

**GOVERNANCE AND DISTRICT BOUNDARY
ADVISORY REVIEW COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

September 30, 2010

PRESENT: Mayor Peter Kelly, Chair
Councillors: Jerry Blumenthal
Barry Dalrymple
Peter Lund
Linda Mosher
Reg Rankin
Bill Karsten (on behalf of Councillor McCluskey)

REGRETS: Councillor Gloria McCluskey
Wayne Anstey, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

STAFF: Ms. Cathy Mellett, Municipal Clerk
Ms. Sara Knight, Solicitor
Mr. Ken Lenihan, GIS Technician
Ms. Alva Robinson, Data Analyst
Ms. Sherryll Murphy, Deputy Clerk

GUESTS: Councillor Steven Adams
Councillor Darren Fisher
Councillor Tim Outhit

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1. CALL TO ORDER

Councillor Blumenthal called the meeting to order at 2:42 p.m. noting that the Mayor would be joining the meeting in progress.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – None

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

Addition

7.1 Retention of Consultant by Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board (NSUARB)

MOVED by Councillor Mosher, seconded by Councillor Dalrymple that the agenda, as amended, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - None

5. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS - None

6. REPORTS

6.1 Continuation – Review of Draft Boundaries for Public Consultation

A revised table of projected voters for 2012 by District was before the Committee.

Ms. Mellett noted that concern has been expressed regarding the number of changes to the boundaries and the impact on voter engagement. In response, staff has adopted a principle that where a boundary does not need to be changed, it not be changed. Ms. Mellett noted that change is required given that ½ of the 23 districts are either above or below the +/-10% average voters per District required by the NSUARB. Ms. Mellett indicated that staff has drawn the boundaries based upon the need for change with the least amount of change in mind.

Ms. Mellett indicated that the Committee had provided good feedback at the previous meeting and the changes made by staff reflect the direction received. She noted that a community perspective was required rather than a street approach. Ms. Mellett went on to advise that the revised boundaries reflected the existing boundaries, community boundaries and the direction of the NSUARB relative to the +/-10% of the average voters per district.

3:00 p.m. Mayor Kelly and Councillor Karsten joined the meeting.

Councillor Karsten advised that he had consulted with Councillor McCluskey with regard to the proposed boundaries. He indicated that by in large the Harbour East Community Council members concurred with the boundaries with some minor tweaks. He noted that Councillor Nicoll had grave concerns regarding changes to the Cole Harbour boundary noting that the Bissett Road change and the Lake Loon and Cherrybrook boundary change would cause concern in the community.

3:05 p.m. Mayor Kelly assumes the Chair.

MOVED by Councillor Mosher, seconded by Councillor Karsten that Councillor Blumenthal be appointed Vice Chair of the Governance and District Boundary Review Advisory Committee. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Following a further review of the boundaries, **the Committee agreed that staff take the boundaries as presented to the public for their input.**

A information report is to be prepared regarding the public consultation for submission to the next meeting of Council.

7. ADDED ITEMS

7.1 Retention of Consultant by Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board (NSUARB)

Councillor Mosher expressed concern that the UARB is seeking an expert consultant to assist them in the upcoming hearing relative to municipal boundaries. She noted that this was an unusual approach and asked if HRM had been made aware of this by the UARB.

Ms. Knight indicated that HRM had not received any correspondence/notification from the UARB. She went on to advise that in 2003/04 the Board did have an expert who was retained by legal counsel for the Board. Ms. Knight pointed out that under legislation the UARB has the right to obtain such expertise.

Councillor Mosher commented that municipal boundaries should be considered in the context of the entire Province and not just Cape Breton Regional Municipality and HRM. She pointed out that there are more than 400 elected officials across Nova Scotia. HRM Councillors make up 5-6% of that number yet represent 40% of the population.

8. NEXT MEETING DATE

A meeting date will be set following the public consultation process.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Sherryl Murphy
Deputy Clerk