



**GRANTS COMMITTEE
MINUTES
December 7, 2015**

PRESENT: Councillor Barry Dalrymple, Chair
Councillor Russell Walker
Councillor David Hendsbee
Ms. Linda MacKay
Ms. Sara Colburne
Mr. Donald Dodge
Ms. Ratnam Mohan
Mr. John Falkenham

REGRETS: Ms. Janice Kenney

STAFF: Ms. Peta-Jane Temple, Team Lead, Tax, Grants, and Special Projects
Mr. Bruce Fisher, Manager, Financial Planning and Policy
Ms. Shelley Hutt, Program Technician, Grants and Contributions
Ms. Sherryll Murphy, Deputy Clerk
Ms. Cathy Collett, 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 the Grants Committee are available online: <http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/bccgrants/agenda.php>

The meeting was called to order at 1:03 p.m., and adjourned at 1:52 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:03 in the Media Room, 1st Floor, City Hall, Halifax.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 14, 2015

MOVED by Mr. Donald Dodge, seconded by Ms. Sara Colburne

THAT the minutes of September 14, 2015 be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

The Chair proposed moving the Election of Vice Chair to the end of meeting, to which the Committee agreed.

MOVED by Ms. Ratnam Mohan, seconded by Mr. Donald Dodge.

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

Two-third majority vote required.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

5. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS - NONE

8. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

9. REPORTS

9.1 STAFF

9.1.1 Tax Relief for Non-Profit Organizations Renewal of Tax Relief Additions for Fiscal Year 2015-16

The following was before the Committee:

- *A staff recommendation report dated October 22, 2015*

Ms. Peta-Jane Temple outlined several corrections in the report:

- The recommendation should read “that the Grants Committee recommend that Regional Council approve,” as opposed to “the Grants Committee approve in principle.”
- Recommendation 2 should say 10 properties, not 13 (does not change dollar value)
- Page 5, under Feed NS, the line should read “the first tax bill in 2016,” not “the first tax bill in 2015.”
- Page 8, #14, the civic address should read “5522 Buddy Daye Street.”

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Ms. Linda MacKay

That the Grants Committee recommends that Regional Council approve:

- 1. The renewal of tax relief for 626 properties as listed in Schedules 26 to 30 of this report, including an increase in tax relief for four (4) properties as shown in Table 2 of the report dated October 22, 2015, effective April 1, 2015 unless stated otherwise, at an estimated combined cost of \$3,044,426 from Account M311-8006;**
- 2. Tax relief for 10 properties in Table 3 of the report dated October 22, 2015 (Leases to be renewed), effective April 1, 2015 unless stated otherwise, at an estimated combined cost of \$129,766 from Account M311-8006;**
- 3. Pro-rated tax relief for the Kinsmen Club of Dartmouth, 30 Caledonia Road, Dartmouth, Dartmouth Non-Profit Housing Society, 357 Portland Street, Dartmouth and Creighton/Gerrish Development Association, 2256 Gottigen Street, Halifax from Account M311-8006 at a combined cost of \$9,575;**
- 4. The addition of 39 properties as listed in Table 4 of the report dated October 22, 2015, effective April 1, 2015, unless stated otherwise, at an estimated combined cost of \$124,236 from Account M311-8006;**
- 5. That all tax relief awards are conditional upon payment of any debt to the Municipality and/or pro-rated for default or any change in ownership or tenancy occurring within fiscal year 2015.**

Councillor Hendsbee commented that the Porter's Lake Community Service Association, 4693 Highway #7, Porter's Lake should receive a full tax exemption. He explained that the organizers wanted to keep it as a community endeavour, but when the city deemed it as surplus, they continued to provide the same service as when it was owned by the city. He indicated that it is a non-profit organization providing a community service and that the changing of title should not result in a full tax bill.

The Committee discussed the pros and cons of changing the percentage of tax exemption that different groups receive on a case-by case basis.

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Mr. Dodge

That the main motion be amended such that the Porter's Lake Community Services Association receives a full tax exemption.

Mr. Bruce Fisher answered questions of clarification from Committee members.

The Chair commented that only HRM owned and operated facilities are tax-exempt and that the whole program is currently under review.

Mr. Fisher elaborated on the Chair's comment, explaining that the review seeks to produce a unified program that is as consistent and fair as possible to all groups receiving tax relief.

AMENDMENT PUT AND DEFEATED.

The question was called for on the main motion.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.1.2 2016 Meeting Schedule

The following was before the Committee:

- *A copy of the proposed 2016 Meeting Schedule*

The Committee discussed the proposed 2016 Meeting Schedule for the Grants Committee. Committee members questioned if the meeting on January 4, 2016 was necessary, and staff indicated that there will likely be two reports coming forward for that meeting. Committee members indicated that they were able to attend the January meeting if it was needed.

Committee members noted that the September 5, 2016 meeting falls on Labour Day and decided to move that meeting to September 12, 2016.

MOVED by Mr. Falkenham, seconded by Ms. Mohan

THAT the Grants Committee approve the Proposed 2016 Meeting Schedule as amended.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.1.3 Memorandum re: Halifax Explosion 100th Anniversary Grants Program – Ms. Peta-Jane Temple

The following was before the Committee:

- *A memorandum re: Halifax Explosion 100th Anniversary Grants Program – Ms. Peta-Jane Temple*

Ms. Temple explained to the Committee that that the Halifax Explosion 100th Anniversary Grants Program closes on December 18, 2015 and will go to the Halifax Explosion Anniversary Advisory Committee in January, and then to Council. Emphasizing the tight timeline, she questioned Committee members on whether they would consider forwarding any eligible grants that were not funded through the Halifax Explosion 100th Anniversary Grants Program to the 2016 Community Grants program for consideration.

In response to questions of clarification, Ms. Temple explained that the Community Grants Program has a smaller maximum grant and that the deadlines for municipal grants are firm deadlines.

MOVED by Mr. Donald Dodge, seconded by Mr. John Falkenham

THAT the Grants Committee request a staff report regarding the implications of moving forward for consideration any eligible grants not recommended for funding in the Halifax Explosion Special Grants Program to the 2016 Community Grants Program.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – January 4, 2016

The Committee decided to wait until January to elect a vice chair, as there may be new members in place at that time.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:52 p.m.

Cathy Collett
Legislative Assistant