

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

EXECUTIVE STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES

January 23, 2012

PRESENT: Mayor Peter Kelly
Deputy Mayor Bill Karsten
Councillors: Steve Streach
Jim Smith
Russell Walker
Reg Rankin
Linda Mosher
Dawn Sloane

REGRETS: Councillor Brad Johns

STAFF: Mr. Richard Butts, Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. Cathy Mellett, Municipal Clerk
Ms. Shawnee Gregory, Legislative Assistant

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	CALL TO ORDER.....	3
2.	APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 31, 2011.....	3
3.	APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS.....	3
4.	BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES – NONE.....	3
5.	CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS.....	3
5.1	Corporate Sustainability Filter - Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee	3
6.	CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS - NONE.....	4
7.	REPORTS	4
7.1	Staff	4
7.1.1	Proposed 2012 Schedule.....	4
7.2	Councillor.....	4
7.2.1	Councillor Support for the New 2012 Council – Councillor Mosher.....	5
8.	ADDED ITEMS - NONE	6
9.	IN CAMERA.....	6
9.1	In Camera Minutes – November 21 & 22, 2011	6
9.2	Personnel Matter	6
9.2.1	Citizen Appointment to the Design Review Committee	6
10.	NEXT MEETING DATE – February 27, 2012.....	6
11.	ADJOURNMENT	6

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. in the Council Chamber, Halifax City Hall.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 31, 2011

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Smith that the minutes of October 31, 2011 be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

Addition:
Election of Vice Chair

MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Walker that the agenda be accepted as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Mayor Kelly called for nominations for Vice Chair of the Executive Standing Committee for 2012.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Karsten, seconded by Councillor Walker that Councillor Mosher be elected Vice Chair of the Executive Standing Committee for 2012. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES – NONE

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

5.1 Corporate Sustainability Filter - Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee

A report from the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee dated March 10, 2011 was before the Committee.

Mr. Richard MacLellan, Manager of the Sustainable Environment Management Office, provided background on the report dated March 10, 2012 from the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Smith that the Executive Standing Committee adopt Environmental Implications as a standard requirement in Council and Committee reports.

The Chair suggested that the report be referred to staff for further information.

MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Smith that the Executive Standing Committee refer the matter back to staff for further information regarding the impact and budget implications of adopting Environmental Implications as a standard requirement in Council and Committee reports.

Discussion on the motion ensued.

Councillor Rankin stated, for the record, that he was against the motion of referral.

The meeting recessed at 10:26 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 10:31 a.m. with the same members present.

A recorded vote was requested.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED. (6 for, 2 against)

Those voting in favour of the motion were Mayor Kelly, Deputy Mayor Karsten and Councillors Streach, Sloane, Walker, and Mosher.

Councillors Smith and Rankin voted against the motion.

Councillor Johns was absent from the vote.

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS - NONE

7. REPORTS

7.1 Staff

7.1.1 Proposed 2012 Schedule

The proposed 2012 meeting schedule was before the Committee.

It was requested that the proposed 2012 meeting schedule be amended to change the July 23 meeting to July 9, the August 27 meeting to August 13, and the December 17 meeting to December 10.

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Mosher that the 2012 meeting schedule be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7.2 Councillor

7.2.1 Councillor Support for the New 2012 Council – Councillor Mosher

MOVED by Councillor Mosher, seconded by Councillor Walker that the Executive Standing Committee request a staff report which evaluates the level of Council assistance required for Councillors to appropriately perform their duties, given that HRM Council will represent an increased number of residents as there will be a reduction of seven Councillors.

The staff report should include an assessment of the Councillor support from the bench mark cities HRM utilizes for Councillor salaries, the constituency support for MLAs in Nova Scotia, and any best practise research that may be applicable. The pros and cons of each system should be evaluated.

In addition, appropriate budgetary analysis should be made for having a dedicated assistant per Councillor – either operating at City Hall offices or in an HRM facility or in or near an electoral district.

And, further that the upcoming budget not reduce the cost of seven Councillor salaries for the period of November 2012 to March 31, 2013, so that appropriate funding is available as required to support the next Council should any changes be deemed necessary by Regional Council.

A discussion on the motion ensued.

Mr. Richard Butts, Chief Administrative Officer, advised that the report could be ready by the end of March.

Councillor Sloane requested that the following items be addressed in the report:

- How the changes would impact current employees
- What the budget would be for the new employees including salaries and benefits as well as the cost of renting office space and outfitting the offices with equipment
- What the full staff compliment would be
- Whether the new staff would be considered HRM employees
- What the total cost of the changes would be

Councillor Mosher clarified that, as per her motion, she would like staff to determine if more or less money would be required for the proposed changes prior to the funds from the seven vacant Councillor positions being taken out of the upcoming 2012/2013 budget.

Councillor Sloane indicated that she would like the Committee to begin looking at governance.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

8. ADDED ITEMS - NONE

MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Walker that the Standing Committee move In Camera to address the items as listed below. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9. IN CAMERA

The Standing Committee may rise and go into a private In Camera session, in accordance with Section 19 of the Halifax Regional Municipality Charter, for the purpose of dealing with the following;

9.1 In Camera Minutes – November 21 & 22, 2011

This item was dealt with during the In Camera session.

9.2 Personnel Matter

Citizen and Councillor appointments to boards and committees in keeping with the Public Appointment Policy adopted by Regional Council in August 2011, to be found at:

<http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/documents/Citizenrecruitmentpolicy.pdf>

9.2.1 Citizen Appointment to the Design Review Committee

This item was dealt with during the In Camera session.

10. NEXT MEETING DATE – February 27, 2012

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Shawnee Gregory
Legislative Assistant