



Corporate Report

Report from Transportation & Environmental Services, Operations

Date of Report: October 16, 2012

Date of Meeting: October 29, 2012

Report Number: TES-611-2012

File: 68.81.3

Subject: Sidewalk Snow Removal Program for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities
File: 300-186-03

Recommendation

That the Sidewalk Snow Removal Program for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities be approved for 2012/2013 Winter Season; and

That the City enters into an agreement with the Wayside House of St. Catharines for their services up to September 30, 2013; and

Further, that the City Solicitor be requested to prepare the necessary by-law and agreement. FORTHWITH.

Summary

For several years, the City has offered a Sidewalk Snow Removal Program for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities to provide assistance to those individuals who aren't physically capable of clearing snow from sidewalks abutting their properties. This report recommends renewing the City's agreement with Wayside House Rehabilitation Centre for carrying out this work.

Background

Since 1988 Council has endorsed a Sidewalk Snow Removal Program for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities. Residents who are eligible may request the service whereby snow and ice is removed from City sidewalks for properties occupied by residents who are unable to do the work themselves. Eligibility for inclusion in the program requires medical confirmation of the resident's restrictions. There is no cost to the residents for the service and the work is coordinated by the City. Tenant occupied properties are not eligible for the program. In recent years the work has been carried out almost entirely by the Wayside House Rehabilitation Centre under contract to the City.

Report

The existing agreement with Wayside expired on September 30, 2012 and a new agreement is required for the upcoming 2012/2013 winter season. The proposed

length of the term will run from November 20, 2012 to September 30, 2013. The terms of the agreement stipulate a budget estimate or upset limit and the provision by which the actual service is billed. The cost is based on a minimum hourly wage, as prescribed by the Employment Standards Act, for the work crews plus an administration fee of 37%.

Summary of Annual Costs

There are approximately 761 residents who are taking advantage of this program. The budget and actual cost for the service over the last 5 years are shown below:

5 Year Cost Summary of Sidewalk Snow Removal Program			
YEAR	BUDGET	ACTUAL COST	
		TOTAL	WAYSIDE
2007	\$55,000.00	\$39,368.37	\$33,873.17
2008	\$55,000.00	\$68,527.78	\$63,642.58
2009	\$55,000.00	\$41,875.89	\$38,706.13
2010	\$55,000.00	\$50,101.03	\$44,514.47
2011	\$55,000.00	\$65,275.30	\$59,688.38
2012 (to date)	\$55,000.00	\$18,289.54	\$17,365.94

As indicated in this table, the actual cost of the service is often less than the estimated cost. The actual cost of the service depends almost solely on the weather conditions for a given year.

Financial Implications

There are sufficient funds identified in the 2012 Operating Budget to cover the remainder of the estimated cost of \$55,000 for 2012. An amount of \$55,000 will be included in the proposed 2013 Operating Budget for this program

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