



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

Item No. 14.4.1
Halifax Regional Council
May 22, 2018

TO: Mayor Savage and Members of Halifax Regional Council

Original Signed

SUBMITTED BY: _____
Councillor Tony Mancini, Chair, Harbour East – Marine Drive Community Council

DATE: May 4, 2018

SUBJECT: Purchase of Equipment to Upgrade the Musquodoboit Harbour Ballfields

ORIGIN

July 18, 2017 motion of Regional Council:

THAT Halifax Regional Council set an area rate of \$0.005 per \$100 assessment for the Musquodoboit Harbour Common Area Rate as depicted in the attached Map (Appendix G of the staff report dated July 4, 2017).

May 3, 2018 meeting of Harbour East – Marine Drive Community Council, Item No. 16.1

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Halifax Regional Municipality Charter, section 25 (f) which states: “The powers and duties of a community council include making recommendations to the Council on any matter referred to it by the Council”.

Halifax Regional Municipality Charter, section 29 which states:

“(2) A community council may determine expenditures, to be financed by area rate, that should be made in, or for the benefit of, the community.” and

“(6) A community council may determine upon what money contained in the budget approved by the Council is spent, if the sum of all expenditures does not exceed the sum so approved.”

RECOMMENDATION

Harbour East – Marine Drive Community Council recommends that Halifax Regional Council approve a grant to the Porter’s Lake Baseball Association in the amount of \$7,000 from the Musquodoboit Harbour Common Area Rate account for the purchase of recreational and field equipment required to upgrade the Musquodoboit Harbour ballfields for Baseball / Hardball use.

BACKGROUND

On July 18, 2017 Regional Council approved a motion that Halifax Regional Council set an area rate of \$0.005 per \$100 assessment for the Musquodoboit Harbour Common Area Rate. As noted in the staff report dated July 4, 2017:

“There are two Common Area Rates (Hammonds Plains Common Area Rate, and Musquodoboit Harbour Common Area Rate), which allocate funds through application to the applicable Community Council, and are not managed by a Homeowners Association. These two rates were created prior to amalgamation and have no clearly established purposes or business plans.”

A grant proposal submitted by the Porter’s Lake Baseball Association was before Harbour East – Marine Drive Community Council for consideration at its meeting held on May 3, 2018.

HRM Legal Services has advised that the proposed grant is subject to the approval of Regional Council. Community Council area rate expenditure power is restricted under the HRM Charter section 29 (6) to determining “what money contained in the budget approved by Council is spent.” The Musquodoboit Harbour Common Area Rate does not have a Council-approved budget.

For further information, please refer to the attached request for Harbour East – Marine Drive Community Council consideration form and attachments dated May 3, 2018.

DISCUSSION

Harbour East – Marine Drive Community Council considered the grant proposal, as submitted by Porter’s Lake Baseball Association for the Musquodoboit Harbour Common Area Rate, at its meeting held on May 3, 2018 and have forwarded the recommendation to Halifax Regional Council as outlined in this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The tax rate of \$0.005 per \$100.00 assessment for the Musquodoboit Harbour Common Area Rate was approved by Regional Council on July 18, 2017. This provided revenue of \$10,402 for the Musquodoboit Harbour Common Area Rate in 2017-18, in addition to the \$32,370 in surplus carried forward from previous years. Expenses for 2017-18 totaled \$3,435, which left a remaining surplus of \$39,337 as of March 31, 2018. Therefore, there are sufficient funds to accommodate the grant request of \$7,000 from the Musquodoboit Harbour Common Area Rate.

Revenue for 2017-18

Description of Revenue Source	Amount (\$)
4201 Residential Area Rate Revenue	9,892
4206 Resource Area Rate Revenue	511
Total Revenues (must equal total expenditures):	\$ 10,402

Expenditure for 2017-18 at year-end

Description of Expenditures	Amount (\$)
6399 Contract Services	1,610
6941 Playground Equipment	1,825
9000 Prior Year Surplus carried forward from 2016/17	(32,370)
9001 Current Year Surplus carried forward to 2018/19	39,337
Total Expenditures (must equal total revenues):	\$10,402

Area Rates for 2018-19 have not yet been approved by Regional Council.

RISK CONSIDERATION

Where staff is unaware of the detailed specifications of the equipment being acquired for use on HRM fields, there is a risk that some of the equipment may not be permitted for use at HRM fields. If this situation arises, the risk may be able to be mitigated by the Association through the acquisition of insurance and signing a usage agreement with HRM.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Harbour East – Marine Drive Community Council meetings are open to public attendance and members of the public are invited to address the Community Council for up to five minutes at the end of each meeting during Public Participation. The agenda, reports, and minutes of Harbour East - Marine Drive Community Council are posted on Halifax.ca.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

ALTERNATIVES

Harbour East – Marine Drive Community Council did not discuss alternative recommendations.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Request for Harbour East – Marine Drive Community Council Consideration form dated May 3, 2018

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: Phoebe Rai, Legislative Assistant, 902.490.6732



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Item No. 16.1

Request for Harbour East Marine Drive Community Council's Consideration			
Included on Agenda (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office)	X	Added Item (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon Monday)	Request from the Floor
Date of Community Council Meeting: May 3, 2018			
Subject: Purchase of Equipment to upgrade the Musquodoboit Harbour Ballfields			
Motion for the Harbour East Marine Drive Community Council to Consider:			
<p>That Harbour East Marine Drive Community Council approve funding in the amount of \$7,000.00 from the Musquodoboit Harbour Common Area Rate account for the purchase of recreational and field equipment required to upgrade the Musquodoboit Harbour ballfields for Baseball / Hardball use.</p>			
Reason:			
<p>The equipment will be utilized to make the ballfield available for baseball and hardball use. The fields are currently set up for softball only.</p>			
<p>Sections 29 (2), 29(3) and 29(6) of the Charter state:</p>			
<p>(2) A community council may determine expenditures, to be financed by area rate, that should be made in, or for the benefit of, the community.</p>			
<p>(3) Except in the first year that it is established, a community council shall submit to the Council its proposed operating budget for services to be provided to the community to be financed by area rate and its proposed capital budget for projects for which the Municipality will be required to borrow money and will charge back all or part of the debt charges to the community.</p>			
<p>(6) A community council may determine upon what money contained <u>in the budget approved by the Council is spent, if the sum of all expenditures does not exceed the sum so approved.</u></p>			

Staff has confirmed that there are sufficient funds budgeted and available in C160 - Musquodoboit Harbour Common Rate to cover this request [Section 29(6)].

Outcome Sought:

That Harbour East Marine Drive Community Council approve the requested funding so residents can play softball, hardball and baseball on the fields.

Councillor David Hendsbee

District 2



Dear Mr. Hendsbee,

My name is Lorri Arnold and I am the president of the Porter's Lake Baseball Association. We are part of the Dartmouth Minor Baseball League as well as the Baseball Nova Scotia Blue Nose League.

Over the past four years, the Porter's Lake Minor Baseball league has grown tremendously from 16 to nearly 190 participants.

We are in dire need of an official hardball field. We have been playing on softball size fields for the past 4 years making the best of the situation and opposing teams allowing us to "adapt the rules" to fit our fields. Unfortunately, we aren't able to make these arrangements work any longer. You see, the team that started our association has reached a level where exceptions such as field size and pitching mounds are a safety concern and exceptions can't be made.

I reached out to Anne Wambolt, the coordinator of sports and community events in search of a field with the basic requirements for play at our Midget level. I was saddened to learn that there were no fields with the required dimensions on the Eastern Shore.

In order for our teams to continue to play the sport they love they can no longer represent our community within it. Their home field is now in the city at Conrad's fields (where all 4 ball diamonds at the required size are located). We now must send some of our players 110km to the closest ball diamond to use as their home field.

We were lucky we were able to contract out this field one day a week this season as our home field. I'm not sure what we are going to do in the coming years as the majority of our participants move up in their divisions. Our association is at a stand still with children on wait lists at most levels, and we are not able to offer them a place to play in their own communities.

Outdoor recreation and organized sports are important parts of living a healthy lifestyle. We are hopeful the government will support infrastructure that gets youth outdoors and physically active in their communities. New fields would allow us to accommodate more youth, directly impact the lives of Canada's youth, by giving them a place to play a sport they love, meet new friends, and make memories, setting them on a path of healthy living.

With an investment in our youth and community, the Porter's Lake Minor Baseball Association will be able to offer a safe environment for our kids to play baseball. The field will allow not only benefit our association but other associations in the community. We

would be able to host provincial tournaments and it will allow us to host many large events and clinics in the future.

I know our association is not alone in the demand for fields in the area as well. To my understanding the Men's and Woman's leagues have also grown and are in need of fields. I would welcome the opportunity for us all to work together to build fields we could all use. If the field were to have the required dimensions for a midget hardball field we would be more than happy to use a removable mound allowing the field to be used by both hard and softball players. If your able to include lights on these fields it will also DOUBLE its usage as many of the softball fields we do play on now don't have lighting which means you can only get 1 game in per night vs two. (Youth teams could play early allowing for the adult leagues to play their games under the lights). It would be a win for everyone.

We require the following size field in order to move forward with our Bantam and Midget levels: The typical size in minimum 350 feet between home plate and the center field fence, 127ft 3 3/8 home plate to 2nd base, 90 feet between the base's and 50 ft from back stop to home plate.

Each year we have had to increase our fields and coaching staff to include both Recreational & Competitive play in every level. Unfortunately, our numbers are now that of many of the city leagues if not bigger and we don't have a single hardball field on the Eastern Shore to play on.

I am hopeful there is something we can do to accommodate these children. The majority of our growth has been at the younger levels and they will face the same field requirements in the next year or so. At the moment our only option is to send them to the city where they have 4 hardball fields.

Look forward to working with you to make this vision become a reality for our community and ever-growing baseball associations.

Lorri Arnold

Porter's Lake President



FIELD COST FOR RINK & BENNETTS FIELD'S MUSQUODOBOIT HARBOUR

- Baseballs for Ball School, Pre-Rookie, Peewee & Bantam (Teams playing out of Musq Hbr) - \$1522.95 plus shipping
 - Removable Mound \$1300 (One each field)
 - 1 Set of catcher's Gear \$227.40
 - Helmets \$105
 - Bases \$75
 - Tee \$34.49
 - Fielding Net Bennett's Pit \$555.40
 - Storage Container for Bennett's Pit \$3250.00
 - Total \$7,070.24