

Halifax Regional Municipality

HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL MINUTES APRIL 9, 1996

PRESENT: Mayor Walter Fitzgerald

Councillors: Bill Dooks
Gordon Snow
David Hendsbee
Ron Cooper
Harry McInroy
Jack Greenough
Condo Sarto
Bruce Hetherington
Clint Schofield
John Cunningham
Jerry Blumenthal
Graham L. Downey
Larry Uteck
Howard Epstein
Russell Walker
Bill Stone
Ron Hanson
Steve Adams
Barry Barnet
Bob Harvey
Peter Kelly
Reg Rankin
Jack Mitchell

STAFF MEMBERS: Mr. Ken Meech, Chief Administrative Officer
Mr. Wayne Anstey, Solicitor
Ms. Vi Carmichael, Municipal Clerk
Ms. Patti Halliday, Assistant Municipal Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. with an invocation.

2. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO ORDER OF BUSINESS

At the request of Councillor Blumenthal, it was agreed to add a motion regarding Gottingen Street Canada Employment Centre as well as a presentation by Ms. Carolann Wright, Director, North End Community Health Care Centre.

At the request of Councillor Kelly, it was agreed to add "Update on Property Tax Exemptions" to the agenda.

At the request of Councillor Barnet, it was agreed to add Item #10 from the Information Package, "Commissioner Regional Operations - Cover Material - Highway 101 Landfill" to the agenda.

At the request of Councillor Cunningham, it was agreed to add Item #12 from the Information Package, "Volunteer Advisory Committee - HarbourEdge Project" to the agenda.

At the request of Councillor Dooks, it was agreed to add "Computers" to the agenda.

At the request of Councillor Hetherington, it was agreed to add "Tourism Package" to the agenda.

At the request of Councillor Hendsbee, it was agreed to add "Mailing Labels and Address Corrections," "RDA Halifax Regional Municipality Councillor Appointments," and a "Request for Presentation by the Nova Learning Futures - New Community Gymnasium, Porter's Lake Elementary School" to the agenda.

At the request of Councillor Sarto, it was agreed to add "Prohibition of Motorized Craft in Small Lakes" to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF ORDER OF BUSINESS

MOVED by Councillors Hetherington and Cunningham that the agenda, as amended, be approved. THE MOTION WAS PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

3.1 COMMISSIONER OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

3.1.1 Regional Library Board Agreement

MOVED by Councillors Stone and Kelly that Council authorize the Mayor and Municipal Clerk to execute the Regional Library Agreement with the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Culture.

Regarding budgetary aspects, Councillor Kelly asked if these would be subject to Council's input and review. Mr. Meech replied that budgets would be subject to Council's approval. Councillor Kelly asked if this should be included in the agreement or if it is standard protocol. Mr. Anstey replied that the wording of this agreement is similar to the wording in similar agreements that have been in place in some of the municipalities. While the agreement provides for the submission of budgets, the process has always been the Council has the ultimate word with respect to approval.

THE MOTION WAS PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION

5. MOTIONS OF RESCISSION

6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

8. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS

9. REPORTS

9.1 CHIEF OF POLICE

9.1.1 By-Law - Emergency Measures

MOVED by Councillors Kelly and Sarto that Council approve in principle the draft Emergency Measures By-Law and direct staff to take the necessary steps to arrange for its formal adoption.

Chief MacDonald introduced Mr. Larry Clare who reviewed the proposed by-law and what it provides.

Councillor Kelly asked how the \$200,000 capital and operating costs of maintaining the Halifax Regional Municipality Emergency Measures Organization are broken down. Mr. Larry Clare replied \$100,000 is for operating expenses and the other \$100,000 is broken into capital expenditures for equipment for the Emergency Operations Centre. Councillor Kelly asked how much of the operating expenses is payroll and how many staff members there are. Mr. Clare replied that approximately 80% is payroll for two staff members.

Councillor Kelly inquired about the lack of an indemnification clause for fire, police, etc., or if they are protected under another act. Mr. Clare replied that they are covered under the Emergency Measures Act of Nova Scotia.

Regarding Section 10 of the by-law, Councillor Kelly asked what would happen if there was a delay in obtaining the Minister's signature. Mr. Anstey replied that they would proceed as if it were already in place.

Councillor Schofield asked if the \$200,000 is more or less than the total spent by the four municipalities last year. It was noted that it is about equivalent.

Councillor Stone asked if it was intended that the Emergency Measures Co-ordinator would work through the Police Department and if this would be an existing or new employee. Mr. Clare responded that the position would work with the Police Department as well as the Fire Department and any other pertinent departments. Mr. Meech replied that Mr. Clare would be designated as the Emergency Measures Co-ordinator for the first year and the long term resource requirements would be determined on an ongoing basis. This first year period would be used to develop the plans and needs for the long term. Councillor Stone recalled that this Emergency Measures position has always been a part-time position as far as he knows. He asked if this has ever been a full-time position in any of the municipalities. Mr. Meech replied that it was on one occasion in the City of Dartmouth, but for the most part it has been a part time position. In the long term, this may be something that they may want to change. In response to a question from Councillor Stone, Mr. Meech replied that Mr. Clare's annual salary will be \$68,000 and he will also be responsible for radio communications.

Councillor Kelly asked if this position was a Council or staff appointment. Mr. Meech replied that this position was appointment through Mr. Hayward's capacity in the legislation.

THE MOTION WAS PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

9.2 MUNICIPAL SOLICITOR

9.2.1 Civic Holiday By-Law

Mr. Anstey reviewed the background of the Civic Holiday By-law and the options for open or closure of retail operations on the civic holiday.

Councillor Hetherington noted that allowing retail operations to open from 12 noon to 6:00 p.m. on the civic holiday seemed to work well in Dartmouth as it allowed families to be together for the festivities and also allowed limited shopping.

MOVED by Councillors Hetherington and Mitchell that By-law H-100, the Civic Holiday By-law, be amended to use the time of 12 noon to 6:00 p.m. as the schedule allowing retail operations to open on the civic holiday. THE AMENDMENT WAS PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Councillors Hetherington and Greenough that Council approve in principle the draft By-law H-100, the Civic Holiday By-law, as amended, and direct staff to arrange for its formal adoption.

Councillor Cooper expressed concern with competition dictating that all businesses will stay open and he felt the whole idea of a civic holiday may go out the window before too long.

THE MOTION WAS PUT AND PASSED.

10. MOTIONS

11. ADDED ITEMS

11.1 Gottingen Street Canada Employment Centre

Mr. Rocky Jones, on behalf of the Gottingen Street Employment Centre, and Ms. Carolann Wright, Director, North End Community Health Centre, were present to speak regarding the imminent closure of the Gottingen Street Canada Employment Centre.

Mr. Jones reviewed the work of the partnership of the Black Community Work Group and representatives of Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC) which included projects to increase employment and training in the North End community. All projects came to the CED/Halifax Black Community Work Group and a decision was made collectively. It was a

model of how government and community could work together and they were very proud of this. HRDC used them as a model across the country as to how community can work with government in adverse conditions to make some changes.

At the national level in March 1996, it was determined that cutbacks would occur in the form of office closures. The issues resulting in this closure were financial savings and co-location. Mr. Jones noted that the Gottingen Street Employment Centre is located in a part of the city with the highest unemployment rate, a large number of people of African descent, and contains the largest immigrant population and Aboriginal community in their neighbourhood. All of these people are affected by this closure. Mr. Jones stated that HRDC made the decision to close this centre unilaterally without consultation. The issue of a "stand alone CEC" is the major stumbling block at this time.

Mr. Jones reiterated the importance of the Gottingen Street Canada Employment Centre to the community and the support they have been receiving. He asked that Council support them in whatever way they can by passing the proposal and resolution that have been put forward by Councillor Blumenthal.

Ms. Carolann Wright thanked the Councillors who have stopped by the Centre and supported them. She stated at this point, there are no negotiations taking place and they need to get back to the table and resume services in the community at once.

Councillor Blumenthal also pointed out that the landlord was going to take off 26% of the rent for the following year and is also ready to commit to a deal with the government in order to make it a government building. The centre does not just cover the immediate Gottingen Street area. There are clients all through the North End of Halifax, all the way up to Bedford Basin and as far west as Bayers Road. He stated that the money the government spends today will help in the future to get these people off social assistance and unemployment insurance.

11.2 Update on Property Tax Exemptions

Councillor Kelly asked for an update on a property tax exemptions report that had been requested previously. Mr. Meech replied that he has not yet received the staff report but will make an effort to have something tabled for the next Council meeting. Both Councillor Kelly and Hendsbee have received calls regarding the tax exemption.

Councillor Stone inquired about an update on where they are going with the issue of taxes. Mr. Meech replied that they are working on this and hopefully in the next couple of weeks will have more information.

Councillor Greenough asked when they might be given some preliminary budget figures. Mr. Meech replied that they hope to have something by the end of the month. This Friday, they are asking departments to put in preliminary budgets so they can do the analysis and overall budget this month or early May.

Councillor Schofield asked about the possibility of harmonization of tax exempted properties. Mr. Meech replied that they have someone looking at this issue. Councillor Schofield asked what would happen to a by-law passed a month ago in Dartmouth. Mr. Meech replied that it would remain in effect until this Council feels it needs to be changed.

11.3 Commissioner Regional Operations - Cover Material - Highway 101 Landfill

Councillor Barnet noted that this was an issue he raised about four weeks ago at the Solid Waste Advisory Committee and has been deferred from the Metropolitan Authority from February 5th. Members of Metropolitan Authority had concerns over what type of material should have been used to cover the landfill. The Department of Environment had indicated in correspondence that the sandy soil is the type of soil required and they expressed their reasons for this. The reasons lead to existing problems at the Sackville landfill. The staff of Metropolitan Authority in their February 5th memo indicated that the lowest tender was Dexter Construction at \$5.07 per ton which is a savings from \$6.22 which is currently paid. As of April 1, that contract was supposed to be expired but has been continued which amounts to about \$10,000 per month based on the amount of sand used in the previous year.

MOVED by Councillors Barnet and Harvey that Council award the tender for supply of daily cover material for the Highway 101 Sanitary Landfill Site to Dexter Construction beginning April 15, 1996 and ending December 31, 1996 as indicated in the original Metropolitan Authority staff memo dated February 5, 1996.

Councillor Kelly asked if a demonstration project could be done on part of the landfill site to see if they can justify using clay or some other substance in the interim until a new landfill site is determined. If an alternative can be found, the cost of the new landfill may be reduced. Councillor Kelly felt there was an opportunity here to do some experimentation to address this situation.

Mr. Bauld replied that there are risk factors involved in using clay. In addition, there are other factors that have an inherent risk. If they did a trial, they would have to show cause to the Department of Environment that it would be satisfactory and this requires a lengthy procedure of testing and analysis which could take several months. Therefore, it could easily be into the fall before they have the results back that would satisfy the Department of Environment. The other implication is the warranty of the landfill liner may possibly be voided if the clay is used. Also, a major factor is there may be indications for perpetual care of the landfill afterward so there is a long term factor that should be taken into consideration.

THE MOTION WAS PUT AND PASSED.

11.4 Volunteer Advisory Committee - HarbourEdge Project

Councillor Cunningham reported that the Dartmouth Downtown Development Corporation has offered to put together a committee of interested citizens representing groups and organizations which have been drawn into the Harbour Edge Project.

This committee would serve as an advisory group to the Dartmouth community council once it has been established.

MOVED by Councillors Cunningham and Sarto that staff be asked to draft the terms of reference for the HarbourEdge Project Advisory Committee and that this committee serve as an advisory group to the Dartmouth community council once this community council is established.

THE MOTION WAS PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

11.5 Computers

Councillor Dooks requested a staff report on the number of computers available as a result of amalgamation.

11.6 Tourism Package

Councillor Hetherington requested that a tourism package be put together to be given to the Mayor and Councillors to carry in their cars to give to hand out to tourists they may encounter, therefore enabling them to act as ambassadors for the Halifax Regional Municipality. Mr. Meech agreed to speak to the tourism department to see what can be put together and bring something back for approval at the next Council meeting.

11.7 Mailing Labels and Address Corrections

Councillor Hendsbee requested that the word "County" be removed from their mailing labels.

11.8 RDA Appointments

Councillor Hendsbee reported that the new RDA has opportunities for Councillor appointments and he requested that this item be put on a future Council agenda.

11.9 Community Gymnasium - Porter's Lake Elementary School

Councillor Hendsbee requested that Nova Learning Futures be invited to make a presentation at the next Council meeting regarding the proposed community gymnasium at Porter's Lake Elementary School. This was agreed to by Council. It was also agreed that a staff report looking at the information in the request as well as available alternatives should be requested.

11.10 Prohibition of Motorized Craft in Small Lakes

Councillor Sarto requested a staff report regarding motorized craft in small lakes that have residential development around the lake perimeters. It was agreed that a staff report should be provided breaking down these lakes and making some suggestions from past experience of all the municipalities so Council can deal with this as soon as possible. It was noted that there are some reports done previously by the various municipalities on this subject that could be referenced.

In a related matter, Councillor Hendsbee requested that staff look into the possibility of having these motorized craft being required to have lighting so they would be more visible, especially

at night.

11.11 Civic Holiday

Further to an item discussed earlier, Councillor Hetherington requested a staff report on the uniform opening or closing of store hours.

12. NOTICES OF MOTION

Councillor Hetherington gave notice of the following motion:

NOTICE OF MOTION: Take notice that at the regular meeting of the Halifax Regional Council to be held on Tuesday, April 23, 1996, I will move first reading of By-law #H-100, the Civic Holiday By-law. The purpose of such by-law is to establish the first Monday in each year a Civic Holiday in Halifax Regional Municipality and to regulate retail store hours on that day.

13. Standing and Advisory Committees

Commissioner Val Spencer gave an overview of the Standing and Advisory Committees Report which will be discussed at a Committee-of-the-Whole meeting on Thursday, April 11, 1996. The report recommends that Council set the objective of establishing region-wide citizen advisory committees, which are few in number and broad in scope. It also recommends that Council reinstate some, but not all, of existing committees, to report directly to the Council or to work directly with the administration throughout 1996. The terms and work of these committees will be reviewed during that time.

14. Proclamation

Mayor Fitzgerald made the following proclamation for National Wildlife Week:

WHEREAS “National Wildlife Week” was created in memory of conservationist Jack Miner by an Act of Parliament in 1947 to create awareness about the importance of wildlife conservation in Canada; and,

WHEREAS the Canadian Wildlife Federation hopes that National Wildlife Week will stimulate community participation in understanding and actively protecting Canadian species at risk; and,

WHEREAS Protection of habitat is necessary for the survival of Canada’s native plants and animals, and,

WHEREAS Wildlife belongs to all Canadians and should be conserved for the benefit of future generations; and,

WHEREAS The theme chosen for this year's National Wildlife Week is "We're Part of the World-Wide Web of Live--Get On-line with Nature's Network" which focuses on how our lives are interwoven with nature and how we must take action to conserve ecosystems.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Walter R. Fitzgerald, Mayor of the Halifax Regional Municipality, do hereby proclaim the week of April 7 - 13, 1996, as National Wildlife Week in the Halifax Regional Municipality, and urge all citizens to participate in developing projects which will focus on biodiversity to improve wildlife habitat in the Regional Municipality.

MOVED by Councillors Hendsbee and Dooks acceptance of the proclamation. THE MOTION WAS PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Councillors Hetherington and Greenough that the meeting adjourn at 7:30 p.m. THE MOTION WAS PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MAYOR WALTER FITZGERALD, CHAIRMAN

Respectfully submitted by:
Vi Carmichael, Municipal Clerk

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1.0 Invocation, Page 2
- 2.0 Additions/Deletions to Order of Business, Page 2
- 3.0 Business Arising out of the Minutes, Page 3
 - 3.1 Commissioner of Community Services, Page 3
 - 3.1.1 Regional Library Board Agreement, Page 3
- 4.0 Motions of Reconsideration, Page 3
- 5.0 Motions of Rescission, Page 3
- 6.0 Consideration of Deferred Business, Page 3
- 7.0 Public Hearings, Page 3
- 8.0 Correspondence, Petitions and Delegations, Page 3
- 9.0 Reports, Page 3
 - 9.1 Chief of Police, Page 3
 - 9.1.1 By-Law - Emergency Measures, Page 3
 - 9.2 Municipal Solicitor, Page 5
 - 9.2.1 Civic Holiday By-Law, Page 5
- 10. Motions, Page 5
- 11. Added Items, Page 5
 - 11.1 Gottingen Street Canada Employment Centre, Page 5
 - 11.2 Update on Property Tax Exemptions, Page 8
 - 11.3 Cover Material - Highway 101 Landfill, Page 8
 - 11.4 Volunteer Advisory Committee - HarbourEdge Project, Page 9
 - 11.5 Computers, Page 10
 - 11.6 Tourism Package, Page 10
 - 11.7 Mailing Labels and Address Corrections, Page 10
 - 11.8 RDA Appointments, Page 10
 - 11.9 Community Gymnasium - Porter's Lake Elementary School, Page 10
 - 11.10 Prohibition of Motorized Craft in Small Lakes, Page 10
 - 11.11 Civic Holiday, Page 11
- 12. Notices of Motion, Page 11
- 13. Standing and Advisory Committees, Page 11
- 14. Proclamation - National Wildlife Week, Page 11