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Item No. 15.1.2
Halifax Regional Council
June 18, 2024

TO: Mayor Savage and Members of Halifax Regional Council

Original Signed

SUBMITTED BY:

Cathie O'Toole, Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: May 21, 2024

SUBJECT: **Appointment of Development Officers**

ORIGIN

This report originates from staff.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Halifax Regional Municipality Charter, Chapter VIII, Subsection 258(1):

The Council shall appoint a development officer to administer its land-use by-law and subdivision by-law.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Halifax Regional Council appoint Aaron Bliss and Michael Hart as Development Officers, pursuant to Subsection 258(1) of the *Halifax Regional Municipality Charter*, and that these appointments be effective for the duration of their current conditions of employment with the Halifax Regional Municipality.

BACKGROUND

Development Officers are required to administer the Municipality's land use regulations, as set out in its various land use by-laws, development agreements, the *Regional Subdivision By-law* and the *HRM Charter*, on behalf of Council. As a result of recent competitions, two staff members were hired to fill vacant Planner II positions with Development Officer responsibilities.

DISCUSSION

These vacancies occurred through promotions within the division. The job description for the Planner II position includes the assignment of Development Officer duties and responsibilities as may be appropriate.

The Planner II positions will be responsible for making decisions concerning the more straightforward and routine development applications, thereby creating capacity to allow the existing Principal Planners who are also appointed as Development Officers the ability to devote more of their time to respond to the more complicated development applications. This division of staff roles and responsibilities will help to improve service delivery and allow all development applications to be processed more efficiently.

Aaron Bliss has accepted a full-time position as a Planner II and Michael Hart has accepted a term position as a Planner II within the Land Development and Subdivision Program division. Achieving the desired service delivery results requires the appointment by Council of these individuals as Development Officers.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget implications associated with this report. These are budgeted positions within the approved operating budget for Planning and Development.

RISK CONSIDERATION

There are no significant risks associated with the recommendations contained within this report.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement is not applicable to this report.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no environmental implications

ALTERNATIVES

Council may choose not to appoint the two staff members as Development Officers. In doing so, the added capacity for the more efficient processing of development applications would be lost.

ATTACHMENTS

None

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.

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