

LWF Ratepayer Association
PO Box 2035
Fall River NS B0N 2T0

July 17, 2017

Mike Savage
Mayor
Halifax Regional Municipality
1841 Argyle St
Halifax NS B3J 3A5

Mayor Mike Savage,

How would you feel if the future of your community organization was put in jeopardy by HRM Council and you only knew because the media contacted you for comment?

With just 24 hours before you sit for your council meeting, the media has brought to my attention that you will have a motion before you to gut the purpose of the Lakeview-Windsor Junction-Fall River Ratepayers Association (LWFRA) without notifying our organization or the affected community.

The amendment to the Lakeview-Windsor Junction-Fall River Ratepayers Association (LWFRA) outlined in 14.1.11 2017-18 Budgets and Business Plans for Area-Rated Services summarily eliminates the ability for the organization to operate.

The LWFRA, and the community, feel abused and neglected by a motion that is completely without process. It represents an abuse of Halifax Regional Municipality's power and authority over a specific area rate. The motion attacks a single organization, while leaving similar organizations untouched.

HRM failed to even contact the organization(s) involved. The motion comes before you without a single community consultation.

There is no transparency of process. This matters to you because the lack of process defies the obligations HRM Council has committed to as representatives of your community.

You would do better for your constituents. You can do better for the constituents of Waverley-Fall River-Musquodoboit Valley.

We request that you defer any amendment to the Lakeview-Windsor Junction-Fall River Ratepayers Association until HRM completes community consultation, including meetings with the LWF Ratepayers, WJCC, Keloose, Lakeview Homeowners and other recipients of funding.

The staff report as presented is deficient. It has errors and omissions. An outcome that could be anticipated given the lack of transparency and consultation. The motion is an attempt to control local money against the wishes of the local community.

If you pass the motion, you immediately wrap up operations of an active community association with a full board and with broad community support. There are updated bylaws, formal Memorandums of

Understanding with key partners, and a completed financial review with Collins Barrow. The AGM, just last month, had record attendance and all motions – including the budget – were passed unanimously.

A legal opinion was sought and completed earlier this year to articulate how the LWFRA was entitled to function after Steve Streach questioned the authority in the community paper. You will find the legal opinion attached, and that it says the LWFRA is operating within the mandate and the rules provided by HRM for an area rate.

This is not a general tax rate. It is a special rate collected to be distributed by the community in support of local recreation. It supplements or enhances the community beyond the scope of the HRM Grants program. Beyond the WJCC operational funds, Keloose sponsorship and Lakeview Homeowners Association operation funds detailed in the amendment there is a 40-year history of the LWF Rate being used to fund community recreation. Projects have included:

- Creating park spaces on Foster and Richardson Avenue
- The community celebration in Fall River - Canal Days
- Establishing the first summer swim team, Windsor Junction Wahoos!
- Supporting local Girl Guides to purchase snow shoes
- Providing equipment for the seniors' jam session
- Supporting SWEPS in completing the Blue Hill Road trail system
- Subsidizing activities for the Seniors Friendly Group
- Improving the local LWF Community Hall
- Supporting the creation of a multi-use sport field in Fall River
- Infrastructure and emergency facility funding for the WJCC (including replacing a failed septic system in 2016).

This funding makes our community a better place to live. Because of these funds we can provide programs and services that meet community demand as the community grows and changes. These improvements come without pulling on the general tax revenues.

These funds, and the flexibility to respond to community need, create opportunities for our community to play a role in meeting the outcomes of the Ivany Report. Specifically, through our partners we're addressing:

- Inter-provincial migration – We make our community an attractive place to come and stay.
- Youth employment – Partner organizations become the single largest youth employer in our region every summer. Opportunities include leadership roles, skilled roles and first-time jobs for youth in our community.
- Post-secondary education and training – Each of those employees is encouraged to complete training, and supported in their educational objectives.

The motion, as written, fails to articulate how funds would be distributed in the future as it ends the operations of the community body. It is ambiguous what the outcome would be of the residual funds being set aside for upcoming projects, including the Fall River beach. The motion fails to address the

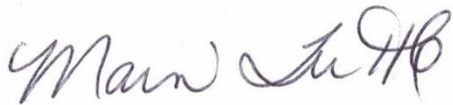
ongoing need for infrastructure and maintenance projects for the WJCC and Lakeview Homeowners Association park.

In conclusion, the LWF Ratepayers Association has met and exceeded the standards required by the HRM to operate as the conduit to distribute this special rate. The process to change the rate, the organization responsible for making decisions on the rate or who receives grants can only be initiated through the community or in consultation with the community.

The motion, presented to you today, makes questionable use of the power and authority of HRM. It jeopardizes much of the good work in our community and abuses the efforts and trust of volunteers.

Please defer the amendment until the appropriate, and legally required, community consultation is completed.

I trust you to make the right decision,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Marni Tuttle".

Marni Tuttle

President, Lakeview-Windsor Junction-Fall River Ratepayers Association

Cc: Councillors, Bill Horne, MLA, Clerks@halifax.ca

Attachments:

1. Legal opinion
2. 70 years of WJCC