freeze

ORIGIN

On May 18, 2021, Council passed the following motion:

THAT Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer to provide a staff report to amend section 2CB of Administrative Order 17 to read "Notwithstanding Section 2CA, there shall be no increase November 1st, 2021 to the annual remuneration to be paid to Members".

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Halifax Regional Municipality Charter, subclauses 20(1)(d)(i)(ii)(iii), as follows:

20 (1) The Council may make policies

(d) providing for and fixing

- (i) the annual remuneration to be paid to the Mayor,
- (ii) the annual remuneration to be paid to the Deputy Mayor,
- (iii) the annual remuneration to be paid to councillors,

Administrative Order 17, the *Council Member Remuneration Administrative Order* ("Administrative Order 17").

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Halifax Regional Council adopt the amendments to Administrative Order 17, the Council Member Remuneration Administrative Order, as set out in Attachment 2 of this report.

BACKGROUND

On August 15, 2017, Halifax Regional Council adopted amendments to Administrative Order 17. These amendments created a new formula to calculate increases for remuneration paid to Members of Halifax Regional Council (Members). This formula limits increases to the remuneration paid to Members to the average increase in the Nova Scotia Average Industrial Weekly Earnings for the period from September of one year to September of the next year. Any adjustment to a Member's remuneration occurs on November 1st of a given year.

Due to the presence of COVID-19, on June 23, 2020, Council passed an amendment to Administrative Order 17 to add section 2CB. Under this amendment, for 2020, Council relinquished any increase to the annual remuneration to be paid to Members that would have otherwise been effective on November 1, 2020.

DISCUSSION

For 2021, by operation of Administrative Order 17, an increase to the remuneration paid to Members will be effective on November 1, 2021. This increase will follow the formula from 2017 and be based on the average increase in the Nova Scotia Average Industrial Weekly Earnings for the period from September 2020 to September 2021. As the Nova Scotia Average Industrial Earnings for September 2021 are not yet known, the amount of the increase is currently unknown.

On May 18, 2021, Council directed staff to prepare amendments to Administrative Order 17 to forego a remuneration adjustment for one additional year. Staff have drafted these amendments for Council's consideration (Attachment 2). The amendment would simply add "and November 1st, 2021" to section 2CB. Similar to the 2020 amendment, the 2021 amendments will not apply to any potential adjustment for future years.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There will be a one-time savings in Fiscal Services as a result of this amendment for the annual increase that would have been applied as per AO 17.

RISK CONSIDERATION

There are no significant risks associated with the recommendation in this Report. The risks considered rate Low.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

No community engagement was required.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

No environmental implications were identified.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Council may direct staff to draft amendments to AO # 17 as it sees fit to provide for and fix the annual remuneration for members in respect of any specific or future year(s).

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1 Showing proposed Changes to Administrative Order 17
Attachment 2 Amending Administrative Order

A copy of this report can be obtained online at halifax.ca or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210.

Report Prepared by: Derk Slaunwhite, Senior Solicitor, 902.490.4226

ATTACHMENT 1

(Showing Proposed Changes)

**HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NUMBER 17
RESPECTING REMUNERATION FOR MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

2CA. (1) Effective on November 1st, 2017 and in each subsequent November 1st, the annual remuneration to be paid to a Member shall be increased by the average increase in the Average Industrial Weekly Earnings.

(2) If there is no increase in the Average Industrial Weekly Earnings, there shall be no increase in the annual remuneration to be paid to a Member for that year.

2CB. Notwithstanding section 2CA, there shall be no increase November 1st, 2020 and November 1st, 2021 to the annual remuneration to be paid to Members.

ATTACHMENT 2
(Amending Administrative Order)

**HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NUMBER 17
RESPECTING REMUNERATION FOR MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

BE IT RESOLVED as an Administrative Order of the Council of the Halifax Regional Municipality that Administrative Order Number 17, the *Council Member Remuneration Administrative Order*, is amended as follows:

1. Section 2CB is amended by adding the words, comma, and numbers “and November 1st, 2021” after the words, comma, and numbers “November 1st, 2020” and before the words “to the annual”.

Done and passed in Council this day of 20 .

Mayor

Municipal Clerk