HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL October 1, 1996

PRESENT: Mayor Walter Fitzgerald

Deputy Mayor Jack Greenough

Councillors Bill Dooks

Gordon R. Snow David Hendsbee Ron Cooper Harry McInroy Condo Sarto

Bruce Hetherington Clint Schofield

John Cunningham Jerry Blumenthal Graham L. Downey

Larry Uteck Howard Epstein Russell Walker

Bill Stone Ron Hanson Stephen Adams Barry Barnet Robert Harvey Peter Kelly Reg Rankin Jack Mitchell

STAFF MEMBERS: Mr. Ken Meech, Chief Administrative Officer

Wayne Anstey, Municipal Solicitor Ms. Vi Carmichael, Municipal Clerk

Ms. Jane Nauss, Assistant Municipal Clerk

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1. **INVOCATION**

Mayor Fitzgerald called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with an Invocation.

PROCLAMATIONS

Mayor Fitzgerald read the following proclamations: World Breastfeeding Week; MikMaq History Month, Child Abuse Awareness and National Aids Awareness Week.

Mr. Winston Hodder pinned a red ribbon representing awareness of Aids on Mayor Fitzgerald. Red Ribbons were passed out to Members of Council.

Councillor Sarto introduced Mr. Byron Peters and his driver who were in the gallery this evening. Mr. Peters is walking across Canada to raise awareness and funds for Huntington's Disease. Others in attendance included Mr. and Mrs. Barry Spencer, and Mr. Jim Russell.

Mayor Fitzgerald thanked Mr. Peters and wished him well on his journey. Mr. Peters in turn, expressed his gratitude to Council.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** - Sept. 24/96

MOVED by Councillors Hetherington and Stone to approve the minutes of Sepember 24, 1996. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

The Clerk added the following items to the agenda:

- 12.1 Appointment Halifax Taxi & Limousine Committee
- 12.2 Councillor Kelly Consideration Committee to Review Proposed Gas Pipe Line
- 12.3 Councillor Rankin Atlantic Headquarters RCMP
- 12.4 Award of Tender New Fire Station, Bedford, N.S.
- 12.5 FX International

Circulated as well was an information item on the Harbour Consensus Symposium as an addition to the Information Items (this item was not discussed by Council).

MOVED by Councillor Hetherington and Deputy Mayor Greenough to approve the Order of Business, as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- 4. **BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES** None
- 5. **MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION** NONE
- 6. **MOTIONS OF RESCISSION** NONE
- 7. **CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS**
- 7.1 Merkel House 2445 Brunswick St.

A supplementary staff report prepared by Mr. Dan English, Commissioner of Community Services, was before Council for information.

Councillor Downey enquired if recommendation #2 could be amended so that staff could determine if a Heritage Conservation Area Plan and by-law could be prepared for Brunswick Street in 1996 rather than 1997.

Councillor Downey further enquired if the information included in the staff report was obtained in accordance with the Heritage Act. In response, Mr. Wayne Anstey, Municipal Solicitor, advised this was simply a legal opinion and it is staff's view that the applicant had followed all requirements, was not interested in negotiating further with the Region and was entitled to demolish the building in question.

Mr. Dan Norris, Co-Ordinator, Heritage Policy, addressed Council reiterating Mr. Anstey's comments.

Councillor Stone suggested staff would not be able to prepare a Heritage Conservation Area Plan and by-law for Brunswick Street in 1996 due to their work load. He suggested that Council approve the staff recommendation as is. Mr. Norris offered that staff could only address the Hydrostone building this year and Brunswick Street next year.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Cunningham as to the purpose of recommendation #1, Mr. Norris advised the land is still considered Heritage property therefore, the Act must still be adhered to.

Councillor Epstein suggested Council consider prosecuting the applicant. However, Mayor Fitzgerald did not recommend this action as the Region has already lost the building.

Councillor Hendsbee suggested Council should have stepped in guicker than it did.

Councillor Cooper enquired if a verbal "go ahead" from staff was appropriate for an owner to demolish a building of historic nature or should the order be on paper.

In response, Mr. Anstey advised that staff was in a position where a demolition permit could have been issued.

Councillor Cooper expressed concern stating that Council should be prepared to enforce its regulations and by-laws.

Councillor Hetherington stated the owner was within his rights to tear down the building and that Council should adopt staff's recommendation.

Councillor Harvey suggested Council needs to work in partnership with the Heritage Committee and that this discussion was after the fact.

MOVED by Councillors Downey and Blumenthal that:

- 1. Council refer the question of the continued heritage registration of 2445
 Brunswick Street to the Regional Heritage Advisory Committee, for the
 Committee to hold a public hearing and make recommendation to Council;
- 2. Council direct staff to determine if a Heritage Conservation Area plan and by-law can be prepared for the Brunswick Street area in 1996, after the Hydrostone Conservation Area plan and by-law are largely completed; and
- 3. Council direct staff to develop a procedure which would be implemented whenever an application is made to demolish a registered heritage property.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

- 8. **PUBLIC HEARINGS** NONE
- 9. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS

Councillor Hetherington advised he had correspondence he wished to share with Council, however, if Council agreed, he would address it under agenda item # 10.3.6. Council agreed.

10. **REPORTS**

10.1 **Solid Waste Resource Advisory Committee**

10.1.1

Amendment to Cumberland Agreement

A copy of correspondence from Cox Downie regarding the above-noted, was before Council for discussion.

MOVED by Councillors Rankin and Sarto to approve the amending Agreement to include the Towns of Amherst and Oxford as additional parties to the disposal agreement. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

10.2 Members of Council

10.2.1

Khyber Building (Councillor Epstein)

A copy of a memorandum from Councillor Epstein pertaining to the above, was before Council for discussion.

Councillor Epstein requested a staff report on the current state of the building.

MOVED by Councillors Epstein and Stone that a staff report be prepared on the current state of the building with said report to include who is paying for repairs if indeed there are any and if there is a lease. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

10.2.2

Halifax International Airport and Keddy's Hotel (Councillor Hendsbee)

Councillor Hendsbee suggested Council ask the Federal government to permit Mr. Keddy to continue constructing the hotel at the Halifax International Airport.

Following a brief discussion, it was determined that as the property did not belong to the

Region, then Council was not in a position to become involved in this private sector project.

10.3 **Chief Administrative Officer**

10.3.1

Non-Profit Housing (Harbour Homes & 10 Eaton Ave) - Request for deferral until October 15/96

A copy of a staff report prepared for Val Spencer, Commissioner of Community Services, was before Council for discussion.

MOVED by Councillors Hanson and Walker that this item be deferred to the October 15, 1996 Council Session to allow staff sufficient time to discuss the report and related issues with the affected Housing groups and staff of the Department of Housing and Municipal Affairs. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

10.3.2

Memorandum from Commissioner of Regional Operations dated Sept. 16/96 re: Provincial Cost Shared Roads

An Information Report prepared for Mr. George McLellan, Commissioner of Regional Operations, was before Council for discussion.

Council addressed correspondence received from Hon. Don Downe, Minister of Transportation and Public Works which stated the Province was to refine and review the designation of cost shared roads.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Sarto, Mr. Kulvinder Dhillon, Director of Engineering Services, advised that funding will now be required in both the Region's Operating and Capital Budgets in order to cover the costs for additional road maintenance and upgrading as a result of the Province's proposal. The full extent of the full costs involved would not be known, however, until the end of the fiscal year.

Councillor Sarto suggested, and Council agreed, that the Minister be invited to attend the upcoming Joint Meeting of Council and MLAs.

Councillor Dooks stated there are approximately 700 - 800 kilometres of road in District 1 and that his residents have to rely on the Province for care of these roads. Further, some communities still have roads that are not paved. Also, many residents are living on roads maintained by the Province but not owned by the Province. These people have been advised these roads may not be plowed next year. He closed his comments by stating he was tired of his residents being treated as second class citizens.

Councillor Stone suggested that Mayor Fitzgerald respond to the correspondence from Hon. Downe stating that Halifax Regional Council does not accept this proposal. These are major roads and should be taken under the control of the Province 100%. Further, residents should be advised that the Province in reneging on its promise.

MOVED by Councillor Stone and Deputy Mayor Greenough that the Mayor correspond with the Province advising that Halifax Regional Council does not accept this proposal by the Province.

In speaking to the Motion, Deputy Mayor Greenough stated that municipalities should be able to share in the revenue generated through the gas tax and vehicle registration permits. Further, he suggested this concept be included in the correspondence. He felt it was unfair of the Province to collect this revenue on the premise that it is required to support the highway system. With the municipalities now having additional roads to maintain, property taxes now need to be raised to maintain the roads.

Councillor Rankin suggested the fact of revenue neutrality being broken should be included in the letter as well.

Councillor Sarto stated he would like to obtain the names of the affected roads, to which the Mayor advised this list would be obtained.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

10.3.3

Beaver Bank Fire Apparatus

A staff report prepared for Mr. Gary Greene, Commissioner of Fire Services, was before Council for discussion.

MOVED by Councillors Barnet and Sarto that Council approve the purchase of a new tank for the Beaver Bank Fire Department and that Council authorize the issuance of debentures to finance the project. MOTION PUT AND PASSED

UNANIMOUSLY.

10.3.4

<u>Application for Plan Amendment - Timberlea-Lakeside MPS</u>

A copy of a staff report prepared for Mr. Dan English, Commissioner of Community Services and Acting Director of Planning, was before Council for discussion.

MOVED by Councillors Rankin and Hetherington that the request to amend the Timberlea / Lakeside/ Beechville Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-Law to allow for greater provisions for entertainment uses not be considered by Halifax Regional Council.

A brief discussion ensued as to why this matter was being discussed by the Regional Council and not the Community Council. In response, Councillor Rankin advised that a Plan Amendment must be adopted by the main Council.

Councillor Cooper expressed concern with the process and suggested the Municipal Planning Advisory Committee has been by-passed.

Another Motion was then put on the floor.

MOVED by Councillors Cooper and Hendsbee to refer this matter to the Municipal Planning Advisory Committee.

Councillor Hendsbee suggested this be forwarded to the Northwest Community Council to implement a public information session.

Councillor Rankin stated that Council was considering initiating a public information session for something that may not occur. Further, this is questionable and will delay the process.

MOTION DEFEATED.

The main Motion was then voted upon.

MOTION CARRIED.

10.3.5

Farm Acreage

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Due to the fact that Councillor McInroy was employed by the Provincial Assessment Department, he left his place at the meeting.

A copy of a staff report prepared for Mr. Larry Corrigan, Commissioner of Corporate Services, was before Council for discussion.

Councillor Bill Dooks reviewed background information on this matter and stated this was another example of the Province downloading on the municipality. He noted he is against the staff recommendation but would like support from Council regarding alternative #1 adding "for one year."

MOVED by Councillors Dooks and Walker to provide exemption from taxation for registered farmland previously assessed exempt, for one year.

In speaking to the Motion Mr. Ken Meech, Chief Administrative Officer, reminded Council that the Operating Budget has already been approved, therefore; there is a revenue item in the budget pertaining to this matter, which must be collected.

Deputy Mayor Greenough sympathized with Councillor Dooks, however, he noted this Council should not take on the burdens of the Province.

Councillor Sarto suggested Council was setting a dangerous precedent if this Motion is approved.

To clarify the situation, Deputy Mayor Greenough stated that the Province was providing a subsidy to the individuals involved. This subsidy has now been eliminated. Should this Council take over the provision of the subsidy, then we have picked up something that the Province has gotten rid of.

In response to an enquiry from Mayor Fitzgerald if Council can now vote contrary to an earlier affirmative vote pertaining to the Operating Budget, Mr. Wayne Anstey, Municipal Solicitor, advised this was in a bit of a grey area. In the general resolution of the Operating Budget, a revenue figure of \$45,000 was included. With regards to the tax rate, however, this was not specifically covered but perhaps should have been. He reminded Council this issue pertained to a different tax - that on farm acreage. Although the Motion on the floor is in order, he reiterated the comments of the Chief Administrative Officer that should the Motion be adopted, the tax would not be generated.

Mr. Ken Meech, Chief Administrative Officer, suggested this matter should have been dealt with during Budget discussions. Further, he recommended Council stay with what was approved in the Budget.

Councillor Dooks suggested that municipal buildings not being utilized could be sold to raise the required funding.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Harvey as to what other municipalities do in this situation, Mr. Meech suggested that Council make this enquiry during the upcoming UNSM Conference.

MOTION DEFEATED.

The following Motion was then placed on the floor.

MOVED by Councillors Barnet and Epstein that the farm property tax rate be set at a rate equivalent to that charged in the 1995/96 taxation year and that the issue of taxation of registered farm property be considered when formulating the Tax Structure of the Halifax Regional Municipality. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Council took a 10 minute break at 8:30 p.m. and reconvened at 8:40 p.m.

Councillor McInroy resumed his place at the meeting.

10.3.6

Prohibition of Motorized Craft on Small Lakes

A copy of a staff report prepared for Police Chief Vince MacDonald was before Council for discussion.

Councillor Cooper stated that the staff report did not address all concerns. In response,

Inspector Murphy advised this was a working document only and was subject to change.

MOVED by Councillors Cooper and Hendsbee to refer this matter to the Community Councils for recommendation to Council. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Councillor Hetherington handed to the Clerk correspondence he had pertaining to Lake MicMac and the types of events which take place on lakes which could be affected by these discussions.

10.3.7

Old Grace Maternity Site

A copy of a staff report prepared for Mr. Wayne Anstey, Municipal Solicitor, was before Council for discussion.

MOVED by Councillors Downey and Uteck to endorse the proposal by Dalhousie University and Salvation Army Grace Maternity Hospital to use the former Grace Maternity Hospital site at University Avenue, Summer Street and College Street as a parking lot with supplementary landscaping and a walkway.

Councillor Epstein suggested there were three problems: a) there is no revenue coming to the municipality; b) Council is considering consenting to an open unrestricted use, and c) term of lease.

Councillor Epstein suggested Council should determine if the interests of the municipality are being adequately protected. Further, he enquired if perhaps this matter should be deferred for further study.

Councillor Uteck advised this is a five-year lease and hopes the property is used for educational purposes in the long term.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Kelly, Mr. Meech advised revenues generated from the parking lot will offset costs to demolish the structure.

In response to another enquiry from Councillor Kelly, Mr. Peter McDonough, Solicitor for Dalhousie, advised that it would take approximately 7 - 8 years to pay off \$450,000 in demolition costs.

Councillor Epstein enquired if Dalhousie University could be in a position to utilize the land

for educational purposes subsequent to the demolition costs being recouped. In response, Mr. McDonough advised there is a conceptual plan for a medical library.

Councillor Hendsbee suggested should the land be used for economic gain, the municipality should share in this gain.

Councillor Kelly suggested all information should be obtained (market value of the property, assessed value) prior to Council making a decision.

Deputy Mayor Greenough reminded Council that the land is supporting a teaching hospital and higher learning institution. Further, he agreed that the benefits to the municipality would be significant. He suggested that "to be reviewed on the anniversary date to the lease" be added to the Motion.

Councillor Epstein suggested adding "for a period not to exceed five years" to the Motion.

No vote was taken on the Motion.

Another Motion was placed on the floor.

MOVED by Councillors Epstein and Kelly to endorse the proposal by Dalhousie University and Salvation Army Grace Maternity Hospital to use the former Grace Maternity Hospital site at University Avenue, Summer Street and College Street as a parking lot with supplementary landscaping and a walkway, for a period not to exceed five years.

Mr. Wayne Anstey reminded Council this is an agreement between Dalhousie and the Salvation Army and that the municipality is not part of this agreement.

MOTION CARRIED.

10.3.8

Grant Lands - Dartmouth Watershed

A copy of a staff report prepared for Mr. Wayne Anstey, Municipal Solicitor, was before Council for discussion.

MOVED by Councillors Schofield and Hetherington that Council authorize the Mayor and Municipal Clerk to execute a deed conveying to the Halifax Regional Water Commission those lands acquired from the Grant family in the Dartmouth Watershed at Lake Major. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

11. MOTIONS

11.1 Councillor Rankin - To give First Reading to an amendment to Former Metropolitan Authority By-Law #7 to adopt a Commercial Tipping Fee of \$100.00 for Halifax Regional Municipality.

A staff report prepared for Mr. George McLellan, Commissioner of Community Services, was before Council for discussion purposes.

MOVED by Councillors Rankin and Hetherington that the amendment to former Metropolitan Authority By-Law #7 attached as Appendix "A" to the staff report, be given First Reading and referred to the Council Meeting of October 15, 1996 for Public Hearing and Second Reading. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

11.2 Councillor Adams - To pass First Reading on an amendment to the old Halifax County By-Law requiring the Municipal Clerk to license taxis and taxi drivers, and to transfer this responsibility to the License Inspector in the former City of Halifax.

MOVED by Councillors Adams and Hetherington to approve First Reading that Halifax County Municipality By-Law #10, the Taxi By-Law be amended by deleting the words "Municipal Clerk of the Municipality" from clause (a) of Section 2 thereof and by substituting therefor the words "Inspector of Licenses appointed by the Chief of Police of the Halifax Regional Municipality, and any Deputy or assistant to the Inspector duly authorized to perform the duties hereinafter set out by the Chief of Police." MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

11.3 Councillor Barnet - To strongly urge the Halifax Regional School Board to

take all actions available to them to create a single tier education system within our region treating all students equally regardless of where they reside.

MOVED by Councillors Barnet and Schofield:

WHEREAS education is the key to the future of all students within the Halifax Regional Municipality; and WHEREAS amalgamation has created one municipality and one school board within our bounds and jurisdiction; and WHEREAS this Council at the beginning of each session pledges an invocation to God asking for His guidance so that we will work for the good of our community and help all of His people; THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Council strongly urges the new Halifax Regional School Board and the Province of Nova Scotia Department of Education to take every action available to them, as quickly as possible, to create a single tier education system, providing all students regardless of where they live within the Halifax Region every opportunity we can afford them.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

11.4 Councillor Epstein - To pass First Reading on an Administrative Order to form a Community Council to include District 11, District 12, District 13 and District 14, to be called Halifax Peninsula Community Council.

MOVED by Councillors Epstein and Blumenthal that there is hereby established a Community Council to be known as the Halifax Peninsula Community Council for the area of the Halifax Regional Municipality that on the 1st day of April, 1996 was included in polling district 11, Halifax North End; polling district 12, Halifax Downtown; polling district 13, Northwest Arm-South End; and, polling district 14, Connaught-Quinpool.

In speaking to the Motion, Councillor Downey advised he would like to be omitted from this Community Council unless it is the wish of his residents that he participates.

MOVED by Councillors Downey and Kelly to amend the Motion to exclude District 12 from Halifax Peninsula Community Council.

In speaking to the Motion, Councillor Kelly suggested the community and Councillor involved should have a choice in this regard.

Councillor Adams advised that although he did not agree initially with the concept of community councils, they are a fact of life. Community Councils deal with matters on a local level and that it is unfair of Councillor Downey to expect the main Council to make decisions on issues of a minor nature that pertain to his district.

Councillor Rankin advised he would be supporting the amendment as there is a provision in the Act to Incorporate the Halifax Regional Municipality, to permit a Councillor to make this particular decision.

Councillor Cooper made reference to comments made earlier by Councillor Kelly on residents making decisions as to what happens in this District. Councillor Cooper expressed concern with forcing something of this nature on a member of this Council. He suggested Councillor Downey take this matter to his residents.

Councillor Hendsbee advised that Community Councils are a form of direct democracy for residents to deal with local issues. Further, he felt that no District within the Region should be left out of a Community Council.

Councillor Harvey stated that although Community Councils have worked well in the past he felt uncomfortable with forcing all four Districts to form a Community Council.

No vote was taken on the Motion on the floor.

The following Motion was then placed on the floor.

MOVED by Councillors Harvey and Mitchell to defer this matter for three months. MOTION CARRIED.

12. **ADDED ITEMS**

12.1 Appointment - Halifax Taxi & Limousine Committee

A memorandum from Mayor Fitzgerald nominating Mr. Tim Auld to the Halifax Taxi & Limousine Committee was before Council for discussion.

MOVED by Councillors Adams and Hanson to appoint Mr. Tim Auld to the Halifax Taxi & Limousine Committee. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

12.2 Councillor Kelly - Committee to Review Proposed Gas Pipe Line

Councillor Kelly advised that this Council must be proactive regarding the proposed gas pipe line. Further, the Region must prepare a position by forming a Committee to review the situation by preparing a cost benefit analysis based on financial, operation, business development, job development and environmental concerns.

MOVED by Councillors Kelly and Epstein to form a Committee to review the proposed Gas Pipe Line. MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor Fitzgerald invited those Councillors who were interested in sitting on this Committee to contact his office.

12.3 Councillor Rankin - Atlantic Headquarters - RCMP

A copy of a memorandum from Councillor Rankin pertaining to the above-noted, was before Council for consideration.

MOVED by Councillors Rankin and Hetherington for the Chief Administrative Officer to draft a letter for the Mayor's signature, to our Federal representatives, including Russell McLellan, MP, and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice and copied to all Members of Parliament. Said letter is to promote Halifax Regional Municipality as the location to house management functions of the RCMP. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

12.4 Award of Tender for New Station - Bedford, Nova Scotia

A memorandum prepared for Mr. Larry Corrigan, Commissioner of Corporate Services, was before Council for discussion.

MOVED by Councillors Kelly and Mitchell that the contract for masonry work for the Bedford Fire Hall be awarded to Carey Brothers Masonry at a cost of \$219,450.

A lengthy discussion ensued on the fact that Carey Brothers Masonry was not the lowest bid but the lowest bid "meeting the requirements of the tender." As TAG Enterprises Limited did not demonstrate a history of five years experience working primarily in the masonry trade, although their bid was the lowest, they did not meet the requirements of the tender.

Mr. Noel Fowler, Architect for this project, addressed Council noting this was not a slight against TAG Enterprises Limited, however, the firm is not a masonry contractor.

Councillor McInroy suggested that this general masonry firm (TAG) should have been excluded from the tender call.

MOTION CARRIED.

12.5 **FX INTERNATIONAL**

Councillor Blumenthal expressed concern with information pertaining to FX International being distributed so late to Members of Council. Subsequent to forwarding information to the Clerk, Councillor Blumenthal requested this matter be deferred for two weeks.

MOVED by Councillors Blumenthal and Hetherington to defer this matter for two weeks. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councillor Blumenthal advised that the Director of FX International was to visit Nova Scotia within the next two weeks.

13. **NOTICES OF MOTION**

13.1 MOVED by Councillors Epstein and Blumenthal that during the next Regular Meeting of the Halifax Regional Council to be held on October 15, 1996, Councillor Epstein will introduce a Motion to create a Community Council to be known as Peninsula Community Council, to be comprised of Districts 11, 13 and 14.

14. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED by Councillor Barnet and Deputy Mayor Greenough to adjourn the meeting at 10:25 p.m. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Vi Carmichael Municipal Clerk