

There was discussion about the owners of private roads bringing them up to public standard. Mr. Butler informed that there is no way the Municipality can force private road owners to upgrade their roads, although they can be encouraged. Councillor Horne suggested subdivision of lots not be permitted on private right-of-ways. Mr. Butler informed that this will only be permitted through the public hearing process, at the discretion of Council.

Councillor Horne expressed concern that 55 other private roads in the Plan area will have to go through the public hearing process to deed or subdivide any lands. He added that "paper roads" are also important in terms of considering Department of Transportation standards when developing private roads for public take-over. Mr. Butler informed that there are no construction standards for private roads, but the Department of Transportation would not take-over roads that did not meet their criteria. He reviewed the criteria for 'Schedule B' roads, stating there is no guarantee that any of the private roads in this Plan area would meet that criteria; therefore, if they are not approved by the Department of Transportation in terms of meeting the criteria, no subdivision will be permitted.

Councillor Snow stated there is a need for a policy whereby the road owner, residents of the road, and the Municipality will work together to address this situation. Otherwise, the developer is only out for his money, and the residents are not willing to pay it.

Councillor Horne agreed that there should be a policy between the Department of Transportation, the County, the residents, and the road owner to solve the problem with private roads. He stated if the Plan and By-law is approved as it now stands, the residents of Kings Road will be left out in the cold, although the road must be improved, and there must be a commitment to do so. He concluded that this should be addressed before the Plan and By-law is adopted by Council.

Mr. Butler informed that a policy would not offer any guarantees, but it would provide a statement that Council will make an effort to determine what will be required in terms of legislation, cost-sharing, etc. to bring private roads up to standard. He stated there are many ways to address this problem and a number of other concerns.

Councillor Cooper asked what uses will be permitted on private roads that become listed. Mr. Butler referred to Section 4.32 of the proposed Land Use By-law, indicating that residential uses, open space, and resource use will be permitted, allowing primarily forestry and agriculture uses. Councillor Cooper expressed concern that heavy trucks will travel such roads to carry forest products. He also clarified that residential development will be on lots a minimum of 40,000 square feet. Mr. Butler informed that no mobile home parks will be permitted; nor will commercial or recreation uses. There will be no industrial uses or schools permitted. Councillor Cooper concluded that if these roads are to be permitted at all, there must be a standard criteria required to make them safe.

Ms. Spencer agreed with the concerns expressed by Council Members, but she was concerned about the Plan and the existing regulations. She stated that if the Plan and By-law are deferred, it will have no affect on the subdivision process

as it now stands. She advised that subdivision based on "paper roads" is something that has been debated and permitted specifically by Municipal by-law some years ago. She stated if Council wants to deal with the matter of upgrading private roads, it is a matter of dollars including expropriation and cost-sharing with residents. It is a very difficult decision to make - not a matter of reviewing a policy, but determining if the Municipality wants to get into the private road business. Ms. Spencer agreed with Councillor Cooper's comments, but she felt it would mean the County will be taking construction standards and maintenance from the Province and putting it into the hands of the Municipality because they would be the Municipality's standards. She stated the County is not in a financial position to do this. Ms. Spencer concluded that the matter of private roads was well discussed at all levels during the planning process. She expressed hope that Council will allow the Plan and By-law to proceed, because the matter of road standards and upgrading would be a major amendment that can be dealt with more effectively at a later date.

Councillor Horne maintained that there is a need for a policy statement concerning the upgrading of private roads to safer standards before this Plan and By-law are approved.

Deputy Warden McInroy stated that other than a general policy statement to endorse the intention to deal with private roads and the upgrading of such, there is not much more Council can do. Ms. Spencer agreed, stating Council can identify that they will pursue this issue, but she recommended that the word "support" be eliminated, given its implications.

Councillor Cooper stated the Plan should not be delayed, but there should be a response to the concerns. He asked if there is any means to restrict the use of the lands on private roads to those that will create the least safety hazards to the residents until something more is done. Ms. Spencer suggested that would be a major amendment to the Plan without prior notice to the residents. She stated before such an amendment could be approved by Council, it would have to be presented to the people and to the solicitor for a legal opinion.

Deputy Warden McInroy suggested that Council proceed to the public hearing stage, and that in the meantime staff prepare a policy as suggested by Councillor Horne. Mr. Butler expressed no difficulty with providing a policy encouraging a solution to this problem, but he did not want to suggest in any way that a commitment will be found.

Councillor Merrigan asked if it would be possible for the County to expropriate a private road to bring it up to Department of Transportation standards if a certain percentage of the land owners along the road were in agreement. Ms. Spencer noted the financial commitment that would be involved in such a policy, including expropriation. She suggested that the Minister of Municipal Affairs would never approve such a policy because it would conflict with that of the Department of Transportation.

Councillor Poirier suggested that legal advice be sought for any policy before it is approved so the Municipality does not become financially responsible.

It was moved by Councillor Sutherland, seconded by Councillor Fralick:

"THAT a public hearing be held on April 24, 1989 at 7 p.m. to deal with the adoption of the Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-law for Planning Districts 14 and 17, including the amendments are presented at this meeting;

ALSO THAT an attempt be made to implement a policy statement to deal with standard criteria for private roads."

MOTION CARRIED - 1 NO

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Councillor Sutherland, seconded by Councillor Adams:

"THAT this meeting adjourn."

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

M I N U T E S & R E P O R T S

O F T H E

F I R S T - Y E A R M E E T I N G S

O F T H E

F O R T Y - T H I R D C O U N C I L

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M U N I C I P A L I T Y O F T H E C O U N T Y O F H A L I F A X

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A p r i l 5 & 1 7 , 1 9 8 9

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COUNCIL SESSION

TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 1989

PRESENT WERE: Warden Lichter
Councillor Meade
Councillor Fralick
Councillor Baker
Councillor Ball
Councillor Bates
Councillor Adams
Councillor Randall
Councillor Smiley
Councillor Reid
Councillor Horne
Councillor Merrigan
Councillor Morgan
Councillor Snow
Councillor Eisenhauer
Councillor MacDonald
Councillor Boutilier
Councillor MacKay
Councillor Sutherland
Councillor Richards
Deputy Warden McInroy
Councillor Cooper

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. K.R. Meech, Chief Administrative Officer
Mr. D.D. Reinhardt, Deputy Municipal Clerk
Mr. R.G. Cragg, Municipal Solicitor

SECRETARY: Glenda Hill

Warden Lichter called the Council Session to order at 6 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer. Mr. Reinhardt called the Roll.

It was moved by Councillor Sutherland, seconded by Councillor Meade:

"THAT Glenda Hill be appointed Recording Secretary."
MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Councillor Randall, seconded by Councillor Meade:

"THAT the minutes of the Council Session, March 7, 1989, be approved as circulated."
MOTION CARRIED

It was moved by Councillor Ball, seconded by Councillor Horne:

"THAT the minutes of the Special Council Session, March 15, 1989, be approved as circulated."
MOTION CARRIED

Councillor Richards, Councillor Bates, and Councillor Cooper presented a cheque to two gentlemen representing the Graham Creighton Parent's Association Band. Councillor Richards advised that the three Councillor have contributed to the fund raising campaign to help these students participate in the Junior High School Band finals. Warden Lichter thanked the three area Councillors for the presentation, stating the band is going to the competition with Council's best wishes.

LETTERS AND CORRESPONDENCE

Minister of Transportation and Communications

Mr. Reinhardt read this letter regarding this matters in the District 13 area.

It was moved by Councillor Snow, seconded by Councillor Meade:

"THAT this item of correspondence be received."

Councillor Baker asked if there has been a reply from the Minister of Transportation regarding property at West Dover. Warden Lichter advised that there has not been a reply to date, but an attempt will be made to have this matter discussed at an upcoming meeting with the Minister. He informed that he would advise Councillor Baker of the details when they are finalized.

MOTION CARRIED

Minister of Transportation and Communications

Mr. Reinhardt read this letter regarding the upgrading of the highway leading off Highway No. 277 on the Old Halifax Highway.

It was moved by Councillor Boutilier, seconded by Councillor Ball:

"THAT this item of correspondence be received."

Warden Lichter expressed appreciation that this matter will be studied, but he commented that the Minister will have to be reminded that this project began one year after the study began.

MOTION CARRIED

Minister of Transportation and Communications

Mr. Reinhardt read this letter regarding the installation of traffic lights at the intersection of Glendale Drive and MacDougall Avenue.

It was moved by Councillor Ball, seconded by Councillor Sutherland:

"THAT this item of correspondence be received."

MOTION CARRIED

Minister of Municipal Affairs and the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities, re
Municipal Awareness Week

Mr. Reinhardt read this memorandum

It was moved by Deputy Warden McInroy, seconded by Councillor Boutilier:

"THAT the Communications Committee be designated to co-ordinate activities for Municipal Awareness Week."

MOTION CARRIED

Warden Lichter advised that there will be an insert in the Chronicle Herald during Municipal Awareness Week at almost no cost to the Municipality. He advised that it will be a four to eight page spread, and if necessary Halifax County will contribute an advertisement to the insert.

Warden Lichter also suggested that it might be wise to notify the School Board that Councillors will be willing to accept invitations from the various schools during Municipal Awareness Week to discuss municipal government. There was no objection from Members of Council.

It was moved by Councillor Snow, seconded by Councillor Boutilier:

"THAT a letter be written to the School Board informing that Councillors will accept invitations from the various schools during Municipal Awareness Week to discuss municipal government."

MOTION CARRIED

MacKenzie Bus Lines Limited

Mr. Reinhardt read this item of correspondence.

It was moved by Councillor Snow, seconded by Councillor Boutilier:

"THAT this item of correspondence be received."

Warden Lichter stated it must be determined if Council would like to hear a presentation from MacKenzie Bus Lines Limited and if Council will support their efforts when the consultants call for a response.

Councillor Boutilier indicated that he would like to hear from MacKenzie Bus Lines Limited, and he suggested that a meeting be arranged.

There was further discussion about hearing a presentation from MacKenzie Bus Lines Limited. Several Members of Council felt if a presentation from MacKenzie Bus Lines is heard, Irving should also have the opportunity to make a presentation. Councillor Merrigan suggested that the Public Utilities Board should be hearing such a presentation, as they are the decision-making body. Councillor Eisenhauer agreed, stating the Municipality should forward concerns to the Public Utilities Board expressing interest in the level of service to be provided.

MOTION CARRIED

It was moved by Councillor Boutilier, seconded by Councillor Fralick:

"THAT Halifax County Council extend an invitation to representatives of MacKenzie Bus Lines Limited to come before Council at a future date to present their point-of-view about passenger bus service in Nova Scotia."

There was further discussion about whether or not this presentation should be heard and if Irving should also have an opportunity to make a presentation.

MOTION DEFEATED

Via Rail Canada Inc.

Mr. Reinhardt read this letter advising of temporary modification to the train service to accommodate repair and upgrading work.

It was moved by Councillor MacDonald, seconded by Councillor Horne:

"THAT this item of correspondence be received."
MOTION CARRIED

Kenneth Margeson, re Sewage Problems, Woodbine Mobile Home Park
Department of Health
Department of the Environment

Mr. Reinhardt reviewed these three items of correspondence regarding the sewage problems at Woodbine Mobile Home Park.

It was moved by Councillor Merrigan, seconded by Councillor Sutherland:

"THAT these three items of correspondence be received."
MOTION CARRIED

Councillor Merrigan stated the three letters all indicate that the best solution to this problem would be to hook into the sewage treatment plant at Mill Cove, but the County would not permit such action. He referred to one letter that indicated it would be possible for Woodbine Mobile Home Park to hook into this system. Councillor Merrigan advised that the park owner will proceed with a make-shift solution to this problem, which will only create a major pollution problem in the long term.

Councillor Merrigan informed that approximately 1 1/2 months ago he brought this issue to Council, and the Engineering & Works Department were directed to provide a preliminary cost estimate for Woodbine to hook into the sewage treatment plant at Mill Cove, but there has been no response to date. He stated Halifax County Council is responsible to ensure this is a safe place to live, and the only means is to hook Woodbine Mobile Home Park into Mill Cove sewage treatment plant.

It was moved by Councillor Merrigan, seconded by Councillor Snow:

"THAT the staff recommendation of February 16, 1988 (which indicated that it is technically feasible for Woodbine Mobile Home Park to hook into the Millwood trunk sewer) be approved and that Woodbine Mobile Home Park be permitted to hook into the system subject to the park owner paying the cost and the eight conditions contained in the report of February 16, 1988 being met."

Councillor MacKay expressed strong objection to the resolution, stating the system and the plant were built to serve the defined geographic area of Bedford and Sackville, and the Municipal Development Plan, the Land Use By-law, and the serviceable boundaries must be taken into consideration, as well. He stated it may be technically feasible and possible for Woodbine Mobile Home Park to hook into the system, but it will be a cost to somebody. He stated there are presently problems with land negotiations at the sewage treatment plant, and it would be irresponsible to proceed with such action at this time. He stated the future of the plant is not known, and growth in Sackville would be stifled by the lose of negotiations with the Bedford Waterfront Development Corporation, and hooking Woodbine into the system would further stifle the growth of Sackville.

Councillor Merrigan argued that it is irresponsible to not do anything about the pollution from Woodbine Mobile Home Park.

Councillor Morgan agreed with Councillor MacKay. He stated permitting Woodbine to hook into the sewage treatment plant at Mill Cove will put the County over the 65-35 agreement for use of the plant. He suggested a proper sewage treatment plant for Beaverbank-Kinsac be pursued, rather than discharging the pollution down a river that is too small.

Councillor Snow stated this problem has been studied by the Board of Health many times, and it has been determined that the only solution is a complete tertiary treatment plant for the Mobile Home Park. He stated the plant at Mill Cove was not built for the people of Sackville, but for all taxpayers.

Councillor Morgan argued that the residents of Sackville have been paying the environmental rate longer than others for the use of this plant, and some people still do not pay the rate. He suggested the environmental rate should be eliminated, and a uniform rate should be established.

Warden Lichter clarified that Councillor Snow's comments referred to federal and provincial money which was also put into the Mill Cove sewage treatment plant.

Councillor Bates stated Councillor Merrigan's problem has been a problem for six or seven years now, and it can wait for another two weeks until cost estimates are available from the Engineering & Works Department. He stated Council is trying to prevent a high tax rate, and this project should not be pursued until the costs are known.

It was moved by Councillor Reid, seconded by Councillor Bates:

"THAT the matter of Woodbine Mobile Home Park hooking into the sewage treatment plant at Mill Cove be deferred pending a complete package from the Engineering & Works Department addressing all concerns raised now and in the future."

Warden Lichter advised that to implement Councillor Merrigan's suggestions, a plan amendment and public hearing will be required, which was not supported by the Planning Advisory Committee or Council in the past.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC HEARING, UNDERSIZED LOT LEGISLATION

James Thomas and Valma Ella Saunders, Indian Harbour

Warden Lichter reviewed the procedure for the public hearing.

Mr. Gough reviewed the staff report regarding this application. He advised that no correspondence has been received either in favour of or opposed to this application. He also informed that the public hearing has been duly advertised as required under the Planning Act. Mr. Gough informed there has been no objection expressed to this subdivision by the Department of Health or the Department of Transportation, and the Municipal Solicitor feels this application meets the intent of the Undersized Lot Legislation.

Questions from Council

Councillor Fralick clarified that there has been no correspondence received from any of the abutting property owners. Mr. Gough agreed.

Speakers in Favour of this Application

None.

Speakers in Opposition to this Application

None.

It was moved by Councillor Fralick, seconded by Councillor Adams:

"THAT the proposed subdivision of Lots C-A and D-A of the lands of James Thomas and Valma Ella Saunders, Indian Harbour, be granted final approval."

Councillor Sutherland asked for clarification as to how these lots are undersized. Mr. Gough informed that Lot C-A only has 97.71 feet of road frontage, and Lot D-1 only has 25 feet of road frontage. He noted that both lots have sufficient area to accommodate the criteria of the Department of Health for an on-site sewage disposal field.

MOTION CARRIED

Councillor Randall introduced the Lawrencetown Boy Scouts and their leaders to Member of Council. He welcomed them to the Council Chamber, and presented them each with a County pin.

LETTERS AND CORRESPONDENCE Cont'd.

The Secretary of State of Canada

Mr. Reinhardt read the letter concerning the Five-Star Community Award Program.

It was moved by Councillor Sutherland, seconded by Councillor Richards:

"THAT this item of correspondence be received."

Warden Lichter advised that he has suggested to the Director of Parks & Recreation that a presentation should be made for this award given the prestige and success of the Leisure Buddy Program. Members of Council agreed.

MOTION CARRIED

The Birches

Mr. Reinhardt read this correspondence regarding a proposed expansion to The Birches, a nursing home for the aged.

It was moved by Councillor Adams, seconded by Councillor Richards:

"THAT this item of correspondence be received."

Councillor Randall indicated support for the expansion to The Birches, stating it serves a great need in the community as do other homes in the Province. He informed that there is an on-going waiting list, sometimes as high as 40 people.

MOTION CARRIED

It was moved by Councillor Randall, seconded by Councillor Adams:

"THAT a letter of support for the expansion of The Birches be sent to the appropriate Provincial government agency."

Councillor Bates asked if this support will involve any municipal financing. Councillor Randall informed that at this point, The Birches is approaching the Province for funding, and depending on the Province's reaction, the County may be asked to provide funding.

Councillor Bates inquired about financial support as indicated in the letter. Warden Lichter advised that the Social Services Department pay a per diem rate for residents of Halifax County who now live in The Birches. However, he informed that the letter is requesting support for a capital campaign for an expansion to The Birches. The Province usually pays a certain percentage of such costs, and it will then be determined where the remainder of the funds

will come from. Councillor Randall added that there is presently an on-going campaign to raise funds for this project.

MOTION CARRIED

SUPPLEMENTARY CORRESPONDENCE

Sheet Harbour Board of Trade

Mr. Reinhardt read this item of correspondence.

It was moved by Councillor Smiley, seconded by Councillor MacDonald:

"THAT this item of correspondence be received."

Councillor Baker commented that there are many other groups and agencies throughout the Municipality that feel the same about the proposed tax increase.

MOTION CARRIED

Minister of Transportation and Communications

Mr. Reinhardt read this letter regarding a meeting with the Minister to discuss general issues concerning county roads.

It was moved by Councillor Horne, seconded by Councillor Eisenhower:

"THAT this item of correspondence be received."

MOTION CARRIED

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Career Staff Study for Fire Fighters

Warden Lichter advised that Councillor Deveaux had requested that this matter be deferred to another time when he would be in attendance. Councillor Merrigan also indicated that he would like the matter deferred.

Councillor Ball stated the Fire Advisory Board has been working on this description for a long time. All fire departments were contacted with regard to this policy, and all concerns that were presented to Mr. Turpin and the Fire Advisory Board have been addressed. He stated there is always some last minute concerns that could delay approval of such policies forever. He questioned the value of deferring this matter to a later date.

Councillor Merrigan advised that his fire chief is very concerned about the proposed policy and job description. He informed that the residents of Beaverbank-Kinsac are drawing up a job description for fire departments that excludes emergency operations and hazardous materials incidents; the residents are very pleased with the fire and emergency medical procedures. He questioned the ability of the Municipality to stifle what volunteers can do. He concluded that this matter should be deferred because he was presented with a letter to

the fire chief concerning this job description and policy on March 24, which did not leave sufficient time for review, and the matter had already been discussed by the Executive Committee.

Councillor Baker supported deferral of this matter. He stated he would like to discuss this matter with his fire chief before it is approved by Council, although he only received the information this afternoon.

Councillor Ball informed that all fire departments with paid fire fighters or those who will soon have paid fire fighters were asked to provide input to this document. There were only a few responses, and those concerns were addressed, so it was recommended that the policy be approved by Council.

Councillor Ball added that fire departments do practice emergency response, but he stated there is a question as to whether that is emergency response or ambulatory service, and if it is ambulatory service, the department must be licensed by the Ambulance Association of Nova Scotia. He concluded that Provincial legislation must be put into place before Halifax County can create a policy to deal with such issues. He noted that the only protection in such instances falls under the Volunteer Services Act. Mr. Cragg agreed. Councillor Ball stated until there is a change, all fire departments must operate under the "reasonable man" approach; until there is legislative changes, the County will have difficulty writing a policy concerning emergency response.

It was moved by Councillor Merrigan, seconded by Councillor MacDonald:

"THAT the career staff study for fire fighters be referred back to the Fire Advisory Board for further investigation."

Councillor Ball stated if this is to be referred back for discussion regarding emergency response and hazardous materials incidents, Mr. Cragg should prepare a report on the County's ability to make such a policy.

Councillor Cooper also suggested that Section 2 under the Conditions of Employment should also be reconsidered. He questioned the authority of fire departments to claim ownership to personal medical records.

MOTION CARRIED

SUPPLEMENTARY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Conveyance of Partial Walkway, Taranaki Drive

Mr. Reinhardt read the report and the recommendation of the Executive Committee.

It was moved by Councillor Bates, seconded by Councillor MacDonald:

"THAT the partial walkway between Lots 50 and 60 at Taranaki Drive, Cole Harbour be conveyed to the owner of Lot 60 for \$250."

Councillor Bates felt this land should be sold for the reduced fee of \$250 because this is not a normal purchase and sale agreement. He stated the County established this walkway sometime ago to run between two streets. However, there was a change in plans, and the second street was never built. People continue to use this walkway, and it is creating a disturbance to the owners of the property. He stated the normal fee of \$500 is charged to pay for the cost of deeding the land over and surveyors charges. However, because the owner of Lot 59 is not interested in this walkway, a survey is not required. Therefore, he asked that Council support the motion to sell this walkway for \$250.

Councillor MacKay stated he can support the sale of this walkway because it is of no use to anybody; however, he questioned the ability of the Municipality to sell the walkway. He informed that he tried to have public walkways closed in the past because of problems, but the former Director of Planning had indicated that such walkways are public land and the County could not discontinue use of them. Councillor MacKay was also of the understanding that a public hearing is required to sell public walkways. He asked if this walkway is presently in the name of the Municipality. Mr. Meech informed that it is.

Councillor MacKay next asked if there is a policy of Council that municipal lands must not be sold or leased. Mr. Cragg referred to Section 134 (2) of the Municipal Act which stated the Municipality may purchase or acquire certain properties, if the cost does not exceed \$25,000. Otherwise, the consent of the Minister of Municipal Affairs is required. He stated the same applies to the sale of public land.

Mr. Cragg informed that the land in question serves no public purpose, and the Municipality can deal with the disposal of this walkway. He informed that the difficulty with other situations, as referenced by Councillor MacKay, was that those walkways were laid out for specific uses and were used for purposes conducive to the residents of the subdivision. He stated these situations must be considered very carefully, and proper value must be derived from the sale of County lands. He suggested the walkway in question is of very limited value because of its limited use. He felt Councillor Bates' motion is reasonable because this walkway is only of any value to the owner of Lot 60.

There was further discussion about the procedure for disposing of County-owned lands. Mr. Meech concluded that this walkway can be dealt with by Council because it was never developed as a public walkway.

MOTION CARRIED

Application for Amusement Arcade, Colby Plaza

Mr. Reinhardt read the report of the Executive Committee.

It was moved by Councillor Richards, seconded by Deputy Warden McInroy:

"THAT Council express formal objection to the Department of Consumer Affairs regarding the issuance of a license for an amusement arcade at Colby Plaza, Cole Harbour."

MOTION CARRIED

Approval of a By-law Respecting the Charge for Water Service

It was moved by Councillor Richards, seconded by Councillor MacDonald:

"THAT Council approve the By-law Respecting the Charge for Water Service with the amendments as noted in the report."

Councillor Reid asked that the record including that the Engineering & Works Department has agreed and given every assurance that the on-going agreement with the residents of Middle Musquodoboit will be honoured, although this by-law may be in place before the bills are sent to the residents. Warden Lichter agreed this assurance was clearly given at the Executive Committee level.

MOTION CARRIED

Proposed Bill, Halifax County Municipal Holiday

It was moved by Councillor MacDonald, seconded by Councillor Bates:

"THAT the draft legislation regarding a municipal holiday in Halifax County be approved by Municipal Council and forwarded to the Provincial cabinet for adoption."

Councillor Reid expressed objection to the implementation of a municipal holiday. He stated a holiday will be imposed on the entire County without getting public input. He stated this came about as a suggestion to some Councillors, but the detrimental affects on business owners in Halifax County has not been considered. He stated there is a large tax increase proposed for Halifax County this year, and implementing a municipal holiday will increase costs to most businesses even further. He stated this should be studied further, and he asked that Council not support the motion.

Councillor MacDonald informed that many people find it unfair that the Cities of Halifax and Dartmouth have a municipal holiday, and the County of Halifax does not. He stated residents in the entire area are equal, and all should be entitled to the same day off.

Councillor Bates expressed support for the motion, stating to study the affects of a municipal holiday on all businesses in Halifax County would be very expensive. He stated the present system is confusing to those who live in the County, but work in the Cities or vice versa.

Warden Lichter clarified that this bill is only looking for the power from the Province to implement such a holiday. If it is approved by the Provincial cabinet, a by-law will still have to be drafted and approved by Council to actually implement the holiday. Mr. Cragg agreed, stating input from the public can be sought at that point.

MOTION CARRIED

1989 TAX RATES

Warden Lichter advised that Council is not yet prepared to deal with this matter, and he asked that it be deferred to the next agenda.

COUNCILLOR RICHARDS - REQUESTED ZONING AMENDMENT. RE ENTERTAINMENT USES IN BEVERAGE ROOMS/TAVERNS

Mr. Cragg informed that a staff report regarding this matter had been prepared, but the Planning Advisory Committee did not have an opportunity to discuss it. He informed that he had also prepared a report based on the content of the staff report. He suggested that this matter will be dealt with at the next meeting, including draft legislative changes.

Following discussion regarding the staff report and Mr. Cragg's report, it was agreed that both should be circulated, and this item should be added to the agenda for the next Council Session.

DEPUTY WARDEN McINROY - COLE HARBOUR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

It was moved by Deputy Warden McInroy, seconded by Councillor Cooper:

"THAT Halifax County Council authorize the Warden, the Councillors from Cole Harbour/Westphal (Districts 7, 23, 24, and 25) to prepare a proposal, for Council's approval, which will outline the methodology for consultation with the communities of Cole Harbour and Westphal regarding the concept of a Community Council form of local government within the framework of Halifax County;

FURTHER THAT Halifax County direct and co-ordinate the process of community dialogue and deliberation and that Halifax County pursue the implementation of such a Community Council, if and as it is determined to be the desire of the people of the communities."

Councillor Cooper advised that the motion indicates that the communities of Cole Harbour and Westphal have started thinking about a Community Council; the motion is a preliminary step in determining if this is what the people want in terms of input and exchange of ideas.

Councillor Morgan felt it should be determined if a Community Council is the desire of the people as it was determined in Sackville; he suggested a plebescite be held during the next municipal election.

Deputy Warden McInroy stated at this point it would be premature to speculate how the information process will take place. He stated the motion is only looking for the endorsement of Council for an initial meeting. He advised that any further action in this regard will be brought back to Council. He concluded that a plebescite cannot be ruled out at this time, but it cannot be said that is the only way to get the public's opinion.

Councillor Sutherland expected that it would only be a short time before Cole Harbour sought a Community Council as Sackville has, and he expressed hope that they can learn from each other and address community needs and desires together.

Councillor Richards advised that he supports the motion, and he asked Council to support it, as well. He stated the community is ready for this, and he is very much looking forward to having the concerns of the community expressed to Council.

Councillor MacDonald asked if the service commission will have more authority and power than a Community Council. Mr. Meech responded that at present there is no legal authority to create a Community Council until the Minister of Municipal Affairs has approved the by-law as endorsed by Council. It was Mr. Meech's understanding that if a Sackville Community Council is established within the next year, it will have more power than the present Cole Harbour/Westphal Service Commission which is presently restricted to fire protection and recreation. He added that all budgets and area rates will have to be approved by Halifax County Council.

Councillor Bates expressed support for the motion; he felt it should have more authority and power than the Service Commission.

Councillor Ball stated unity and the Municipality as a whole is not being considered; he stated most are only concerned about their own areas and not the Municipality as a whole. He felt the Municipality of the County of Halifax will soon be extinct, and there will soon be the creation of four municipal units.

Deputy Warden McInroy stated if the needs of the people can be met within Halifax County's jurisdiction, the strength of the Municipality will be increased.

Councillor Cooper stated he would hate to see the County break up. He stated the entire Municipality can be accommodated as Cole Harbour is, and hopefully this process will lead to unification.

Councillor Baker argued that the County is breaking up. He stated everything is going to the urban areas, and there is very little left for the rural areas.

Councillor Merrigan expressed support for the motion, stating people must adapt to change to keep the Municipality as a whole, and a Community Council for Cole Harbour/Westphal is a step in that direction.

Warden Lichter stated the County of Halifax has learned to operate and adjust, and it has obtained the vote of the people of Sackville to stay with the County. He stated many issues have been resolved since then, and the County is moving ahead because of the co-operation of all Councillors. He stated a solution must be found that will give some independence to those who want it,

although they want to remain with the Municipality. He stated what the rural Councillors get is up to the rural Councillors in terms of how they address issues and concerns.

MOTION CARRIED

COUNCILLOR MERRIGAN - BEAVERBANK ROAD

Councillor Merrigan explained that the Beaverbank Road is in a very bad state of disrepair, although the Department of Transportation had promised to rebuild, resurface, and upgrade it over a three year period. He advised that the first phase of construction was completed, but the work has since stopped.

It was moved by Councillor Merrigan, seconded by Councillor Sutherland:

"THAT a letter be written to the Minister of Transportation inquiring about the status of repairs to the Beaverbank Road as it is in a major state of disrepair."

MOTION CARRIED

URGENT AGENDA ITEMS

Councillor Ball - Dangerous Animals

Councillor Ball inquired about the law regarding vicious animals. He noted there is a variance in the maximum fine between the City of Halifax and the County of Halifax.

Mr. Cragg informed that the Dog By-law was amended in August, 1988 to deal with pit bull terriers and other animals deemed to be fierce and dangerous which opened avenues through the courts to have dogs destroyed. However, he noted that municipal government is greatly regulated by Provincial legislation with regard to the Sheep and Dog Regulations Act.

Councillor Ball asked if there is anything further the County can do. Mr. Cragg stated each case must be considered subjectively; danger and fear is in the eyes of the beholder, and each case is different.

Councillor Meade - Department of Transportation, re Leaside Drive, Downey Drive, and Todd's Island

It was moved by Councillor Meade, seconded by Councillor Fralick:

"THAT a letter be written to the Department of Transportation requesting when Leaside Drive, Downey Drive, and Todd's Island will be paved or upgraded."

MOTION CARRIED

ADDITION OF ITEMS TO THE AGENDA FOR APRIL 18, 1989

Councillor MacKay gave notice of re-consideration regarding the resolution passed at the March 21, 1989 Session of Council concerning the agreement between the Town of Bedford, the Province of Nova Scotia, and the County of Halifax about the sewage treatment plant lands at Mill Cove.

Councillor McInroy - Feasibility of a Pooper-Scooper By-law

Councillor Ball - Status of Request for the paving of four areas in District 5

Councillor Boutilier - Meeting with Minister of Transportation

Councillor Horne - Private Roads

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Councillor Eisenhauer, seconded by Councillor Sutherland:

"THAT the annual Session of Council be adjourned to April 18, 1989."

MOTION CARRIED

It was moved by Councillor MacDonald, seconded by Councillor Meade:

"THAT this Session of Council adjourn."

MOTION CARRIED

The Council Session adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

COUNCIL SESSION

TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 1989

PRESENT WERE: Warden Lichter
Councillor Meade
Councillor Poirier
Councillor Fralick
Councillor Baker
Councillor Ball
Councillor Deveaux
Councillor Bates
Councillor Adams
Councillor Randall
Councillor Bayers
Councillor Smiley
Councillor Reid
Councillor Horne
Councillor Merrigan
Councillor Morgan
Councillor Snow
Councillor Eisenhauer
Councillor MacDonald
Councillor Boutilier
Councillor MacKay
Councillor Sutherland
Councillor Richards
Deputy Warden McInroy
Councillor Cooper

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. K.R. Meech, Chief Administrative Officer
Mr. G.J. Kelly, Municipal Clerk
Mr. R.G. Cragg, Municipal Solicitor

SECRETARY: Glenda Hill

Warden Lichter called the Council Session to order at 6 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer. Mr. Kelly called the Roll.

It was moved by Councillor MacDonald, seconded by Councillor Meade:

"THAT Glenda Hill be appointed Recording Secretary."
MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Councillor Cooper, seconded by Councillor Meade:

"THAT the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting, March 20, 1989, be approved as circulated."
MOTION CARRIED

It was moved by Councillor Horne, seconded by Councillor Fralick:

"THAT the minutes of the Council Session, March 21, 1989, be approved as circulated."

MOTION CARRIED

Warden Lichter welcomed the 44th Halifax Scouts from Calvin Presbyterian Church of Ashburn Avenue. He introduced the Scouts and their leaders and presented them each with a County pin. He also gave special mention to Shaun Allen of Terence Bay, who recently received the highest scouting award. Warden Lichter wished to Scouts "good camping" at C.J. '89 in July.

NOTICE OF RECONSIDERATION - COUNCILLOR MacKAY

Councillor MacKay asked if there is any further information with regard to the agreement for the use of the Mill Cove Sewage Treatment Plant lands on the part of the Town of Bedford. Mr. Meech advised that he is not aware of any further deliberation by the Town Council; he was of the understanding they have endorsed the agreement.

Councillor MacKay advised that notice of reconsideration is not necessary at this time.

LETTERS AND CORRESPONDENCE

Department of Transportation and Communications

Mr. Kelly reviewed this correspondence regarding traffic signals at the intersection of the St. Margaret's Arena and Highway No. 213 and the intersection of Highway No. 3 and Highway No. 333.

It was moved by Councillor Fralick, seconded by Councillor Meade:

"THAT this item of correspondence be received."

MOTION CARRIED

Councillor Meade informed that widening of the road was requested at the intersection of the St. Margaret's Arena and Highway No. 213; not lights are referred to in this correspondence. Councillor Fralick agreed, informed that a sketch of the proposal was forwarded with the correspondence.

It was moved by Councillor Fralick, seconded by Councillor Meade:

"THAT a letter be written to the Department of Transportation requesting consideration for the widening of the road at the intersection of the St. Margaret's Arena and Highway No. 213, and that a report with the Department's findings be forwarded to Council."

MOTION CARRIED

Muscular Dystrophy Association of Canada

Mr. Kelly reviewed this correspondence requesting that the week of June 11 to 18, 1989 be official proclaimed MDAC Awareness Week in Armdale, Nova Scotia. Councillor Meade noted that this proclamation should be for Halifax County.

It was moved by Councillor Adams, seconded by Councillor Deveaux:

"THAT the week of June 11 to 18, 1989 be proclaimed MDAC Awareness Week in Halifax County."
MOTION CARRIED

PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTApplication No. RA-SA-03-89-22 - Application by Antoine Hanna to Rezone Lands on the West Side of the Beaverbank Road

Mr. Kelly read the report regarding this application.

It was moved by Councillor Sutherland, seconded by Councillor Morgan:

"THAT Application No. RA-SA-03-89-22 be approved and that a public hearing be scheduled for May 29, 1989 at 7 p.m."
MOTION CARRIED

File No.'s PA-TLB-29-88 and ZAP-TLB-29-88 - Amendments to the Timberlea/Lakeside/Beechville Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-law

Mr. Kelly read the report and recommendation of the Planning Advisory Committee.

It was moved by Councillor Poirier, seconded by Councillor Snow:

"THAT a public hearing to consider Option 2 of the staff report, regarding dwelling units in conjunction with permitted commercial uses by development agreement, be scheduled for May 29, 1989 at 7 p.m."
MOTION CARRIED

SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTApplication No. RA-SA-01-89-20 - Application by Gregory Zachernuk (McCabe Music Limited) to Rezone the Property at 228 Cobequid Road, Lower Sackville

Mr. Kelly read the report and recommendation of the Planning Advisory Committee regarding this application.

It was moved by Councillor Boutilier, seconded by Councillor Fralick:

"THAT Application No. RA-SA-01-89-20 be approved and that a public hearing regarding this application be scheduled for May 8, 1989, at 7 p.m."

Warden Lichter clarified with Councillor MacKay, Chairman of the Planning Advisory Committee, that this public hearing date will leave sufficient time for advertising as required under the Planning Act.

MOTION CARRIED

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Parkland Reconveyance, Brookfield Avenue, Cole Harbour

Mr. Kelly reviewed the report.

It was moved by Deputy Warden McInroy, seconded by Councillor Richards:

"THAT Halifax County Council approve the reconveyance of Parcel C-22, a tot lot on Brookfield Avenue, to the developer, and that in exchange the Municipality accept an identical parcel of land between Caldwell Road and Cedar Crescent."

MOTION CARRIED

Purchase of Municipal Owned Lands, Eastern Passage

Mr. Kelly reviewed the recommendation of the Executive Committee regarding this matter.

It was moved by Councillor Deveaux, seconded by Councillor Snow:

"THAT Halifax County Council approve the conveyance of Municipal owned lands on Shore Road, Eastern Passage to Mr. Terry Morash for \$500, subject to Mr. Morash paying the survey fees and giving the Municipality an easement for storm sewer purposes."

MOTION CARRIED

Requests for Grants

Mr. Kelly reviewed the requests.

It was moved by Councillor Adams, seconded by Councillor Bates:

"THAT the following grants be approved by Halifax County Council:

a) District Capital Grant, District 8 in the amount of \$2,000 for the purchase of stacking chairs for the East Preston Community Centre (County-owned); and

b) District Capital Grant, District 8 in the amount of \$2,500 for cost-sharing in the refurbishing of the Lake Echo Recreation Centre."

MOTION CARRIED

SUPPLEMENTARY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTAmendments to the Library Act

Mr. Kelly read the report of the Executive Committee.

It was moved by Councillor MacDonald, seconded by Councillor Reid:

"THAT Halifax County Council endorse the proposed amendments to the Library Act as outlined in the report from the Library Board."

Councillor Sutherland expressed no difficulty with the proposed amendments, but he stated there is not much time to digest the recommendation with regard to these 14 points. He recognized that the deadline for submission of these points to the Provincial government is April 30, 1989, but he suggested that Council should have dealt with them earlier.

Councillor Cooper advised that he reviewed the recommendations last evening, and he suggested that they will bring more order to the Provincial library system to the benefit of the users throughout the Province. Councillor Cooper advised that the position of Chief Librarian for the Province of Nova Scotia has been vacant for almost two years, and he felt the Province should be urged to fill this vacancy as soon as possible.

Councillor Bates informed that he had asked the Chief Librarian for Halifax County if these amendments will be costly to the Municipality, and it was her reply these amendments will be beneficial to Halifax County financially, and they will also provide for a more efficient operation of the Library system.

With regard to Councillor Sutherland's concerns, Councillor Reid informed that the Library Board was not privy to the agreement until last week. He advised that the Library Board meets monthly, and Board Members were presented with this report about one month ago. At that time, the Board wished time to study the details and to deal with the amendments at the next meeting, which was only last week. He advised that the Board had no choice but to present the proposed recommendations to the Executive Committee yesterday for recommendation to Council tonight in order to have the amendments forwarded to the Province before the deadline.

MOTION CARRIED

SUPPLEMENTARY BUILDING INSPECTOR'S REPORT, RE LESSER SETBACKStephen MacFarlane, West Jeddore

It was moved by Councillor Bayers, seconded by Councillor Randall:

"THAT Halifax County Council approve a lesser setback of 0 feet at Lot AX from the Old West Jeddore Road, West Jeddore, for applicant Stephen MacFarlane."

MOTION CARRIED

1989 TAX RATES

Councillor MacDonald indicated that he is not satisfied with a 15.1 percent in the tax rate, and he asked Mr. Meech if there is any way to further cut the budget. Mr. Meech responded that there are a couple of areas where the budget could be further reduced, but not by much. The social services budget could be reduced, although there has been some indication by Council of difficulty with such a reduction. He also advised that another \$80,000 was recently found between School Board allocations and operating grants which could reduce the budget. He advised that an additional \$500,000 is being assumed if the Deed Transfer Tax is increased, and one-quarter of those funds normally go to the Capital Grant funds. However, this policy could be changed. He concluded that \$280,000 in cuts is required to reduce the tax rate by 1 cent.

Councillor Merrigan felt that the \$340,000 paid to the Provincial government for enhanced Police Protection in Cole Harbour and Sackville should not be paid. He questioned if the service is even received, and he suggested that the bill for this protection be sent back to the Department of the Solicitor General. He felt the municipal level of government paying for this service is not fair to the taxpayer in Halifax County.

Councillor Deveaux inquired about further cuts to bring the rate to below a 15.1 percent increase. Mr. Meech informed that a \$200,000 cut could bring the budget down to 13 percent. He stated there is a high risk in anticipating the cost-sharing formula for social services will be incorporated in 1989, although there has been an indication that the Province intends to change this. However, there has been no formal position taken by the Province in this regard. Mr. Meech referred to a communication received from the Director of Municipal Social Services at the Provincial government, indicating that a committee will be established to consider more recommendations. He suggested this may be another delay tactic. Councillor Deveaux added that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities is also pressuring in this regard, although action may take some time. He inquired about deferring these costs. Mr. Meech responded that the City of Halifax deferred such costs in 1988, and nothing materialized; the City is now experiencing a deficit for 1988.

Councillor Fralick inquired about the cost of enhanced policing. Mr. Meech informed the cost is \$340,000 from the operating budget in 1989; the total cost is \$500,000, and the difference comes from area rates. Councillor Fralick commented that he is supportive of Councillor Merrigan's suggestion because policing is not a municipal responsibility.

Warden Lichter informed that the County can send the bill back to the Province and not budget for that amount, but may still be required to pay the bill. Councillor Fralick added that the cost could be picked up in 1990, as has been done in the past.

Councillor Baker inquired about the possibility of deferring grants until the Municipality is in a more financially secure position. Mr. Meech responded that grants promised in the past year will not be provided in the following year; they are spread over a period of time.

Councillor Bates inquired about the funding to Scotia Downs. Warden Lichter informed that the funding to Scotia Downs is in the form of an interest-free loan, not payable until construction is complete. He added that Scotia Downs is nowhere near that position at this time. Mr. Meech informed that he had a call yesterday from Scotia Downs indicating that they now have an agreement with the federal Department of the Environment, and they hope to begin construction soon. He stated this will have no impact on the 1989 budget.

Councillor Bates next inquired about the affect of increasing the Deed Transfer Tax. He noted that construction has been down for the first three months in 1989 over 1988. Mr. Meech informed that figures cannot be based on construction figures for the first three months of the year, as it is the low period for construction. Councillor Bates suggested that the figures reflected in the budget for Deed Transfer Tax are overly optimistic, given the proposed increase in the cost of housing by the federal government. Mr. Meech agreed that based on information to date, the budget is optimistic that \$8.2 million will be raised in Deed Transfer Tax, although for the first three months in 1989 the amount received is not much different for that in 1988.

It was moved by Councillor Reid, seconded by Councillor Deveaux:

"THAT the residential tax rate for Halifax County be established at \$0.731, and that the commercial rate for Halifax County be established at \$1.90 for 1989, and that the \$35,000 removed from the Library Board budget be reinstated."

Councillor Reid stated that all cuts suggested in Mr. Meech's memo of April 10, 1989 are directly attributable to new services and new employees in 1989, although cuts to the Library Board budget cannot come from new services because there were not any introduced besides the new Cole Harbour facility, which is not part of the 1989 budget because of the funding formula. He stated the \$35,000 cut will come from present service, which is not acceptable because major cuts were already made before the budget was presented to Council. He suggested the \$35,000 cut will bring the Library Board back to providing the level of service of two years ago.

Councillor Deveaux expressed no difficulty with the 1/6 funding formula for recreation projects over \$50,000, although he commented that 1989 is a bad year in this regard. He inquired about the total funding for the St. Margaret's Arena, suggesting that more than 1/6 of the total cost was paid by the Municipality in addition to a loan. Mr. Meech clarified that a \$254,000 grant, based on 1/6 of the total cost of \$1.5 million, was allocated to the St. Margaret's Arena. He advised that an initial allocation of \$100,000 was made, but the final cost increased, which increased the amount of the grant under the policy. He advised that a loan was also approved.

Councillor Merrigan questioned if enhanced police protection is received as per the agreement with the Province. He felt the County is paying for this service, and the residents are not receiving it. Mr. Meech informed that the Municipality was only charged for enhanced policing in Cole Harbour from the date that the additional manpower was put in the detachment. However, there may never be a full complement of officers on duty because people are often away on leave, on course, or out sick, and costs for enhanced policing are paid

during that time. Councillor Merrigan commented that he has much difficulty with paying \$340,000 of enhanced police protection from the Halifax County general rate.

It was moved by Councillor Merrigan, seconded by Councillor Snow:

"THAT the aforementioned resolution be amended to reduce the total budget by \$345,000, and that the bill for enhanced police protection in Cole Harbour and Sackville be sent back to the Solicitor General's office requesting that they provide this service."

Councillor Snow informed that he is not willing to pay for a service that is not the responsibility of the Municipality. He also stated that he is not willing to pay a 15.1 percent increase in taxes for such services. He stated the Province must be told that the Municipality will not pay this bill.

Councillor Bayers informed that he will not support a budget with a 13 to 15 percent increase. He suggested that 3 cents could be saved by cutting operating grants from the budget, totalling \$600,000. Councillor Bayers informed that these operational grants pay for street lighting and fire protection in all districts except District 1 and 10. He stated if the \$600,000 in operational grants was cut from the budget, it would bring the increase in the tax rate down to about 12 percent, with a total increase of 6 cents per \$100 of assessment. He stated all districts should pay for street lights and fire protection, the same as Districts 1 and 10 do - with area rates. He stated Districts 1 and 10 are subsidizing street lighting and fire protection for the entire County, and he will not support the budget until this is changed. He concluded that this change would benefit all of the County, as well as Districts 1 and 10.

Councillor Morgan indicated that he will not support the increase as proposed. There was some discussion about effective tax increases in Sackville given the general tax rate and area rate. Councillor Morgan stated the budget is nothing but wishes and dreams, and the tax rate should be cut. He stated the increase to the School Board was approved based on misinformation, and if he had known what he now knows, he would not have supported anything over \$500,000 for the School Board. He stated the School Board is already over-staffed, and they went to the media last night to suggest they would cut the handicapped program for disabled students, although this is one program they should not cut. He suggested the School Board look at amendments to supervisory personnel and salaries in excess of \$45,000, although it would never be suggested that cuts be made in these areas because those positions are supported by the Teacher's Union. Councillor Morgan referred to the cost of sending a letter to all principals, students, and Councillors about possible budget cuts to the School Board. However, when he wants to sent something to his taxpayers, he pays for it himself. He stated there are 63 sections in the budget, and cuts must be found somewhere. He stated everything cannot be provided in one year with the limited amount of funds available. He stated the residents of Halifax County are always being asked to bite the bullet, but the leaders and department heads in Halifax County should be asked to bite the bullet. He stated he is willing to accept the responsibility of previous Councils, but he is not willing to proceed in this regard. He stated the residents of Halifax County cannot

afford a 15.1 percent increase in the tax rate, and if Halifax County Council approves such a rate for 1989, it is because Council does not have the courage to be a proper parent to the residents of Halifax County.

Councillor Baker informed that he does not believe that cuts to the School Board budget will not affect handicapped students. He felt Councillor Morgan should apologize to School Board members because they are a dedicated, sincere group of people. He suggested that consideration should be given to having School Board members run for one year only, and that they sit out for one year before they are eligible again. He advised that he is willing to give his seat on the School Board to Councillor Morgan so he can experience the pressure the School Board is under. He concluded that School Board Members are a dedicated group, and he also stated staff is doing a good job.

Councillor Merrigan suggested that the 1989 tax rate be reduced to a 10 percent over 1988, and that the budget committee meet with staff and Council to determine where cuts will be made to meet this reduction. He stated the Committee should be looking at the operation of the Social Services Department and where there might be other funds in the County system.

Councillor Bates informed that he is not aware of any budget committee. Warden Lichter informed that Council approved a recommendation of the Executive Committee some time ago, whereby a small group would look at the budget situation of one department this year, being the Social Services Department, and that the other departments will be considered in future years. He informed that Councillor Merrigan is now suggesting that this budget committee examine cuts to the 1989 operating budget. Councillor Bates informed that he is only aware of the Committee of the Whole dealing with the budget. Warden Lichter informed that no matter where a budget decision is made, it must be finalized and approved by the full Council, and Council is the only body with the authority to set the tax rate.

Councillor Merrigan informed that the budget committee he refers to was set up to deal with County budgets, so they will not be dealt with as they have been in the past. He stated it is too late to make changes with regard to the 1989 budget system, so Council is working under the old process for this year. Councillor Merrigan felt a small group can deal with budgets easier than a larger group, and the final analysis can be brought to Council after a decision is made. He stated some cuts must be found, and he suggested that the budget committee be designated to do so. He suggested that Council authorize a rate, and that the budget committee be directed to find the cuts to meet the set rate. The cuts could then be brought back to Council for approval.

Councillor Eisenhower advised that he is against the amendment to send the bill for enhanced policing back to the Solicitor General's office. He informed that he was not prepared to pay for enhanced policing at the time, but Council supported the extra rate for this service, so he has learned to support it. He questioned how Council could send this bill back after an agreement has been made to pay for the service; it would not be credible. Councillor Eisenhower stated he does not like a 15.1 percent increase, but it must be remembered that it has already been cut from 22 percent. He noted that several decisions made in 1988 are affecting the 1989 rate, such as the level of animal control (costing an additional \$60,000); \$50,000 for the operation of the lagoon; and

\$54,000 for enhanced policing. He stated these decisions have been made by Council, and it is now the responsibility of Council to pay for them. Councillor Eisenhauer stated new offices in Cole Harbour and Sackville are being established because those areas are needed in the Municipality. He advised that Council has known for years that the surplus would eventually run out, and 1989 just happens to be the year. He stated the budget is affected by all decisions made by Council, and he is prepared to support the main motion, but not the amendment. Councillor Eisenhauer stated \$4.60 per month for a \$60,000 is not much, and a assessment of \$60,000 is \$10,000 more than the average assessment in Halifax County.

Councillor Ball stated if a lower budget is supported, deficit budgeting is supported, and Halifax County will find itself in a similar position year after year. He stated Council is kidding itself if Members believe a 10 percent budget can be approved because there is no place to make the cuts. He stated that Council should just get on with approving a 15.1 percent increase and not let it happen again. He concluded that the communities have control over area rates, which also affect taxes, and it has been suggested that including area rates, the overall tax increase will only be 11 percent. He suggested that the 15 percent referred to as the operating budget should be explained because in some cases this may only represent 50 percent of some people's taxes; area rates must also be considered. Councillor Ball concluded that a 15.1 percent increase could be fought forever, and there is no choice but to approve the budget unless service is eliminated and past commitments of Council are ignored.

Councillor Boutilier stated the budget process is ridiculous. He stated each Councillor has the right and duty to make specific suggestions for cuts to the budget, although Council has never discussed the specifics of the budget, and the decision of the Committee of the Whole is based on percentages. He stated unless Council is prepared to make concrete recommendations for cuts, nothing can be done. He stated it must be determined of a 15.1 percent increase will be supported, and if not, only speakers who will make specific recommendations for cuts to the budget should be accepted, and motions should be voted on accordingly. Councillor Boutilier stated he will not support an 18 percent tax increase for the residents of Sackville, but if a 15 percent rate must be set, he will support it and tell the residents this is the best Halifax County Council can do.

Councillor Deveaux stated he does not like a 15.1 percent increase either, but Council must be realistic. Much of the money was spent in 1988 which cannot be retracted. He expressed support for the main motion, but stated he cannot support the amendment.

Councillor Morgan stated he is in favour of the amendment to the motion. He stated every year department heads feel they must look for an increase in their budget, and if the Halifax County budget were a private budget, the company would be bankrupt. He questioned if the \$800,000 interest-free loan to Scotia Downs will generate more revenue in the long term than the cost of the interest on the loan. He also advised that there have been specific recommendations for cuts to the budget, such as those suggested in Mr. Meech's memo of April 10, 1989.

Mr. Meech informed that his memo indicates all cuts that are necessary to achieve a 10 percent budget for 1989. He stated strong will and commitment to make such cuts is necessary.

Warden Lichter informed that strong will and commitment means that Councillors must be committed to the cuts approved, which means Councillors cannot make cuts today and look for more tomorrow. He advised that the commitment referred to in Mr. Meech's memo included a sizeable cut to the School Board budget, and that commitment was not present when School Board funding was decided upon. He stated figures can be cut on paper, but staff cannot be expected to spend the money anyway, which is what usually happens. He concluded that if there is a collective commitment tonight, it should be remembered for the term of the budget.

Councillor MacKay stated ability to pay by the taxpayer must also be remembered. He stated he will not support an increase of more than 9.6 cents, which is a 12 percent increase. He advised that he was not willing to support a 12 percent increase until two weeks ago. Councillor MacKay advised that he has received many calls from residents stating they cannot afford a 15.1 percent tax increase, and he is prepared to make cuts across the board to lower this increase.

Councillor Cooper asked if there are any cuts to the social services budget with the motion as it now stands. Mr. Meech responded that the social services budget will remain in tact based on the present motion of a 15.1 percent tax increase. Councillor Cooper stated he cannot support the motion because each department should be sharing in the reductions to the budget, including Social Services and the Library Board.

Councillor Merrigan reiterated his feelings that the budget should be sent back to the budget committee to make cuts based on a determined tax rate, which can then be brought back to Council for approval. If the cuts proposed are not acceptable, others can be made. Councillor Merrigan stated the problem is not just lack of surplus of funds, but mismanagement of money. He suggested an operating budget committee to work on these matters with staff all year.

Councillor MacDonald asked how many new jobs are proposed in the present budget. Mr. Meech informed there are 11 news positions budgeted at a cost of \$150,000. Councillor MacDonald informed that he will not support a tax increase of more than 12 percent.

AMENDMENT DEFEATED

There was some discussion about the content of the main motion. Councillor Poirier asked that the two parts of the motion be separated. Warden Lichter agreed that they should be separated, suggesting there may be confusion because people may want to support the Library Board but not a 15.1 percent increase in the tax rate. Councillor Reid and Councillor Deveaux agreed to withdraw the motion.

It was moved by Councillor Deveaux, seconded by Councillor Ball:

"THAT the 1989 residential tax rate be established at \$0.731 cents per \$100 of assessment, and that the commercial tax rate be established at \$1.90 per \$100 of assessment."

It was moved by Councillor Reid, seconded by Councillor Smiley:

"THAT the aforementioned resolution be amended so that \$35,000 in cuts from the Library Board budget be reinstated."

Councillor Eisenhower suggested that the Library Board and the School Board should co-operate to make library services more affordable to the residents of Halifax County. He stated Library services through the County library and the schools should be considered in conjunction with one another.

AMENDMENT DEFEATED

Councillor Morgan and Councillor MacDonald requested a recorded vote on the motion.

COUNCILLOR MEADE - FOR	COUNCILLOR POIRIER - FOR
COUNCILLOR FRALICK - AGAINST	COUNCILLOR BAKER - AGAINST
COUNCILLOR BALL - FOR	COUNCILLOR DEVEAUX - FOR
COUNCILLOR BATES - FOR	COUNCILLOR ADAMS - FOR
COUNCILLOR RANDALL - FOR	COUNCILLOR BAYERS - AGAINST
COUNCILLOR SMILEY - AGAINST	COUNCILLOR REID - FOR
WARDEN LICHTER - FOR	COUNCILLOR HORNE - AGAINST
COUNCILLOR MERRIGAN - AGAINST	COUNCILLOR MORGAN - AGAINST
COUNCILLOR SNOW - AGAINST	COUNCILLOR EISENHAUER - FOR
COUNCILLOR MacDonald - AGAINST	COUNCILLOR BOUTILIER - AGAINST
COUNCILLOR MacKAY - AGAINST	COUNCILLOR SUTHERLAND - FOR
COUNCILLOR RICHARDS - AGAINST	DEPUTY WARDEN McINROY - AGAINST
COUNCILLOR COOPER - AGAINST	

MOTION DEFEATED

It was moved by Councillor Merrigan, seconded by Councillor MacDonald:

"THAT the 1989 general tax rate be established at a 12 percent increase over the 1988 budget, and that the budget be referred to the budget committee for cuts to be approved by Council."

Mr. Meech inquired about the affect of this motion on the residential versus the commercial rate. Councillor Merrigan suggested the same proportion of cuts should be made to both rates.

Councillor Merrigan inquired about the area rate increases in Sackville in order to have an affective budget increase of 10 percent, if there is a 12 percent increase in the general rate. Mr. Meech informed that area rates in Sackville will have to be limited to an 8 percent increase if a 12 percent increase in the general rate is approved and an overall effective rate of 10 percent in desired.

Councillor Deveaux expressed objection to voting on a motion without Council knowing where cuts will be made. Warden Lichter commented that this is the same action taken with the School Board budget. Councillor Deveaux argued that Council was told where School Board cuts would be made. He asked if a 12 percent budget is approved, if there is a possibility that cuts to the social services budget will be made. Warden Lichter responded that a 12 percent increase in the budget cannot be achieved without cutting the social services budget.

It was moved by Councillor MacKay, seconded by Councillor MacDonald:

"THAT the motion be put."
MOTION CARRIED

There was a brief discussion concerning the previous motion.

Councillor Morgan and Councillor MacDonald requested a recorded vote.

COUNCILLOR MEADE - AGAINST	COUNCILLOR POIRIER - AGAINST
COUNCILLOR FRALICK - FOR	COUNCILLOR BAKER - AGAINST
COUNCILLOR BALL - AGAINST	COUNCILLOR DEVEAUX - AGAINST
COUNCILLOR BATES - AGAINST	COUNCILLOR ADAMS - AGAINST
COUNCILLOR RANDALL - AGAINST	COUNCILLOR BAYERS - AGAINST
COUNCILLOR SMILEY - AGAINST	COUNCILLOR REID - AGAINST
WARDEN LICHTER - AGAINST	COUNCILLOR HORNE - FOR
COUNCILLOR MERRIGAN - FOR	COUNCILLOR MORGAN - AGAINST
COUNCILLOR SNOW - AGAINST	COUNCILLOR EISENHauer - AGAINST
COUNCILLOR MacDONALD - FOR	COUNCILLOR BOUTILIER - AGAINST
COUNCILLOR MacKAY - FOR	COUNCILLOR SUTHERLAND - AGAINST
COUNCILLOR RICHARDS - AGAINST	DEPUTY WARDEN McINROY - FOR
COUNCILLOR COOPER - AGAINST	

MOTION DEFEATED

Councillor Boutilier informed that he could not support the previous motion because he has to know where cuts will be made. Councillor Bates agreed. He suggested there is no choice but to refer this budget back to Committee of the Whole.

It was moved by Councillor Bates, seconded by Councillor Poirier:

"THAT the 1989 operating budget be referred back to the Committee of the Whole for further study in an attempt to reduce the proposed tax rate."

Warden Lichter informed that the Committee of the Whole has studied this budget for a long time now, and no cuts have come about. He stated another meeting of the Committee of the Whole will achieve nothing more than what could be achieved at this meeting.