

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

EXECUTIVE STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES

March 26, 2012

PRESENT:

Mayor Peter Kelly
Deputy Mayor Bill Karsten
Councillors: Linda Mosher, Vice Chair
Russell Walker
Reg Rankin
Jim Smith
Dawn Sloane

REGRETS:

Councillor Steve Streach
Councillor Brad Johns

STAFF:

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

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. in the Council Chamber, Halifax City Hall.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 27, 2012

MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Smith that the minutes of February 27, 2012 be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Addition:

8.1 Evaluation of Tender for Electronic Voting – Councillor Rankin

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

8.1 Evaluation of Tender for Electronic Voting – Councillor Rankin

Ms. Cathy Mellett, Municipal Clerk, provided an update on the electronic voting process which had taken place during the NDP leadership election; noting she had already been speaking with the General Manager of Scytl.

MOVED by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Smith that the Executive Standing Committee request that an information report be brought forward to the March 27, 2012 Regional Council meeting including a full review and update on the situation and the outcome of discussions.

Discussion on the motion ensued with staff responding to questions.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES – NONE

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - NONE

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS - NONE

7. REPORTS

7.1 Staff

7.1.1 Support Options for HRM Councillors

An information report dated March 23, 2012 was before the Committee.

A presentation was submitted.

Ms. Cathie Barrington, Manager of Council Support, provided the presentation on Support Options for HRM Councillors.

MOVED by Councillor Mosher, seconded by Councillor Walker that the Executive Standing Committee recommend an option with a 1:1 ratio and request further information, via a report, of complete scenarios under this option which would include such considerations as decentralization and budgetary needs.

Discussion on the motion ensued with staff responding to questions.

Councillor Mosher stated, for the record, that it was important to maintain the same level of service to residents and good governance even with seven fewer Councillors.

Mr. Richard Butts, Chief Administrative Officer, clarified that the same annual amount of funding was in the budget to cover the existing seven support workers until the end of the next fiscal year and then the new Council could decide what approach to support they would like to take.

Committee members requested that the following information be included in the report:

- Which HRM facilities could be used to house employees in each District and if they charge rent for the space
- If there was space that could be shared between neighbouring Districts via a joint office
- The difference in cost between centralized (in City Hall) and decentralized service
- What it currently costs to house the Support Office in City Hall
- The difference in salaries and benefits between municipal and MLA assistants
- The cost of current District offices
- Overall decentralized office costs including costs for items such as security, furniture, and equipment
- The level of input that Councillors would have in the hiring process of new assistants
- That each option consider the number of residents and geographical size of each new District for consistency and fairness

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7.2 Motion of Referral

7.2.1 Regional Council, March 6, 2012 - Administrative Order #1 - Alignment with Robert's Rules of Order

The following motion passed at the Regional Council meeting held on March 6, 2012 was before the Committee:

That the matter of referenced source relative to Administrative Order #1 was referred back to the Executive Standing Committee to research possible Canadian sources.

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Sloane that the Executive Standing Committee request that staff provide them with a copy of the two Canadian Sources; Beauchesne's Parliamentary Rules and Forms, and Bourinot's Rules at a Glance and that copies also be sent to legal staff to investigate if either best fits within Regional Council's needs.

A discussion on the motion ensued.

MOTION DEFEATED.

MOVED by Councillor Mosher, seconded by Deputy Mayor Karsten that the Executive Standing Committee recommend to Regional Council to continue its alignment with Roberts Rules of Order. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

8. ADDED ITEMS

8.1 Evaluation of Tender for Electronic Voting – Councillor Rankin

This item was dealt with earlier in the meeting. Please see page 3.

9. IN CAMERA - NONE

10. NEXT MEETING DATE – April 23, 2012

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:46 a.m.

Shawnee Gregory
Legislative Assistant