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Item No. 04
Halifax Regional Council
April 5, 2016

TO: Mayor Savage and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: Original Signed by Director

Bob Bjerke, Chief Planner and Director, Planning and Development

January 29, 2016

SUBJECT: Community Sign in Middle Sackville - Lucasville

# **INFORMATION REPORT**

#### **ORIGIN**

DATE:

May 13, 2014 motion of Regional Council:

"MOVED by Councillor Johns, seconded by Councillor Craig that staff remove the "Welcome to Middle Sackville" sign pending confirmation on the correct location of the community boundary, and that staff confirm the boundary for Middle Sackville/Lucasville in the form of a staff report back to Regional Council. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY."

# **LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY**

Halifax Regional Municipality Charter (HRM Charter), Part XII, Streets and Highways, S.323

#### **BACKGROUND**

Civic Addressing staff conducted a boundary verification project for the communities of Lower, Middle and Upper Sackville in 2010/2011. Regional Council approved the recommended community boundaries at their June 21, 2011 meeting and in doing so, directed staff to install community signs at the approved boundaries. After the installation of the Middle Sackville sign on the Lucasville Road, feedback was received from the residents in Lucasville that the sign was in the wrong location. Councillor Johns made a motion at the May 13, 2014 Regional Council meeting to request that staff remove the sign until the boundary between Middle Sackville and Lucasville could be verified.

### **DISCUSSION**

Following Council's direction, staff co-ordinated the removal of the Middle Sackville sign from the Lucasville Road in May of 2014.

The need for a review of community boundaries has resulted largely from a requirement of the Emergency 911 (E911) service to use communities as a means of identifying the correct location of an emergency call. However, other public and private agencies, most notably Canada Post, also use communities to deliver or target their services. Efforts to ratify boundaries between different agencies began in 2002 and will continue until all of the 200 HRM community names and boundaries have been verified.

Through the civic addressing program, staff have systematically been verifying all community names and boundaries in the municipality. To date, 194 of the 200 communities have been approved by Regional Council. There is a project plan in place to verify the remaining six communities. The current boundary verification project underway is for the communities of Cole Harbour and Westphal. This work will also complete the boundary verification for the adjacent communities of Dartmouth and Eastern Passage. Once this project is complete, the final two communities, Lucasville and Hammonds Plains will be verified.

While it would be ideal for staff to advise Council when we anticipate the remaining verification projects will be completed, our experience is that each community is different based on local complexities. Where community names and boundaries are clear and accepted by most area residents, then the process can be quite short and consume less than a year. Where this is not the case, the process can be extended and take between one and three years to complete.

# **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Identification of communities requires the installation of community signs. The costs for these signs can be accommodated within the operating budget for Civic Addressing, C330.

# **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

The community engagement process for community boundary verification is consistent with the intent of the HRM Community Engagement Strategy. The level of community engagement is consultation, achieved through meetings with community groups, local Councillors and written communication with affected property owners.

# **ATTACHMENTS**

None.

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