

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

ENERGY AND UNDERGROUND SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
February 16, 2007

MINUTES

PRESENT: Mayor Peter Kelly, Co-Chair
Councillor Linda Mosher, Co-Chair
Councillor Andrew Younger
Councillor Stephen Adams
Councillor Sheila Fougere
Councillor Debbie Hum
Deputy Mayor Sue Uteck

REGRETS: Councillor Jim Smith
Councillor Becky Kent
Councillor Steve Streach

STAFF: Mr. Brad Anguish, Director, Environmental Management Services
Mr. Ted Tam, Project Manager, Harbour Solutions Project
Mr. Stephen King, Manager, Environmental Management Services
Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:08 a.m. in Halifax Hall, City Hall.

MOVED by Councillor Hum, seconded by Councillor Adams that items 6.1 and 6.2 be moved up on the agenda to be dealt with as the first order of business. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED by Councillor Fougere, seconded by Councillor Younger that the minutes of December 1, 2006 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. APPROVAL OF ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

Additions:

- 7.1 Committee Reports - Mayor Kelly

It was noted that 6.3 and 6.4 would be dealt with In Camera.

MOVED by Councillor Adams, seconded by Deputy Mayor Uteck the agenda as amended be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES/DEFERRED ITEMS: NONE

6. NEW BUSINESS:

6.1 Presentation - Community Energy Plan

Stephen King, Manager, Environmental Performance; Wayne Lewis, CBCL, Jim Simmons, Jacques Whitford; and Aftab Erfan, Jacques Whitford.

Mr. King advised that over the past few years staff have been putting together pieces of the sustainable environment strategy and have been able to do a lot of it through partnerships and grants, which has had a minimal impact on the budget. He noted the following items as having helped facilitate with the Community Energy Plan:

- a high level corporate sustainability analysis has been completed
- established a sustainable community reserve
- Climate Smart strategy
- clean air strategy is now in place
- RFP has been issued - awarded to a consortium of CBCL. (Lewis Engineering Inc.), Jacques Whitford, and the Sheltair Group.

Mr. Wayne Lewis, Vice President of Energy Services for CBCL Ltd. provided background information on how the consortium received the RFP.

Mr. Jim Simmons addressed the Committee and advised that the Community Energy Plan is the result of a community process whose goal is to create the way forward to a more environmentally, socially, and economically sustainable community, with a fundamental focus on energy. Highlights of his remarks are as noted:

- this will be a strategy report -- will be looking at HRM's various energy projects in more detail; the Community Energy Plan works in consort with the Regional Plan.
- Objectives of the Plan:
 - integration with HRM's Regional Plan
 - ensure uninterrupted delivery of services
 - energy security and what this means for the Municipality (HRM's own operations and the public)
 - GHG emission reductions
 - sustainability in the broadest sense
 - energy efficiency and renewable energies
 - provide multiple energy options
 - important to note the community objective

Mr. Simmons outlined the Project work plan advising that it will involve information gathering, stakeholder consultation and education and awareness. The result of the Project will be an assessment of options for HRM with respect to energy planning. He added that an implementation plan and a monitoring plan will also be provided.

Additional points highlighted by Mr. Simmons are as follows:

- Currently, they are in the middle of stakeholder consultations
 - the key stakeholders and the core HRM team: EUGS, finance, legal, environmental services, planning, and capital projects; direct stakeholders: Nova Scotia Power, Conserve Nova Scotia, Nova Scotia Department of Energy; indirect stakeholders: approximately 20 to 25, and this includes Dalhousie, CFB Halifax, nongovernmental organizations
- approximately 30 percent of the project is public consultation;
- in late March/April, will be looking at assessing the options to go forward with respect to actually implementing projects relative to the community. Will be looking at a short list of opportunities that are applicable and meet the criteria.

Mr. Simmons and Mr. King responded to questions.

In response to a question by Mayor Kelly, Mr. King advised that they have a fair amount of paperwork on the Active Transportation Plan and that he would forward the Committee information on this.

Councillor Adams suggested that regarding Nova Scotia Power as a direct stakeholder was contradictory because of the amount of pollution it produces.

In response, Mr. King indicated staff are setting up a meeting with Nova Scotia Power.

Further to this, Mr. Simmons advised that this is an opportunity to let Nova Scotia Power know that HRM has consulted the community and it is also an opportunity for Nova Scotia

Power to provide feedback.

Mr. Lewis noted that Nova Scotia Power has to be included because it is the major energy supplier and have to liaise closely with them.

Deputy Mayor Uteck noted that Nova Scotia Power was slated on the agenda of the upcoming Committee of the Whole meeting and she questioned the purpose of their presentation.

Mayor Kelly advised that Council had asked that they come and justify their actions in terms of what they could be doing, but are not doing, that could reduce emissions.

Deputy Mayor Uteck suggested that a representative from CBCL should be in attendance to listen to the presentation.

In light of this information, Mr. King advised that he would hold off meeting with Nova Scotia Power until after the Committee of the Whole presentation.

In response to a question, Mr. King advised that they felt it was important to have at least one public information session on the Community Energy Plan. However, it was after the date was set, they then realized they had chosen a Council meeting day. This will be rescheduled.

Councillor Hum requested that staff send the Committee a notice which they could distribute to through their community.

Councillor Mosher thanked the representatives for their presentation.

6.2 Presentation - UNSM Municipal Sustainability Coordinator - Peggy Crawford

Councillor Mosher introduced Ms. Peggy Crawford and advised that she is newly employed with UNSM as a Municipal Sustainability Coordinator, and that as part of her responsibilities she will be doing work for HRM one day per week. The Councillor added that she asked Ms. Crawford to attend to give a presentation on her work and, in particular, her work for HRM.

In her presentation, Ms. Crawford outlined the background of the Municipal Sustainable Office and the priorities, highlighting the following:

- in 2009/10 - the Gas Tax Plan will be rolled out; important to empower municipalities around this.
- HRM is a good role model in the Province and has shown leadership
- UNSM created a Sustainable Practices Committee; created a 'How To' guide for municipalities.
- the funding partners involved have agreed to a two year commitment
- survey concluded that the initial emphasis must be energy
- 6 priority areas are:
 - awareness building
 - education
 - standard methods

- pilot projects on energy planning
- one-on-one work (e.g. meeting with Municipal Councils)
- internal greening of UNSM
- other issues on the horizon - partners for climate protection; gas tax funds and the ICSP, Municipal Coast zone management issues; municipal wastewater challenges; broader sustainability initiatives.

Ms. Crawford and Mr. Stephen King responded to questions.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

The Legislative Assistant called for nominations of Chair.

Councillor Mosher nominated Councillor Younger as Chair.

Councillor Fougere nominated Deputy Mayor Uteck as Chair.

There being no further nominations, the Legislative Assistant declared nominations closed.

Election of Chair was carried out by ballot. Councillor Younger was declared Chair by majority vote.

Councillor Younger assumed the Chair and called for nominations for Vice Chair.

Councillor Mosher nominated Councillor Adams as Vice Chair.

Councillor Fougere nominated Deputy Mayor Uteck as Vice Chair.

There being no further nominations, the Legislative Assistant declared nominations closed.

Election of Vice Chair was carried out by ballot. Councillor Adams was declared Vice-Chair by majority vote.

The meeting adjourned at 11:22 a.m. to convene an in camera session (Agenda items 6.3 Biosolids Lagoon Cleanout and 6.4 Biosolids Unsolicited Proposal Update)

The meeting reconvened at 12:06 p.m. with the same members present with the exception of Deputy Mayor Uteck.

6.5 HSP Scope Amendment - Chain Link Fence Shore Road

A report dated February 1, 2007 was submitted.

Mr. Anguish reviewed the report and responded to questions.

MOVED by Mayor Kelly, seconded by Councillor Adams that the HSP Contingency Fund be used to fund the project for additional work outside the scope of the Harbour Solutions Project reinstatement work on Shore Road, Dartmouth.

A discussion ensued.

Deputy Mayor Uteck noted that she has used her district funds for a project in relation to the Harbour Solutions, and indicated that she could not support the motion.

Councillor Hum concurred with Deputy Mayor Uteck advising that there should be consistency and processes surrounding these matters.

Councillor Fougere also indicated that she did not support the motion, advising that there are other capital funds that would be more appropriate, rather than the Harbour Solutions Contingency.

Councillor Mosher suggested that the Councillor's Building Communities fund should be used to fund this project.

MOTION DEFEATED.

6.6 HSP Scope Amendment - Undergrounding at Herring Cove Wastewater Treatment Plant

A staff report dated February 2, 2007 was submitted.

MOVED by Councillor Adams, seconded by Councillor Mosher that the Energy and Underground Services Advisory Committee recommend relocating the power poles to the right hand side of the driveway of the access road to the Herring Cove Wastewater Treatment Facility and that it be funded from the Underground Services Reserve (Q131). MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

6.7 HSP Scope Amendment - Undergrounding at Dartmouth Sewage Treatment Plant

A staff report dated February 1, 2007 was submitted.

Mr. Anguish provided an overview of the report.

MOVED by Councillor Mosher, seconded by Mayor Kelly that the Energy and Underground Services Advisory Committee recommend the power supply to the existing Cuisack Street combined sewer overflow (CSO) chamber be modified to eliminate one power pole, and that this be funded from the Underground Services Reserve Fund (Q131).

Mr. Anguish and Mr. Tam responded to questions.

Councillor Fougere advised that she would support the recommendation being forwarded to Regional Council, only because it would be consistent with the Committee's previous motion on the Herring Cove Wastewater Treatment Facility. However, she indicated that she may not be supportive of the recommendation at Regional Council because she felt

the price to move the power pole was too high.

Councillor Uteck advised that she, too, could not justify an expenditure of \$63,000 for one pole.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The Chair requested that when staff brings the matter forward to Regional Council, that photographs of the area in question be provided for clarification.

7. ADDED ITEMS:

7.1 Committee Reports

This item was added at the request of Mayor Kelly.

Mayor Kelly noted that in his agenda package for this meeting, he received only two reports. Referring to the number of agenda items and that some are listed as providing verbal updates only, he advised that the Committee should have some context of what the item is to be discussed prior to the meeting.

2.1 Discussion - Establishing Meeting Dates/Time

The Chair questioned when members wanted to meet and if they wanted to meet on a monthly basis.

A brief discussion ensued and there was general consensus that the Committee would follow the schedule of the previous Energy and Underground Services Advisory Committee of meeting the third Friday of each month at 10:00 a.m.

Further, it was **MOVED by Councillor Fougere, seconded by Councillor Adams that the Energy and Underground Services Committee meet monthly, as needed.**
MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Sheilagh Edmonds
Legislative Assistant