



**GRANTS COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
October 6, 2014**

PRESENT: Councillor Russell Walker, Chair  
Councillor Barry Dalrymple, Vice Chair  
Councillor David Hendsbee  
Councillor Whitman  
Mr. Donald Dodge  
Ms. Kate Watson  
Mr. Darren Watts  
Mr. Jason Cooke

REGRETS: Mr. Francis Glover

STAFF: Mr. Bruce Fisher, Manager, Financial Policy and Planning  
Mr. Andre MacNeil, Sr. Financial Consultant  
Ms. Krista Vining, Legislative Assistant

*The following does not represent a verbatim record of the proceedings of this meeting.*

*The agenda, supporting documents, and information items circulated to Grants Committee are available online: <http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/bccgrants/GrantsCommittee141006.php>*

*The meeting was called to order at 1:08 p.m., and adjourned at 2:47 p.m.*

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 8, 2014**

**MOVED by Councillor Whitman, seconded by Mr. Dodge that the minutes of September 8, 2014 be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

**MOVED by Councillor Whitman, seconded by Mr. Cooke that the Order of Business be approved as presented. 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/DISCUSSION**

**7.1 STAFF**

**7.1.1 Tax Relief: Proposed Program Redesign – staff presentation – Mr. Bruce Fisher, Manager, Financial Policy & Planning**

The following was before the Committee:

- A copy of the staff presentation
- A draft spreadsheet entitled: Non-Profit Tax Rate, Option 3 Details by Category & Organization (revised September 30, 2014)
- A draft spreadsheet entitled: Community Non-Profit Impacts, by District
- A revised draft spreadsheet entitled: Non-Profit Tax Rate, Option 3 Details by Category & Organization (revised September 30, 2014) with names of organizations identified

Mr. Bruce Fisher, Manager, Financial Policy and Planning presented the proposed program re-design for non-profit tax relief on the rate options, category and sector-level impacts based on option 3, district – level impacts and impacts to non-profits increasing. Mr. Fisher responded to questions raised by the Committee respecting impacts to organizations and adjustments to HRM's budget in terms of changes in tax revenue.

Councillor Hendsbee entered the meeting at 1:14 p.m.

In reviewing the draft spreadsheets, Mr. Watts asked staff to include the percentage change based by revenue for each sector, even for properties below \$1,000, in a future spreadsheet.

Mr. Andre MacNeil, Sr. Financial Consultant presented Options 1 and 2 respecting the features of the potential phase-in approach based on a five year phase in and a two year phase in, as outlined in the presentation.

The Committee discussed the two options for potential phase-in approaches, with staff responding to questions. The Committee agreed that Option 1 based on a five year phase-in was the best approach to allow for adjustments to be made to both organizations' and Council's budgets.

Mr. Watts sought information on an option of a zero non-profit tax relief rate. Mr. Fisher responded that this would increase the write off of taxes by approximately \$1 million.

Mr. Fisher sought feedback from the Committee on the scope and timing of consultation with stakeholders, as outlined in the presentation.

Members spoke to having smaller scale consultations with stakeholders, sector by sector. Discussion was also held around larger scale consultations at each of the Community Councils. Mr. Fisher noted that dates for consultations were not determined at this time.

Councillor Dalrymple entered meeting at 2:08 p.m.

At the request of the Committee, staff circulated a revised draft spreadsheet entitled: Non-Profit Tax Rate, Option 3 Details by Category & Organization (revised September 30, 2014) which identified the names of the non-profit organizations. After reviewing the draft spreadsheet with the organizations' names, the Committee agreed that smaller scale consultations with organizations; sector by sector was the best approach to provide education around the changes.

Staff responded to questions raised by the Committee regarding the Community Non-Profit Impacts, by District spreadsheet. Suggestions were made that staff review organizations listed under the Religious category and incorporate them into a related category.

In response to a comment made around one of the organizations having sold their building and it being a taxable asset, Mr. MacNeil advised that the list would be updated to reflect changes moving into 2015.

The Committee asked staff to provide a spreadsheet identifying the organizations by name, grouped by district and category and percentage change based by revenue for each sector for their next meeting.

In response to a question raised, Mr. MacNeil indicated he would review and identify which organizations in the program have leased properties.

**8. ADDED ITEMS – NONE**

**9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday, November 3, 2014, 1:00 p.m., Halifax Hall, City Hall**

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:47 p.m.

Krista Vining  
Legislative Assistant