

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

WESTERN REGION COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

February 22, 2010

PRESENT: Councillor Adams, Chair  
Councillor Reg Rankin, Vice-Chair  
Councillor Peter Lund

STAFF: Ms. Chris Newson, Legislative Assistant

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## 1. CALL TO ORDER

Councillor Adams, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Keshen Goodman Library, 330 Lacewood Drive, Halifax. He then called upon Mayor Peter Kelly, Chair of the Governance and Boundary Review Committee, to assume the Chair to deal with Item 2.

## 2. DISTRICT BOUNDARY REVIEW COMMITTEE PRESENTATION

### 2.1 Presentation - District Boundary Review Process

Mayor Peter Kelly, Chair, Governance and Boundary Review Committee, welcomed those in attendance and provided a brief background in regard to the Governance and Boundary Review initiative.

The following members of the Governance and Boundary Review Committee were also in attendance: Mr. Wayne Anstey, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Operations, Councillors Tim Outhit, Jerry Blumenthal, Reg Rankin and Barry Dalrymple. Regrets had been received from Councillors Linda Mosher and Gloria McCluskey. Members of staff supporting the Committee and also in attendance were: Ms. Cathy Mellett, Acting Municipal Clerk, Mr. Paul Morgan, Planner, Ms. Sara Knight, Solicitor and Ms. Linda Grant, Administrative Clerk Assistant.

Ms. Cathy Mellett, Acting Municipal Clerk, commenced the PowerPoint presentation outlining the following questions for consideration by residents of HRM as part of Phase 1 of the review process:

- the size of electoral districts
- the role of Councillor
- the powers and size of Community Council and Regional Council
- how Council can best work to serve the citizens of HRM

Phase 2 of the review, to commence in the Summer of 2010, will consist of the boundary review and adjustments with additional public input sought in the Fall of 2010. HRM will submit its decision on the boundaries to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board by December 2010.

Mayor Kelly then called for members of the public to come forward with comments / questions.

### 2.2 Question and Answer Session

**Ms. Heather Whitehead, Spryfield**, requested clarification on the current population range for districts and how that figure was calculated.

**Mr. Colin O'Neil, Fairview**, commented, in regard to streamlining Council to make it simpler, that democracy was not supposed to be simple. He noted that he wanted more representation from his government and holding the number of districts to twenty-three (23) would result in less representation due to more population. It is extremely valuable to have so many Councillors as Council is supposed to argue and debate. It would be

too easy for things to pass through with fewer Councillors. Reducing the number of districts would be a bad idea. Keeping the average population per district at 10% (+-) would be best as one district should not have more representation than another.

**Ms. Wendy MacDonald, District 10**, noted that the Halifax Charter was not mentioned in the background material. She commented that there was no mention of youth representation in the districts and there was not much input from youth at Council or Community Council. The Halifax Charter also makes mention of an annual meeting of Community Council but there has been no annual meeting with an opportunity for open dialogue. Ms. MacDonald stressed the importance of having the community speak on what they want to see happen. She noted that she has not seen a job description for Councillors and that such a document could be the basis for measuring their performance. She expressed concern with Discretionary Funds being shared by Councillors to make the pot larger for a special project with no opportunity for the community to challenge that idea. Ms. MacDonald noted that the community was not invited to participate in the Chester Spur Line trail item, however, she made effort to communicate with her local Councillor on the matter and questioned why the community was always chasing as she has yet to be approached by HRM concerning an idea she has put forward. Without more effective communication the size of the district would make no difference. There is a need to make the districts larger and District 10 should be eliminated with Lacewood Drive used as the dividing line for Districts 15 and 16. Ms. MacDonald noted the loss of the community's weekly newspaper that included comments from the Mayor and local Councillor. She commented that her area was one of the fastest growth areas, with Bayers Lake thrown in, and that there was a lot of opportunity for building but no opportunity for community dialogue on issues such as what will happen with the external aspects of the Indoor Sports Facility currently under construction. She expressed concern that the Northcliffe facility would close and the community would lose its playgrounds and tennis courts. She thanked the Committee for coming to the public and wished them successful deliberations and that the outcome would be an effective Council. Ms. MacDonald suggested that the pace of the presentation be slowed as it was not easy to follow. She suggested that eighteen (18) districts with larger boundaries would be a good number. Consideration should be given to quality rather than quantity. Ms. MacDonald explained that it takes a lot of time to get a Councillor up to speed and familiar with each and every district. She also noted that with thirty (30) Councillors, there would be thirty (30) different views.

**Ms. Cathy Oakley, Prospect**, commented that, based on what she has heard and read, a small number (of Councillors) would be better. She inquired, if there were a reduction to fifteen (15) Councillors, whether 27,000 residents would be too unwieldy a number for the individual Councillor. She noted that if the districts were larger, the community could support the Councillor more through local community committees which would also involve the people at the community level. A larger district may encourage more participation from the community.

**Mr. Gordon Hamilton, Timberlea**, commented that he could not understand how a Committee of Councillors would vote themselves out of a job. He advised that he was in support of a Council of fifteen (15) and suggested that the TV cameras be taken out of the Council chamber so that they could get their work done instead of grandstanding for the cameras.

**Ms. Christina Parker, District 23**, addressing the issue of the power of the Community Councils/Council, expressed concern that Council had no control over the Traffic Authority, especially in relation to the parking ban. She noted that lack of control over this area was not acceptable as safety measures were not being implemented throughout the community.

**Ms. Paula Miettinen, District 13**, inquired whether a benchmark or best practices had been used when compiling the three examples presented in regard to a Council size of 23, 18 or 15 districts and whether a national/international review/comparison was done. She requested that more background information be placed on the web so that the public may be better informed.

**Ms. Heather Whitehead, District 18**, commented that the current number of districts appears to be appropriate and there was room for growth. Community Councils are important but should not be given powers as extensive as taxation, however, they should have input into the budget. The diversity in districts from city to farming areas means funding requirements would be different for each area. A smaller Council would not be desirable as there are a lot of different thoughts/skill sets brought in so that there is a large pool of people and ideas when debating issues such as tax reform. She noted that the vote was very close in regard to the tax reform matter and it may have passed with a smaller Council. She encouraged Council to stay large so as not to place a feeling of too much pressure on the Councillors.

Mayor Kelly gave the third call for any further speakers, hearing none, he closed the public portion of the meeting. He thanked all members of the public for their comments.

Mayor Kelly and members of the Governance and Boundary Review Committee retired from the meeting at this time.

Councillor Adams resumed the Chair at 7:15 p.m.

#### **5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Special Meeting of February 2, 2010**

**MOVED BY Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Lund that the Western Region Community Council approve, as presented, the minutes of the special meeting held on February 2, 2010. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

#### **4. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS**

Additions:	13.1.1	Case 01328: Rezoning - 1426 St. Margarets Bay Road, Lakeside
	13.1.2	Case 15850: Rezoning - Prospect River Court, Prospect
	13.1.3	Case 01312 - Amending Agreement - Brunello Estates Subdivision (formerly Westgate Community), Timberlea
	13.2	Approval of Special Meeting Minutes - February 16, 2010

Deletions: Item 8.1 Case 01318: LUB Housekeeping Amendments, Sandy Cove Road Area, Terence Bay - Deferred to March pending the Supplementary Staff Report.

Item 11.1.1 Proposed Terms of Reference Herring Cove Advisory Steering Committee

**MOVED BY Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Lund that the agenda, as amended, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES**

**5.1 Status Sheet**

**5.1.1 St. Margaret's Bay Coastal Advisory Committee - Proposed Terms of Reference/Composition**

Councillor Lund advised that there was no update available at this time.

**5.1.2 Sambro Fishery - Zoning, Noise By-Law and Operation**

This item was deleted from the agenda during the approval of the agenda pending receipt of the staff report. See page 6.

**6. MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION - NONE**

**7. MOTIONS OF RESCISSION - NONE**

**8. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS**

**8.1 Case 01318: LUB Housekeeping Amendments, Sandy Cove Road Area, Terence Bay**

This item was deleted during the approval of the agenda and has been deferred pending receipt of the Supplementary Report. See page 6.

**9. HEARINGS - NONE**

**10. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

**10.1 Correspondence - NONE**

**10.2 Petitions - NONE**

**10.3 Presentations**

See Item 2. Presentation - District Boundary Review Committee, Page 4.

**11. REPORTS**

**11.1 Staff**

**11.1.1 Proposed Terms of Reference Herring Cove Advisory Steering Committee**

This item was deleted from the agenda during the approval of the agenda as the matter had been dealt with at a special meeting held on February 16, 2010. See page 6.

**12. MOTIONS - NONE**

**13. ADDED ITEMS**

**13.1 Staff Reports**

**13.1.1 Case 01328: Rezoning - 1426 St. Margarets Bay Road, Lakeside**

- A report dated February 8, 2010 was before Community Council.

**MOVED BY Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Lund that the Western Region Community Council give first reading to consider the proposed rezoning of a portion of 1426 St. Margaret's Bay Road from I-4 (Transmitter) to R-1 (Single Unit Dwelling), as identified in Attachment "A" of the report dated February 8, 2010 and schedule a public hearing for Monday, March 22, 2010. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**13.1.2 Case 15850: Rezoning - Prospect River Court, Prospect**

- A report dated February 8, 2010 was before Community Council.

**MOVED BY Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Lund that the Western Region Community Council give first reading of the proposed rezoning of those portions of 23, 27, 31, 35 and 39 Prospect River Court which are currently zoned P-3 (Conservation) to the RA-1 (Residential A-1) Zone and schedule a public hearing. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**13.1.3 Case 01312 - Amending Agreement - Brunello Estates Subdivision (formerly Westgate Community), Timberlea**

- A report dated February 4, 2010 was before Community Council.

Ms. Randa Wheaton, Planner, advised that an amendment had been made to Schedule R, the non-site disturbance areas, and that the motion was to include reference to that amendment.

**MOVED BY Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Lund that the Western Region Community Council:**



1. **By resolution, approve the non-substantive amendment to the Brunello Estates Subdivision (formerly Westgate Community) development agreement for Phase 1, as detailed in the Fifth Amending Agreement presented as Attachment “A” to the report dated February 4, 2010 and including the revised Schedule “R” as presented on February 22, 2010 ; and**
2. **Require that the Fifth Amending Agreement be signed within 120 days, or any extension thereof granted by Council on request of the applicant, from the date of final approval of said agreement by Council and any other bodies as necessary, whichever is later, including applicable appeal periods; otherwise this approval shall be void and any obligations arising hereunder shall be at an end.**

In response to comments/concerns raised by Community Council, Ms. Wheaton provided the following information:

- Phase 1 included 320 multi-residential units, three sizes of single family building lots with a total of just over 100 units and 61 townhouse units.
- the road layout had to be reconfigured due to the wetlands.
- initially only 180 dwelling units could be approved, as per direction from the Nova Scotia Department of Environment, until the wastewater service management plan was accepted following upgrades to the sewage treatment facility; there is existing capacity in the system for 180 units.

Councillor Rankin clarified that the burden was on HRM to provide permitting beyond the 180 units. Ms. Wheaton confirmed that HRM had made a commitment to provide wastewater service to the Beechville/Lakeside/Timberlea area.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**13.2 Approval of Special Meeting Minutes - February 16, 2010**

**MOVED BY Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Lund that the minutes of the special meeting held on February 16, 2010, as presented, be approved.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**14. NOTICES OF MOTION - NONE**

**15. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Ms. Christina Parker, Chairperson, Highland Park Ratepayers Association, expressed concern with the lack of street lighting along the Hammonds Plains Road between Pockwock Road and Westwood Boulevard. She noted that the stretch of road was very narrow, only 7 meters in width at some points, with posted speed limits of 70 - 90 km per hour. The lack of adequate street lighting was a cause of safety concerns for drivers and pedestrians.

Councillor Lund advised that a Town Hall meeting had been scheduled for March 8<sup>th</sup> at the St. Margaret's Centre.

**MOVED BY Councillor Lund, seconded by Councillor Rankin that the Western Region Community Council request a staff report addressing the safety concerns and lack of street lighting on Hammonds Plains Road as presented by Ms. Christina Parker, Chairperson of the Highland Park Ratepayers Association, and that Mr. Wayne Anstey, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Operations, coordinate the compilation of that report. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**16. NEXT MEETING**

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 22, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Keshen Goodman Library, 330 Lacewood Drive, Halifax.

**17. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Chris Newson  
Legislative Assistant