

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL MINUTES April 16, 1997

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

ABSENT: Mayor Walter Fitzgerald (Regrets)
Bruce Hetherington (Regrets)
Stephen Adams

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

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1. Infrastructure Program 3

Following the Committee of the Whole Meeting, Council met in Regular Session to discuss the Infrastructure Program.

Deputy Mayor Greenough called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

1. INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

- A report prepared by Mr. Ken Meech, CAO, regarding Infrastructure Funding, was before Council for discussion.
- A memo from Mr. Ken Meech, CAO, regarding Addition - Infrastructure Program, was before Council for discussion.

Mr. Ken Meech reminded Council that the Federal and Provincial governments have agreed to provide funding associated for the Bedford Waterfront Development Corporation project and are requesting that HRM approve its share.

Mr. Meech reviewed the report detailing the recommendations and requests for the Infrastructure Program.

Councillor Barnet quoted a paragraph from a letter he faxed to Councillors regarding the Beaver Bank Area - Sanitary and Clearwater Sewer and Water project. Councillor Barnet stressed the need for this project and requested Council's support for it.

MOVED by Councillors Barnet and Uteck that when the Infrastructure Project request list is forwarded that the Beaver Bank Area - Sanitary and Clearwater Sewer and Water project be the top priority project. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Councillors Uteck and Barnet that the Priority List of nine infrastructure requests for 1997-98 as proposed in the staff report, with the amendment of moving the Beaver Bank Area - Sanitary and Clearwater Sewer and Water project to the top priority, be approved.

Councillor Blumenthal proposed an amendment to the motion on the floor.

MOVED by Councillors Blumenthal and Hendsbee that the motion be amended to include the full list of infrastructure requests, in addition to the Priority List.

With respect to the Bedford Waterfront Development Corporation project, Mr. Meech suggested Council could agreed to its share of funding on the assumption of 50 percent cost sharing for the Highway 103 Interchange will be given in return.

Councillor Hendsbee supported the motion noting that this Infrastructure Program list will be the only opportunity to obtain capital works projects for his District. One of the most important requests for this area is the North Preston Community Recreation

Centre.

Mr. Meech stated if the entire list is sent, the indication will be given that HRM is prepared to pay its one-third share for any project that is approved. If there is no money set aside in the Capital Budget for these projects, the question will arise as to where this funding will come.

Although he did not oppose the Bedford Waterfront Development Corporation project being used as a bargaining tool, Councillor Kelly stated he did not want the project to be lost, noting it is the only project that will produce a monetary return.

Councillor McInroy spoke against the motion stating if all the requests are put forward, every project that is funded will be said to have been requested by HRM.

Councillor Cooper stated he will support the motion as long as the priority projects are clearly identified.

Councillor Dooks in speaking in favour of the motion requested Council's support to meet the needs of the rural community.

Mr. Meech suggested a better approach may be to send in a list of specific priorities, and one community project priority from each Councillor. Following this will be the list of projects from the other agencies that Council is willing to support.

The vote on the Amendment was taken.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The vote on the Main Motion, as amended, was taken.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Councillor Epstein raised the issue of supplementary educational funding in relation to the request from the School Board for \$7.5 million in infrastructure funds.

MOVED by Councillors Harvey and Epstein that Council give notice that it is prepared to support \$2.5 million with respect to the School Board's application for Infrastructure funding, with the understanding that this will come out of the Operating Budget and will be spent only in the areas of the former County of Halifax and Town of Bedford.

In speaking against the motion, Councillor Dooks stated this decision should not be made without input from the residents that will be affected by the area rate. Councillor Kelly stated before approving any additional funds, he would like to know the School Board's plans for these funds.

Councillor Hendsbee spoke in favour of the motion on the condition the School Board provides Council with a list of where it intends to put this equipment.

Councillors Rankin and Snow spoke against the motion as it was their opinion that this tax increase would be insensitive to the rural areas. Councillor Barnet suggested this issue should be explored through the Community Councils to see if there is community acceptance.

Councillor Epstein noted passing the motion will not commit anyone to impose an area rate. This is a decision that will be made at budget time. The intent of the motion is to inform the Federal and Provincial governments that Council is prepared to put forward the School Board's proposal for cost sharing for their consideration.

MOVED by Councillors Kelly and Barnet that this item be referred to the Operating Budget and that it also be included on the Infrastructure list to be forwarded to the Federal and Provincial governments. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Councillors Mitchell and Barnet that the meeting adjourn at 5:45 p.m. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Vi Carmichael
MUNICIPAL CLERK