

REPORT OF THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

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

"THAT the report of the Development Officer be received."  
MOTION CARRIED

1989 AREA RATE - GARBAGE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

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

"THAT the 1989 area rate for garbage collection and disposal be established at \$0.085 per \$100 of assessment."  
MOTION CARRIED

METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY REPORT - COUNCILLOR BATES

In the absence of Councillor Bates, Warden Lichter advised that the two main topics of discussion at the Metropolitan Authority have been the 1989 budget and the tipping fees for the dumping of garbage being increased in order to generate enough capital to search for a new landfill site.

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

"THAT the Metropolitan Authority report, as presented by Warden Lichter, be received."  
MOTION CARRIED

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDABuilding Inspector's Report, re Lesser Sideyard Clearance

Councillor Horne advised that he visited the property in question, and found that the property owner wants to demolish the existing house and replace it with a new one on the same foundation, which will require a sideyard clearance of one foot. He advised that the applicant attempted to purchase additional property from the abutting land owner, but an agreement could not be reached. Therefore, he has pursued this route.

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

"THAT Council approve a sideyard clearance of one foot for the construction of a home on an existing foundation at Heather Avenue, Grand Lake for applicant Stephen Kubbinga."  
MOTION CARRIED

Interest Rate Charged on Outstanding Taxes

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

"THAT the interest rates charged on outstanding taxes in Halifax County be increased from 13 percent to 15 percent effective April 1, 1989."

Councillor Merrigan asked if a "prime plus" system can be used so Council does not have to go through this procedure every time they want to change the rate and to interest will not be lost in the interim. Mr. Meech informed that according to the Municipal Act, a Council resolution is required to change this interest rate.

There was some discussion about the procedure. Councillor Morgan predicted that the interest rates will drop, and he informed that he will keep an eye on this situation and bring a resolution to Council to decrease the interest rate on outstanding taxes when the interest rate does drop.

Councillor Deveaux stated there are people who cannot afford to pay their taxes, and increasing the interest rate on outstanding taxes will not help their case. Warden Lichter agreed, but he stated consideration must also be given to those who do not pay their taxes in order to better invest their money in the interim.

MOTION CARRIED - 1 NO

Agreement, Bedford Waterfront Development

Warden Lichter advised that a Council resolution passed in May, 1988 should be rescinded subject to approval of the proposed agreement by all three parties, the County, the Town, and the Province. He advised that the resolution to be rescinded directed Mr. Meech to take whatever action necessary to keep the Bedford Waterfront Development Corporation off the sewage treatment plant lands and to encourage settlement of ownership.

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

"THAT the Council motion of May 17, 1988 concerning the Mill Cove Sewage Treatment Plant lands be rescinded subject to approval of the agreement with regard to these lands by the three parties involved."

MOTION CARRIED

Deputy Warden McInroy declared a conflict of interest.

Warden Lichter advised that the agreement as presented is recommended for approval with the addition of one section (17) regarding the existing Operations Agreement. Mr. Weir explained that there was concern about the agreement and the affect it may have on the Operations Agreement, and the addition of Section 17 to the agreement in question will specifically address any such concerns.

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

"THAT Halifax County Council authorize the Warden and the Municipal Clerk to execute the agreement amongst the Province of Nova Scotia, the Town of Bedford, and the Municipality of the County of Halifax dealing with the lands, including the Mill Cove Sewage Treatment Plant, as amended by inclusion of the following Article 17 there:

17 (1) This agreement shall not be construed so as to alter or affect the terms of the Operations Agreement, which Agreement is to remain binding upon the parties hereto;

17 (2) In the event of any inconsistencies between this Agreement and the Operations Agreement, the Operations Agreement shall prevail."

Councillor MacKay advised that this matter is a definite concern for the community of Sackville because the Mill Cove Sewage Treatment Plant is the lifeline of future development there. He stated the seconds and supports the resolution with reservation because he wants all possible assurances.

MOTION CARRIED

Councillor Morgan asked if the Town of Bedford will incur one-half of the debt for the sewage treatment plant. Mr. Meech explained that the Town is paying their respective share of the debt charges as dictated by the Operations Agreement.

There was further discussion about the capacity and future use of the sewage treatment plant. Councillor MacKay suggested if the matter is pushed too far, it may jeopardize Sackville's future position.

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

Councillor Richards expressed concern that the solicitor is not yet ready to deal with this issue. He stated it is best to take action before a problem situation evolves, but last week one particular beverage room in the County took the first step in this regard. He stated there is a need for a by-law quickly to prevent this particular beverage room and others from pursuing this type of morality on Halifax County. He stated this must be handled as soon as possible, and he asked how quickly a by-law can be prepared for Council's approval.

Councillor Cooper advised that methods to deal with this situation have been discussed at the Planning Advisory Committee because it is the wishes of the community. He advised that another "fashion show" is scheduled in Cole Harbour in the near future, and he questioned the next step in prevent nude entertainment. He suggested that such action by one beverage room will be encouragement for another. He expressed support for the proposed by-law to prevent this type of entertainment as soon as possible.



Mr. Weir explained that any by-law or by-law amendment will have to be drafted in light of the recent court decision with regard to Portland Landing in the City of Dartmouth, which was only made available last week. He suggested with the recent staff report from the Planning Department and this decision now available, a recommendation from the Municipal Solicitor should be available by the next Session of Council.

COUNCILLOR MacKAY - SACKVILLE EXPRESSWAY

Councillor MacKay advised that there have been many requests for the Sackville Expressway, which is a new 100 Series highway between Burnside Industrial Park and the Sackville Industrial Park onto Cobequid Road. The last communication from the Department of Transportation in this regard was that this project is on a priority list with the 107 by-pass, the widening of Main Street in Dartmouth, and improvements to the Mic Mac Rotary. He stated the other project are all moving very quickly, although there has been nothing further about the Sackville Expressway.

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

"THAT the Minister of Transportation be requested to meet with the Chief Administrative Officer, the Warden, the Chairman of the Halifax County Industrial Commission, the Chairman of the Sackville Community Committee, and other as desired to ascertain the status of the Sackville Expressway."

Warden Lichter advised that a meeting has been arranged for Council and the Minister of Transportation within the next two weeks, and he suggested that this matter can be dealt with at that time. Councillor MacKay and Councillor Morgan agreed.

Councillor Morgan asked that the Minister be requested to bring a proposed layout of this project to the meeting, if such is available. Warden Lichter asked that Mr. Kelly check into this with the Minister's office before the scheduled meeting.

COUNCILLOR MacKAY - SIDEWALKS, OLD SACKVILLE ROAD AND WALKER CONNECTOR ROAD

Councillor MacKay stated there are two sections of the Old Sackville Road that are the most hazardous in the metro area. He stated visibility is poor, the road is broken up and full of holes. Traffic moves very quickly, and without the sidewalks promised in 1981, people refuse to let their children walk to school, and seniors cannot enjoy a leisurely walk.

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

"THAT the Minister of Transportation be requested to favourably consider the installation of sidewalks along Phases II and III of the Old Sackville Road in 1989 as was promised in 1981."  
MOTION CARRIED



Councillor MacKay explained that the Walker Connector Road will be dealt with by the Sackville Community Committee because it must be put on a priority list.

COUNCILLOR RANDALL - UPDATE, TRAFFIC SURVEY, HIGHWAY NO. 207, LAWRENCETOWN

Councillor Randall advised that this matter has been dealt with through Mr. Kelly's office.

COUNCILLOR FRALICK - UPGRADING OF INTERSECTION AT EXIT 5, HIGHWAY NO. 213

Councillor Fralick advised that flashing lights were requested at the intersection of Highway 3 and Highway 333 last November, and upgrading at Highway No. 213, Exit 5 was also requested. He advised that a response was received indicating that a light would be installed at the intersection of Highway 333 and Highway 3, but it was located at Exit 5, Highway 213, and there has been no response about the upgrading of that exit.

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

"THAT a letter of appreciation be written to the Department of Transportation regarding the installation of flashing lights at the Intersection of Highway No. 333 and Highway No. 3; and

THAT a solution to the problem at Exit 5, Highway No. 213 be considered as discussed at the Council Session, December 20, 1988."

MOTION CARRIED

COUNCILLOR BAKER - SENIORS' HOUSING

Councillor Baker withdrew this item from the agenda.

URGENT AGENDA ITEMS

Councillor Baker - Outstanding Taxes

Councillor Baker explained that he received a call from an older lady in Terence Bay who is very upset about a letter she received from the Tax Collection Office. The letter indicated that if her outstanding taxes from 1986 are not paid within 30 days her home will be put up for tax sale. He stated the content of the letter is not fair to this lady who does not have the ability to provide this money because she only receives \$456 per month, and the outstanding taxes amount of \$612.12.

Warden Lichter informed that regular tax notices must have been sent to this lady over the past three years, and staff cannot be aware of the circumstances of all individuals unless they are contacted by that person or the Councillor.

It was agreed that Mr. Meech and the Warden would investigate the circumstances regarding this situation.

Councillor Sutherland - Sidewalks, Beaverbank Road

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

"THAT cost estimates for the following sidewalks be requested from the Department of Transportation:

- a) Glendale Drive to Box Terrace Subdivision;
- b) the street frontage abutting Box Terrace Subdivision; and
- c) Box Terrace Subdivision to Stokle Drive Extension."

Councillor Sutherland informed that the Department of Housing has indicated a desire to cost-share for sidewalks for the new subdivision between Glendale Drive and Stokle Drive Extension.

MOTION CARRIED

Councillor Randall - Paving, Maple Drive

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

"THAT the petition for paving of Maple Drive, signed by 99.9 percent of the residents, be forwarded to the Minister of Transportation requesting paving under the 15 year and older program and that a copy of this request also be forwarded to the local MLA, the Honourable Tom McInnis."

MOTION CARRIED

Councillor Horne - Road Improvements, District 14

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

"THAT a letter be written to the Department of Transportation requesting paving for Kelly Road, Wellington; upgrading of the road between Goffs and Oldham for subsequent paving in 1991; and a crosswalk at the Holland Road School."

MOTION CARRIED

ADDITION OF ITEMS TO THE AGENDA FOR APRIL 4, 1989

Deputy Warden McInroy - Cole Harbour Community Committee  
Councillor Merrigan - Beaverbank Road

RESOLUTION TO ADJOURN THE ANNUAL SESSION

Warden Lichter explained that the last Council Session is known as the annual session of Council, which must be adjourned until the tax rate is established.

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

"THAT the Annual Session of Council be adjourned to April 4,  
1989."  
MOTION CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

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

"THAT this Council Session adjourn."  
MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.



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 send 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 if 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 spent 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 EISENHAWER - 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.

After further discussion, Councillor Bates and Councillor Poirier agreed that the motion would read:

"THAT the Committee of the Whole meet after staff have indicated they have reviewed the 1989 operating budget in an attempt to reduce the increase to 12 percent over the 1988 rate."

Councillor Poirier asked how many times this budget has been referred back to staff. Warden Lichter informed that staff has dealt with the budget twice, and he was also involved in budget deliberations with staff, and opinions vary.

Councillor Morgan stated there is not an incompetent staff, but there is an incompetent Council. He stated staff have prepared the budget, and they cannot be expected to make the cuts and argue both sides; they have made this request because they want these things. Councillor Morgan stated the people do not have bottomless pockets, and if a 15.1 percent increase is approved, residents will have to bite the bullet! He stated staff should not be asked to do anything further, but a tax rate should be set and staff directed to deal with it as they see fit. Councillor Morgan stated he will support an overall, effective tax increase of 10 percent, which is too much, and he dared that a plebiscite concerning the civic status of Sackville be held if a budget is approved with an increase of more than 10 percent.

Councillor Sutherland expressed concern about recorded votes. He stated the budget must be dealt with, and Council must be realistic; options were narrowed considerably with the approval of funding to the School Board. He stated the budget must be considered objectively in order to be responsible.

Councillor Eisenhower informed that he is supportive of a 12 percent increase, but he must know where cuts will be made before he can approve the budget. He stated money is not the only consideration, but service must also be contemplated. He stated those who do not support the motion should submit a report indicating where they think cuts should be made.

Councillor MacKay stated he would like to see the budget cut down to a 10 percent increase, but it is not realistic, and referring the budget to staff is only delaying the process. He stated a decision must be made, although he will not support the present motion. He stated staff have to ask what they feel they need to provide a level of service, and it is up to Council to make the final decision. When there is nothing left, Council must learn to say now, which is what the people are now saying.

There was further discussion regarding the referral of budget cuts to staff.

Councillor Morgan stated a decision must be made now; it should not be deferred. He stated if Council is prepared to limit the School Board funding to the 1988 budget, more should not be approved for Halifax County. He suggested that staff be asked to consider the 1988 budget and advise how they can accomplish the same level of service at 1988 funding. Mr. Meech informed that the School Board was not limited to 1988 funds; although supplementary funding did not increase, the overall contribution to the School Board increase by 6.4 or 6.5 percent.



Councillor Merrigan felt the budget should be reviewed by Council again with Department Heads, and if no further cuts can be made at least the residents can be told that Council did its best to lower the increase in taxes. Warden Lichter questioned how cuts will be agreed upon, if Council cannot even agree on who will make the cuts. He stated staff and Council have already tried to make cuts. He informed that he found \$670,000 that he felt should have been cut from the budget, but Mr. Meech and the rest of Council did not agree. He stated a meeting of the Committee of the Whole can be arranged, but he felt the budget will only be referred back to staff in the long term, and the process will be delayed further.

Councillor Bayers stated much of the discussion at this meeting consists of political speeches with no substance. He stated a decision must be made now, and the political tactics should be saved for election year.

Councillor Richards referred to Mr. Meech's memo dated April 10, 1989 with regard to cuts to the budget in order to keep the tax rate at a 10 to 15 percent increase. He noted that in order to achieve a 10 percent increase, \$500,000 would have to be cut from the social services budget and \$1 million from School Board funding. He noted that the \$1 million cut to the School Board budget was not supported, and he asked if this mean the excess will have to be taken from the social services budget in order to achieve a 10 to 12 percent increase. Mr. Meech replied that Council is not willing to see the social services budget cut, although a \$200,000 cut to this budget would only be a \$100,000 savings because 50 percent is recoverable from the Province. He noted that it is too optimistic to assume the Province will change the funding formula for social services in 1989. The budget with a 15.1 percent increase includes an increase to the Deed Transfer Tax to meet revenue needs.

Councillor Richards stated if the social services budget cannot be cut by \$250,000 to \$500,000, why does Council talk about it. He stated it is a major item to cut because social services and education are the two major areas of the budget, and education funding has already been approved; he stated nobody is willing to cut social services because of the value to the taxpayers. He questioned the value of referring the document back to staff or Committee of the Whole, stating the tax rate should be set; delay only costs more.

Councillor Bates stated he is glad everybody is willing to set the tax rate tonight, but he suggested that those not willing to support a 15.1 percent tax increase should be willing to cut the social services budget.

Councillor Bates and Councillor Poirier agreed to withdraw the motion.

Councillor Fralick asked if there are any areas with reductions could be considered, apart from the social services budget. Mr. Meech responded that it is a matter of preference by Council. He stated cuts can be made, but Council also wants the services. He stated money committed to fiscal services cannot be cut because those debts must be paid, and School Board funding and enhanced police protection is already committed. Other than those areas, many cuts can be made, but it is a question of whether or not cuts should be made to services already provided. He concluded that if Council is prepared to accept a lesser level of service, the rate can be cut.

Councillor Fralick asked if the Province has reduced cost-sharing for social services. Mr. Meech informed they have not reduced cost-sharing, but they have not increased it for a number of years. He stated if the Province were keeping up with increasing social assistance costs, Council would have another \$700,000 to \$1 million in revenue, which would overcome large part of the problem.

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

"THAT the 1989 residential tax rate in Halifax County be established at \$0.711 per \$100 of assessment, and that the commercial rate be established at \$1.90 per \$100 of assessment."

Councillor MacKay stated cutting the budget by 2 cents amounts to \$560,000, and he suggested that increasing the Deed Transfer Tax will decrease this to \$340,000; the social services budget could be reduced by \$300,000 - a savings of \$150,000 to the County, bringing the difference down to \$190,000. Councillor MacKay felt in such a large budget \$190,000 could easily be cut. He suggested that the commercial rate be left at \$1.90 per \$100 of assessment because area rates in Halifax County are not weighted between residential and commercial uses. He stated he wants to encourage development in Halifax County, and when the area rates are considered in conjunction with the general rate, the increase is the same as other areas. He concluded that \$190,000 can be found to be cut from the budget; although many cuts have already been made, he felt others can be found.

Councillor Meade suggested budget cuts in the area of conferences for Council, new furniture, and additional employees. Warden Lichter noted that some of the conference money has been spent on conferences that Councillor MacDonald and Councillor Cooper attended, as well as reservations for the FCM Conference in Vancouver. He stated it would be costly to cancel those reservations now unless illness can be proven.

Councillor Ball stated the decreasing the tax rate will only cause a catch up game; if cuts are made this year, the inevitable is deferred in terms of a tax increase. He stated if the County is to grow, it will cost more next year. Mr. Meech added that some expenditures this year will not have to occur next year, such as the replacement of the surplus. Councillor Ball stated the budget as presently proposed will create a deficit, which will have to be dealt with next year. He stated Council must face reality.

Councillor Morgan suggested that Mr. Mason, Director of Social Services, be asked if he can accommodate change to the social services budget in accordance with Mr. Meech's memo of April 10, 1989. He stated some people do not want to receive social assistance, but unemployment insurance has its downfalls because if people try to work, they are completely cut off, which is counter-productive. He suggested there should be changes to allow people to make an effort to work, yet still receive some support.

Councillor MacDonald asked if the existing motion will provide for the payment of last year's deficit. Mr. Meech informed that it will, but some other reductions will have to be made. He stated Halifax County will be in a good position next year, if it can break even in 1989.

Councillor Morgan and Councillor Bayers requested a recorded vote.

Councillor Deveaux clarified that the social services budget will have to be cut, give the present motion. Warden Lichter stated cuts will have to be made somewhere, although there are many suggestions.

COUNCILLOR MEADE - FOR	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 - FOR
COUNCILLOR RICHARDS - FOR	DEPUTY WARDEN McINROY - FOR
COUNCILLOR COOPER - FOR	

MOTION DEFEATED

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

"THAT the 1989 residential tax rate for Halifax County be established at 15 percent over the 1988 rate, in the amount of \$0.73 per \$100 of assessment and that the commercial rate for 1989 be established at \$1.90 per \$100 of assessment."

Councillor Morgan and Councillor Merrigan requested a recorded vote.

COUNCILLOR MEADE - AGAINST	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 - FOR	COUNCILLOR REID - FOR
WARDEN LICHTER - FOR	COUNCILLOR HORNE - FOR
COUNCILLOR MERRIGAN - FOR	COUNCILLOR MORGAN - AGAINST
COUNCILLOR SNOW - AGAINST	COUNCILLOR EISENHAUER - FOR
COUNCILLOR MacDONALD - AGAINST	COUNCILLOR BOUTILIER - FOR
COUNCILLOR MacKAY - AGAINST	COUNCILLOR SUTHERLAND - FOR
COUNCILLOR RICHARDS - FOR	DEPUTY WARDEN McINROY - AGAINST
COUNCILLOR COOPER - AGAINST	

MOTION CARRIED



1989 AREA RATES

Warden Lichter stated the tax bills cannot be sent out until the area rates for 1989 are set; therefore, it is essential that the rates be set at this meeting.

Councillor Deveaux and Councillor Horne indicated that they would like to hold the rates subject to approval of their Ratepayers Associations', which will be meeting within the next week.

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

"THAT the 1989 area rates be approved as presented subject to the approval of several ratepayers associations' pending their ratepayers' meetings."

Councillor Ball noted that one fire department in his district has not submitted a balanced budget, and there has been no budget meeting since March, when the Chief was instructed to balance the budget. He clarified that the fire rate for that area will be 19 cents, and the department will have to budget accordingly.

MOTION CARRIED

SPECIAL COUNCIL SESSION

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 1989

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

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. G.J. Kelly, Municipal Clerk  
Mr. Ed Mason, Director, Social Services Department  
Mr. Jack MacNeil, Assistant Director, Social Services Department  
Mr. Ian MacArthur, Social Services Department  
Mr. Jeff Strople, Social Services Department  
Ms. Laura Bennet, IWK Hospital Foundation  
Mr. William Morrow, IWK Hospital Foundation  
Mr. Ronald Collett, Managing Director, IWK Foundation

SECRETARY: Glenda Hill

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Warden Lichter called the Council Session to order at 4:08 p.m. Mr. Kelly called the Roll.

Warden Lichter advised that this meeting has been scheduled to hear two presentations, one from the Social Services Department concerning the Employment Resource Centre; the other from the IWK Hospital Foundation seeking a grant for an expansion to the hospital.

Employment Resource Centre

Mr. Mason thanked for the opportunity to make the presentation and introduced the others who were in attendance from his department.

Mr. Strople gave the presentation, noting the success of the Job Finding Club. He advised that social assistance was designed to help those who are not able

to maintain their families because they are not able to work. However, more and more able bodied unemployment have been on the social services roll, and the longer one stays on assistance, the more difficult it is for that person to go back to work. He stated money allocated to the Social Services Department should be put where they are most needed, so if it is possible to get the able bodied unemployed off the social assistance roll, it is a benefit to the department.

Mr. Strople advised that the program began in April, 1988 under grants from the federal and provincial governments. The program began in Cole Harbour, but it has now expanded to the central and the Sackville offices.

Mr. Strople reviewed statistics indicating the success of the program and attitudes of clients about the program. He advised that 44 percent of those who found jobs are making \$7 per hour or more; \$7 is the average. He also noted that education has very little effect on whether or not somebody gets a job, although job skills do have an effect. The attitude of the client is a very strong factor.

Mr. Strople advised that a bound report had been circulated to Members of Council, which contains some very interesting cases with regard to the Job Finding Club. He stated the success of the program is best described in terms of cost-savings. There has been a decrease in case load and expenditures for the able bodied unemployed every month over the past year. He stated it is important to get the able bodied unemployed off of social assistance in order that those who are not able to work can receive the assistance they need.

Mr. Strople concluded that the Department is now awaiting confirmation from the provincial government that they will continue to fund this program in 1989. The program will be enhanced with more training and more work within the various communities.

#### Question from Council

Warden Lichter expressed his delight with the program because it is positive in getting able bodied unemployed to the employers. He asked if the percentage reduction in the social services roll may have been re-classified to another type of social assistance recipient. Mr. Strople noted that the program has only been operating for all areas of the County since late 1988, so not a lot of change could be expected in early 1989. He concluded that it is difficult to change a recipient's classification; although there has been a significant increase in other categories, the total expenditure have not changed very much.

Councillor Baker inquired about the details of the program, such as the average length of the program and the consequences for quitting. Mr. MacArthur responded that individuals are referred to the program from their social worker: mostly able bodied unemployed and single parents are referred with the understanding that they want to find work. The program is designed to help them write their resumes, gain self-confidence, learn how to go to an interview and how to look for work. When people the program, their personal situations must be taken into consideration, and the social worker will look



into this. He noted that the single parent situation is the most difficult because single parents have family responsibilities. The Job Finding Club is to help these people as much as possible, but there is no control over people leaving for personal reasons.

Councillor Baker next asked if there is any control over men who leave young women with a child or families, and what can be done about such circumstances. Mr. MacArthur advised that clients at the Job Finding Club are clearly informed that they have no control over clients personal finances. He advised that this provides for much communication between the social worker, the people at the Job Finding Club, and the client. Mr. Mason added that people are not referred to the program unless the social worker feels they will co-operate and benefit from it. Mr. MacNeil added that if a single parent requires long term assistance, they are required to lay personal, financial information before the courts. They are strongly encouraged to lay this information in order to be eligible for family benefits, but there is no legal requirement.

Councillor Eisenhauer commented that jobs at minimum wage are discouraging because it costs money to go to work; it may seem better to stay at home and collect assistance than to work at a job paying minimum wage. He asked if participants are encouraged to obtain more skills to get better jobs. Mr. Strople agreed that minimum wage rates fail to get on top of what is needed, and the working poor are often not able to make ends meet. A program is now being considered to ease the transition back into the workforce by providing a special allowance for things required for work, such as safety boots and coveralls. A program for subsidized day care is also being considered for single parents participating in the Job Finding Club.

Councillor Deveaux agreed with earlier comments that individual situations must always be considered, although there are always some who will find a way to beat the system and take unfair advantage of assistance programs, such as social services and unemployment insurance. He expressed appreciation for the program and the effort of the program administrators in trying to save tax dollars. He asked if there is any means of providing information about the program to the public so they will be aware of it and the benefits it has brought to the Municipality. Mr. MacArthur responded that most people are referred to the program through social workers, and there is also publicity through contact with employers. He advised that some people who were receiving assistance are now working under the program in an effort to help others.

Councillor Merrigan expressed admiration for this program, but he felt such a program should be the responsibility of the federal government through Canadian Employment and Immigration Centre (CEIC). He commented that it is unreasonable that the County must duplicate their services. Councillor Merrigan concluded that the Job Finding Club is a very good program, but it is a case where the municipality's are picking up costs where it is not their responsibility.

Mr. Strople responded that the federal government is providing funds for this program, although they look for better qualified clients, and they do not address those on social assistance.

Councillor Merrigan asked if there are similar program in neighbouring municipalities. Mr. MacArthur advised that the City of Halifax has had such a program for a few years now, and the City of Dartmouth is now starting such a program. He advised that Halifax County's program is very similar to one in Toronto, and it is cost-sharing through a federal/provincial agreement called SPARS. The federal and provincial governments are responsible for 75 percent of the costs, and the municipality cost-shares at 25 percent.

There being no further discussion or questions from Council, Warden Lichter thanked Mr. Mason and his staff for the presentation.

#### IWK Hospital Foundation

Mr. Bill Morrow of the IWK Capital Campaign introduced other members of the campaign who were also in attendance, including Mrs. Laura Bennet and Mr. Ronald Collett.

Mrs. Bennet then outlined the proposal for an expansion to the IWK Children's Hospital, informing how it will be connected to the new Grace Maternity Hospital so equipment and expertise can be shared between the two. She also presented statistics with regard to the number of Halifax County residents using the services at the hospital in comparison to other areas. Mrs. Bennet also advised that the Province has committed \$10 million to the project, the City of Halifax, \$1 million, and the City of Dartmouth, \$700,000, and the County of Halifax is requested to commit \$500,000 to this project. She noted that the terms of negotiable, and the first instalment is not necessary until 1990.

Mrs. Bennet concluded that the County's commitment, as well as that of the Cities of Halifax and Dartmouth will act as seed money when requesting funds from other municipalities. She noted that when speaking to other municipalities about support for this project, they immediately inquire about grants from the two Cities and the County. She expressed hope that Halifax County will support the expansion to the IWK Children's Hospital.

#### Questions from Council

Councillor Deveaux expressed support for the request, voicing appreciation that the money is not required until 1990 given the present financial situation of the Municipality. He wished the campaign luck and asked if there will be fund raising drives in other municipalities, as well. Mrs. Bennet responded that the capital campaign will be throughout the Maritime provinces, and national co-operation is also anticipated.

Councillor Morgan asked what funds other municipal units will be requested to contribute, noting that the Town of Bedford is not included in the initial campaign. Mrs. Bennet advised that specific dollars have not been worked out for every municipality in the region, although the Province of New Brunswick has been asked to contribute \$1 million. The other municipalities will be approached once a decision about contributing has been made by the three metro municipalities, Halifax County and the Cities of Halifax and Dartmouth.

Councillor MacDonald commented on the incredible staff at the IWK Children's Hospital, stating his children never wanted to leave when they were patients there. He asked what percentage of the patients are from outside of Nova Scotia. Mrs. Bennet advised that 20 percent of in-house patients are from New Brunswick and 5 percent from Prince Edward Island. She advised that the IWK Children's Hospital is the only paediatric hospital in the Maritimes, although there is one in St. John's, Newfoundland. Patients are referred to the IWK from St. Pierre, Michalon, and it is intended to approach them for funds, as well.

Councillor Eisenhower commented that he enjoys his work at the IWK Children's Hospital, and he inquired about funding to update and upgrade equipment there. Mrs. Bennet informed that there is a need to replace obsolete equipment and the computerize patient information, which will be done in conjunction with the Grace Maternity Hospital.

Councillor Merrigan stated the IWK Children's Hospital is an important part of the community, and it is difficult to deal with this request objectively because of the difficult financial situation of the Municipality. He inquired about federal funding for this project. Mrs. Bennet advised that the IWK Children's Hospital is not a federal facility, although the federal government does support it in many ways. For example, much research for improved clinical care is funded by the federal government.

Warden Lichter commented that everybody would be delighted to see this expansion and to make a sacrifice for this project. He noted that the provincial government has been very generous in committing \$10 million to this project, but Halifax County would be even more generous in committing \$500,000 because the County does not have the source of funds for this project as the Provincial government has; Halifax County will have to take money from those who may or may not be able to afford it through property taxes. He stated he is disappointed that the capital campaign for this project is not public because everyone is served by this facility.

Mr. Morrow advised that the campaign is not public because they did not want to disturb the annual telethon which is very successful in raising operating funds for the IWK Children's Hospital. Mr. Collett added that any public donations would not be turned down, and people are being made aware of the expansion, but many very generous donations are made through the annual telethon, which should not be disturbed. It was added that the IWK is totally self-sufficient, while government hospitals are 100 percent funded for operation and construction.

Warden Lichter commented that the IWK Children's Hospital should be taken over by the provincial government, which received a negative reaction.

Warden Lichter concluded that no commitments can be made until after deliberations and the tax rate is set. He advised that it is anticipated to set the tax rate on April 4, and a decision about this commitment should be made at that time. He thanked those members of the IWK Capital Campaign for their presentation.



Other Business

Mr. Kelly advised that he received a letter from Mr. Schofield of the Nova Scotia Department of Housing asking that Council support the designation of two family housing units in Sackville and two family housing units in Beaverbank. He noted that the balance of units for Halifax County are to be finalized in the very near future.

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

"THAT Council approve the designation of two family housing units each in Sackville and Beaverbank, as proposed by the Nova Scotia Department of Housing."  
MOTION CARRIED

Councillor Randall advised that he requested a need and demand study from the Department of Housing approximately two months ago, but there has been no response. Warden Lichter suggested that there will be a response in the very near future.

Councillor Boutilier advised that the Communications Committee would like to have Councillor Randall involved in their efforts, given his expertise in this area. He asked that Council endorse the request.

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

"THAT Councillor Randall be appointed to the Communications Committee as requested."  
MOTION CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further presentations or business, the special meeting of Council adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

IWK  
Children's Hospital  
Foundation

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5850 University Avenue  
P.O. Box 3070  
Halifax, N.S. B3J 3G9  
(902) 428-8085

March 7, 1989

IWK CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Presentation to Municipality of the  
County of Halifax Warden and Council

Your Worship and Members of County Council:

Thank you for this opportunity to address Council on behalf of the IWK Children's Hospital. I am pleased to have with me this afternoon, William O. Morrow, IWK Capital Campaign; William Ritchie, Vice-Chairman of the Capital Campaign; Mr. Bernard Lamontagne, President and CEO, IWK Children's Hospital and Mr. Ronald Collett, Managing Director, IWK Foundation.

I know that you are all very familiar with the IWK and its reputation for excellence. As the pediatric referral center of the Maritimes, this 230-bed hospital serves the region's 435,000 children.

While inpatient statistics have remained relatively constant at approximately 8,000 admissions per year, those children admitted to hospital today tend to be more critically ill and to remain for longer periods of time.

A vastly increased number of medical procedures can now be performed through day surgery and other outpatient clinics, frequently eliminating the need for hospital admission. In fact, outpatient statistics have increased dramatically from 10,000 annual visits in 1970 when the hospital was opened, to more than 60,000 visits per year at this time!

It is evident from statistics such as these that the present facility must be vastly overcrowded - and it is!

In particular, the increase of 600% in outpatient services has created critical space shortages throughout the hospital. New outpatient facilities are urgently needed, as well as more room for the neonatal unit, intensive care and pediatric research.

In an attempt to meet these needs, the IWK Children's Hospital has recently launched a major capital campaign to finance construction of a four-storey,

120,000 square foot addition to the existing building. This new structure will join the present IWK with the new Grace Maternity Hospital. (See artist's rendition.)

The new outpatient facilities will enable the hospital to cope with the increasing number of referrals; new research space will make it possible for medical staff to respond to changing research priorities and to initiate promising new projects; and the Neonatal Department will move to the third floor of the new building where it will have improved access to surgical facilities and laboratories and be adjacent to the Grace neonatal unit.

The new building is scheduled for completion in January 1991. Renovation of the existing premises will begin immediately thereafter. Total construction and equipment costs are \$20.5 million. The Government of Nova Scotia has committed \$10 million to the project and we must raise the remainder from other sources.

This major capital campaign is not primarily a public campaign. Approaches are being made to Maritime businesses and corporations, foundations, service clubs, friends of the hospital, and municipalities.

Many of you will be aware that we have received generous support from the cities of Halifax and Dartmouth with their respective contributions of \$1 million and \$700,000.

This afternoon we have come to ask for your support. Last year more than 1100 children from Halifax County were admitted to the IWK! Many thousands more received care through outpatient programs. We know you will agree that the IWK plays a special role in the lives of children and families in our area and throughout the Maritime region.

We are requesting that the County of Halifax commit \$500,000 to the IWK Children's Hospital Capital Campaign, the terms and conditions of which to be decided by Council.

We ask for your special consideration of our request. Your generous investment in the campaign will ensure that our children have access to the best possible medical facilities and care for years to come.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

*Laura E. Bennet*

Laura E. Bennet  
Chairman, Municipalities  
IWK Children's Hospital Campaign





# Halifax County Municipality

Dept. of Social Services

## Administration Centre

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TO: Warden Laszlo Lichter and Members of Council

FROM: Mr. Edward Mason,  
Director of Social Services

DATE: March 15, 1989

RE: Employment Resource Program

In June of 1986, as a consequence of increasing Social Service expenditures, the Executive Committee of Council appointed a sub-committee comprised of Councillors Walker, Reid and Merrigan to liaise with senior administrative staff within our Social Services Department, to examine the General Assistance caseload with particular emphasis on determining the number of able-bodied recipients and their potential for employment and/or training.

A report that was subsequently generated and submitted to the Minister of Community Services in February of 1987, while a cursory one, illustrated that the identified able-bodied unemployed group had, for the most part, limited education and little in the way of work skills. The report also demonstrated the Department's need for an ongoing analysis of the Municipal caseload so as to fully understand its composition, and to be in a position to devise, recommend and implement programs and services that would meet the needs of Municipal Social Service recipients.

As a consequence of the subcommittee's efforts, a Research and Development position was approved in our Department's 1988 Municipal Budget. Geoff Stropole, who is here this afternoon, is the individual who occupies that position. He will provide an analysis of our Department's response to the concerns that were raised back in 1986, which have been addressed throughout our Department, and in particular by Ian MacArthur, one of our Social Service Workers, who has taken on additional responsibilities and who has acted over the past year as the Coordinator of our Employment Resource Program.

Edward C. Mason, M.S.W.  
Director of Social Services

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MONDAY, MARCH 20, 1989

MUNICIPAL PLANNING STRATEGY AND LAND USE BY-LAW  
FOR PLANNING DISTRICTS 14 AND 17

PRESENT WERE: Deputy Warden McInroy, Chairman  
Councillor Meade  
Councillor Poirier  
Councillor Fralick  
Councillor Baker  
Councillor Adams  
Councillor Randall  
Councillor Bayers  
Councillor Smiley  
Councillor Reid  
Councillor Horne  
Councillor Merrigan  
Councillor Morgan  
Councillor Snow  
Councillor Sutherland  
Councillor Richards  
Councillor Cooper

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. G.J. Kelly, Municipal Clerk  
Ms. Valerie Spencer, Director, Planning & Development  
Mr. Bill Butler, Manager, Policy Division

SECRETARY: Glenda Hill

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Deputy Warden McInroy called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. Mr. Kelly called the Roll.

Deputy Warden McInroy advised that he would be chairing this meeting, as the Warden is in a position of conflict of interest with regard to the adoption of the Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-law for Planning Districts 14 and 17.

Mr. Butler advised that the initial plan for this area was previously adopted by Council in March, 1988, but it was rejected by the Minister of Municipal Affairs due to technical deficiencies with mapping and policy deficiencies with regard to the text itself. He clarified that the Minister had no difficulty with the process undertaken in the previous five years, as there was a very extensive public participation process during preparation of the initial Plan.

Mr. Butler informed that when the Plan and By-law were rejected a staff report, dated July 11, 1988, was prepared which recommended that the review process for this Plan and By-law be undertaken by the Planning Advisory Committee rather than the Public Participation Committee. He informed that the review was not restricted to fixing up technical deficiencies; other problems which had developed since the Plan was initially put into effect were also reviewed.

He advised that the recommendation to have this process undertaken by the Planning Advisory Committee was approved by Council. Two community meetings were held, and the Planning Advisory Committee also held an evening meeting to hear public submissions with regard to this Plan and By-law.

Amendments were discussed at 12 regular Planning Advisory Committee meetings, and five special meetings were held to discuss this matter exclusively. The Chairman of the Public Participation Committee, Keith Boutilier, was invited to attend all meetings, and although he was not an official member of the Committee, his input was welcome and given heed to.

Public Participation members were also notified of the public meetings, and they were sent copies of proposed changes to the Plan and By-law during various stages of the review process. The Planning Advisory Committee received a number of written submissions with regard to changes to the Plan and By-law, and they continue to be received. There were 17 individual requests, mostly for zoning amendments, and 31 submissions with regard to Kings Road. The proposed changes fall into three basic categories: 1) technical amendments in response to the reasons for rejection of the initial Plan and By-law and to changes made to other Plans and By-laws in the interim; 2) amendments related to issues which were evident before the Plan was rejected and those which arose during the review process; and 3) changes relative to individual submissions, mostly related to zoning and some with regard to the text of the plan.

With regard to technical changes, Mr. Butler informed that, as much as possible, amendments were made to the Generalized Future Land Use map rather than the Zoning map so that it would have less effect on individual property owners. He reviewed each of the amendments as outlined in the draft which was circulated to Members of Council. He noted that they relate to the Minister's rejection of the original Plan and By-law.

The Minister felt that some statements in the original plan went beyond the Municipality's jurisdiction with regard to environmental concerns and sewage systems. Mr. Butler informed that protection of the environment is a very major concern of the residents. The Plan originally indicated that the County had control over sewage treatment plants, but it has been re-worded so the County does not have direct responsibility, although there is still concern. He advised that environmental concerns rest with senior levels of government, and the Plan now appropriately reflects such.

One part of the Plan required the Provincial government to continue to issue regional development permits for extractive facilities; however, the Municipality cannot require the Province to issue such permits, and the Plan is now worded so that the Province will be requested to continue to issue Regional Development Permits.

Mr. Butler informed that there was much discussion and several submissions regarding the required 100 foot setback from watercourses. It is the recommendation of the Planning Advisory Committee that this setback would be reduced to 50 feet and that more text regarding side grading requirements



should be incorporated into the Plan and By-law. He advised that staff felt a setback requirement alone will not protect the lake system; site grading is an important consideration, as well. The Municipality is now preparing a by-law to control such activity, and the Plan will support this approach.

Mr. Butler next referred to a resolution of Council which was adopted in July, 1988 (page four of the package distributed). He advised that amended text has been incorporated into the Plan and By-law to reflect this resolution, in an effort to recognize the importance of the Shubenacadie Lake system.

The Benery Lake watershed area was placed in a watershed zone where permitted uses are limited. Mr. Butler advised that there were several submissions from property owners within the watershed area and much opposition to such "expropriation without compensation". The new policies in the Plan will provide support for an appropriate zone for the harness racing facility, which is located within the watershed designation. Council may also consider other business uses within the Watershed Designation by development agreement.

Mr. Butler advised that the most controversial issue during the review was with regard to the handling of private roads in the plan area. He informed that the general intent was not to permit new private roads within the plan area. He informed that the original Plan listed 55 private right-of-ways within this plan area which would have to be approved by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and the Department of Transportation before any future development could proceed.

Mr. Butler informed that many residents of Kings Road, near Grand Lake, expressed concern about the road being listed as a private right-of-way and more development permitted. There were also submissions about the existing condition of the road and possible safety hazards.

The final recommendation of the Planning Advisory Committee is that the policy for listing private road right-of-ways remain, with more specific direction with regard to including them in the Subdivision By-law. He advised that the intent is that any resident wanting a private right-of-way added will have to apply for an amendment to the Subdivision By-law, which will require a public hearing. Council will then have to deal with each situation appropriately.

With regard to Policy P-79, Mr. Butler informed that the former Enfield Drive-In site could be considered for future commercial development. The previous owner had requested commercial development under a comprehensive development district; however, staff recommended that the CDD designation be removed and that the property be given a residential zone with the possibility of commercial development by development agreement.

Mr. Butler informed that Mr. David Barrett had requested that his land, located west of Highway No. 102 near the Aerotech Park interchange, be zoned highway commercial. However, the land in question is not accessible by public road at the present time; therefore, the Planning Advisory Committee recommended that Policy P-111 be implemented for the land, and when the lands become accessible by public road, they can be considered by amending the Plan and By-law.

Mr. Butler also reviewed the minor changes as outlined in the report circulated to Members of the Committee. He advised that one change is with regard to side yard setbacks; the original by-law required a 20 foot side yard clearance, which is considerably more than the eight feet required under other Plans and the Building By-law. This restriction created much difficulty for those with buildings encroaching on their boundaries and could not expand. Therefore, staff recommended, and the Planning Advisory Committee agreed, to bring the side yard clearance in line with other plan areas (down to eight feet).

Mr. Butler reviewed other amendments, noted on pages 17 and 18 of the package which was circulated, recommending the amendments to the Plan and By-law, as well as to the Subdivision By-law.

#### Questions

Councillor Reid referred to the amendment on page 20 of the information package, and he asked if this will allow property owners to develop three lots per year by right for a private right-of-way. Mr. Butler responded that on private roads, property owners will have to go through the public hearing process to have the road listed, and upon listing of the road, three lots per year can be approved.

Councillor Horne commended staff with regard to the development of the Plan and By-law, although he expressed concern about private roads. He stated the Plan and By-law do not take into consideration the concerns of the residents on the private roads, such as safety. He stated the Plan should more closely address private roads, Kings Road in particular. He noted that the residents have posed many questions about legalities, liability, the safety of bridges and roads, and the sale of lots on private roads, and he stated these concerns should be addressed.

There was some discussion concerning the approval of lots on private right-of-ways. Mr. Butler clarified that an application must be made to have the private right-of-way listed in the Subdivision By-law before a lot on that road can be given approval. Listing the road in the Subdivision By-law will require approval of the Department of Transportation. He advised that listing the right-of-way in the Subdivision By-law is intended to permit subdivision - not for take-over by the Department of Transportation. He stated that over the years these private rights-of-way have come to serve more than one property, although they are not owned and maintained by the Department of Transportation, and they may not be in great shape.

Councillor Horne clarified that these rights-of-way can be brought up to public standard after the Plan has been approved. Mr. Butler agreed, but he stated the question is where the money will come from to upgrade the road. He informed that the Department of Transportation will not provide any funding for the upgrading of private roads. He concluded that no new private roads will be permitted after adoption of this Plan and By-law.