

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE MINUTES April 8, 1997

PRESENT: 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
Bob Harvey
Peter Kelly
Reg Rankin
Jack Mitchell

ABSENT: Mayor Walter Fitzgerald

STAFF MEMBERS: Mr. Ken Meech, Chief Administrative Officer
Mr. Wayne Anstey
Mr. Wayne Anstey, Municipal Solicitor
Mr. Larry Corrigan, Commissioner of Corporate Services
Mr. George McLellan, Commissioner of Regional Operations
Ms. Vi Carmichael, Municipal Clerk
Ms. Jane Nauss, Assistant Municipal Clerk

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0 Proposed Demolition - Casino Theatre 3

1. Tabling of Capital Budget 3

2. Recommendations - Infrastructure Projects 5

3. Infrastructure Maintenance and Transportation Planning Issues 5

 3.1 Pavement Conditions - Management System 5

 3.2 GoPlan Regional Transportation Plan 6

4. Amendments to Financial Provisions - HRM Act 8

6. General Amendments to HRM Act 8

7. Grants Committee 9

 7.1 Grant Program, Tax Relief Program, Tax Exemptions 9

 7.2a Neptune Theatre 9

 7.2b Canoe '97 9

 7.3 Revised Composition - Grants Committee 9

8. Presentation - Rick Hanson - Man in Motion Legacy 9

9. Revised Solid Waste/Resource Management Strategy - Implementation
Schedule - Continued Discussion 10

10. Adjournment 11

Mayor Fitzgerald called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

1.0 **Proposed Demolition - Casino Theatre**

Councillor Downey addressed Council expressing his concern with the proposed demolition of the Casino Theatre, located at 2116 -2122 Gottingen Street.

MOVED by Councillors Downey and Blumenthal that the Halifax Regional Municipality request Empire Theatres Limited, as a good corporate citizen, to withhold the demolition of the Casino Theatre until the return to Halifax of His Worship Mayor Walter Fitzgerald. Further, that Halifax Regional Municipality is not prepared to assume any liability in this regard.

During Council deliberation of this Motion, it was made clear that Council would not intend on revoking the demolition permit, nor issue an order to stop the demolition.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

1. **TABLING OF THE CAPITAL BUDGET**

MOVED by Councillors Hetherington and Mitchell to table the 1997/98 Capital Budget.

Mr. Ken Meech, Chief Administrative Officer, provided Council with brief comments prior to a presentation made by Mr. Larry Corrigan, Commissioner, Corporate Services. Council was advised the Capital Budget has been restricted to projects of a major replacement, rather than new projects, with the exception of Solid Waste - approximately \$25 million (HRM is now absorbing the cost of the construction of the new landfill).

The intent of the Committee of the Whole today was to table the proposed Capital Budget with dates scheduled for actual Departmental Budget deliberations.

Mr. Larry Corrigan, Commissioner, Corporate Services, provided an overview of the 1997/98 Capital Budget.

In Summary, Mr. Corrigan noted the following:

- ! the Budget totals \$69,741 million (gross) of which Solid Waste approximates \$24,345 million.
- ! by Department, Regional Operations is responsible for 74% of the Budget; Community Services - 11%; Fire Services - 6%, Corporate Services - 6% and Other Departments - 3%.
- ! this year's Capital Budget falls in line with the past couple of years although

1994/95 realized a major Solid Waste commitment, and 1995/96 was high due to the infrastructure program, the G7 Conference and heavy spending of Reserves by the former municipal units.

- ! the proposed 1997/98 Capital Budget is comprised of new projects (26%), repair (39%), and Solid Waste (35%).
- ! in comparison to the 1996/97 Capital Budget, there are less than half the number of projects in the proposed 1997/98 Capital Budget.
- ! within the proposed 1997/98 Capital Budget, 61% is allocated to eight projects - totalling \$42,231,000.
- ! there is \$6.6 million of external funding.
- ! unaudited Reserve Fund Balances are in line with 1996/97.
- ! total debt approved and outstanding as at March 31, 1997 approximates \$307 million.
- ! a ten year forecast has been prepared - Solid Waste project is now amortized over 20 years.
- ! referenced a Debt Forecasting Model - Debt Charges and Servicing Ratios with the following key assumptions:
 - Operating Budget 2% increase each year
 - Debt Payments roll into Operating Budget in year two
 - Cost of Capital - 7%
 - Funding of Reserves 5% (down from 11%)
 - Capital from Revenue \$8.4 million
 - External cost sharing 5% (down from 13% in 96/97)
 - Provincial capital grant \$5.0 million (down from \$5.2 million).
- ! referenced a summary of Buildings Program (8%); Community & Property Development (5%); Equipment (1%); Industrial Parks (1%); Information Technology (3%); Parks & Playgrounds (2%); Roads & Streets (21%); Sewers (9%); Sidewalks, Curbs & Gutters (2%); Solid Waste (33%); Traffic Improvements (1%), and Transportation Vehicles (13%).

In closing, Mr. Corrigan stated there will be meetings scheduled with each Department, at which time, Council can debate, in-depth, the proposed Budget. It was anticipated that consideration of Capital Budget approval should take place April 22, 1997.

Deputy Mayor Greenough thanked Mr. Corrigan for his presentation.

A brief discussion ensued on various aspects of the proposed Capital Budget, and Deputy Mayor Greenough reminded Council that in-depth discussions would take place next week. Several Members of Council expressed displeasure with the proposed Budget.

Members of Council requested the following information:

Councillor Hendsbee - status of work in progress - work accomplished, work deferred; also, would like prioritization list prepared by staff for Council.

Councillor Rankin - Chart 5 - breakdown of respective proportion of the Capital Budget expenditures of each of the former units prior to amalgamation ('94, '95 - particularly '95/96);

Reserves - the amount of Reserves - 94/95 from the various municipal units prior to amalgamation and what the Reserves were after amalgamation per unit (this information was requested before the next session).

Chart 13 - requested confirmation regarding amortization for old debt associated with the Sackville Landfill - will this be amortized for no longer than 10 years at \$5 million to \$6 million per year? (Mr. Corrigan advised the intention is not to alter previous agreements).

MOVED by Councillors Sarto and Hetherington to adopt the Departmental Budget meeting schedule on the proposed 1997/98 Capital Budget. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS - INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

Mr. Ken Meech, Chief Administrative Officer, referenced a memorandum prepared for Deputy Mayor Greenough, on the above-noted, stating it is expected a report will be made available for the April 15, 1997 Regional Council Meeting.

3. INFRASTRUCTURE MAINTENANCE AND TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ISSUES

3.1 Pavement Conditions - Management System

Mr. Rick Paynter, Manager of Construction, addressed Council and through the use of overheads, provided information on the Pavement Condition Management System. The objectives of this system are to improve decision making as it relates to the management of the road network; to achieve the most effective allocation of available

improvements to the municipality's road network, and to minimize the depreciation of the road network.

Following Mr. Paynter's presentation, he concluded with the following comments:

- ! the System is a cost effective management tool used to evaluate and manage the municipality's road network.
- ! the blended strategy with a trend towards "best first" is staff's recommended approach at this time.
- ! anticipate decreasing the backlog as soon as possible and within the fiscal capabilities of the municipality.
- ! update present software and hardware.
- ! development of a 5 - 10 year funding policy relating to the upgrading of the municipality's network.

With the consensus of Council, a video on the system was presented.

In response to enquiries from Council, Mr. Paynter offered the following comments:

- ! this has been a relatively hard winter on the road network.
- ! condition of streets in poor to fair condition are located throughout the municipality and not concentrated in any one area.
- ! every street will be assessed, assigned a value and reassessed every three years.
- ! the streets in poor condition will be worked on gradually.
- ! it is costly to maintain dirt roads.
- ! chipsealing has a lifespan of 3 - 5 years.

Councillor Rankin stated there was no consideration of paving of dirt roads in this Budget, therefore, he enquired if staff could provide information as to how this can be addressed?

Deputy Mayor Greenough thanked staff for their presentation.

3.2 GoPlan Regional Transportation Plan - Results of Public Consultation

Through the use of overheads, Mr. Brian Smith, Director of Transportation; Mr. Allan

Taylor, Transportation Planner, and Mr. Kenny Silver, Manager of Traffic/Planning, provided an overview of the progress to date with the GoPlan Regional Transportation Plan.

Briefly, Council was advised of the following:

- ! an introduction to the Plan outlining a map identifying major arterial and collector road network; a map indicating possible future arterial and collector roads; a phased program of transportation demand management activities (subject to annual budget reviews); and a listing of priorities and timing recommendations for road network changes (again, subject to annual budget reviews).
- ! the consultation process included the distribution of approximately 750 copies of the GoPlan Consultation Workbook; 5 Community Council meetings; 5 Public Open Houses; approximately 80 individual Contact Sheets / Letters / E-mails; and, several related meetings still ongoing.
- ! Transportation Demand Management Issues pertain to Transit, Bicycle and General Transportation Demand Management.
- ! reviewed road network issues for Halifax Peninsula, Halifax Mainland, Sackville and Cole Harbour.
- ! reviewed a proposed GoPlan Work Plan.
- ! closing statements included (a) staff concerns about responding to development without GoPlan, (b) 'Planning by default' through Capital and Operating Budgets, (c) Commuter Rail Committee, Area Road Studies, Macdonald Bridge, (d) Integration of future HRM Growth Management Policies, and (e) GoPlan as a Process, a Guide for Decision Making.

Councillor Kelly suggested the August Workshop be held in September, to which Mr. Smith advised this would be taken under advisement.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Hendsbee, Mr. Smith and Mr. Taylor advised that the Barrington Street North widening was not a recommendation of the technical part of GoPlan, nor was it something that the public process appeared to support.

Councillor McInroy referenced road network issues, specifically the Cole Harbour/Eastern Passage area. Mr. Smith stated the community does not want a road through Cole Harbour Park. The community does feel there is a future need for access to new developments that are expected in the Eastern Passage and Cow Bay areas. Also, rather than have a road from the No. 7 Highway through Bissett Road area to Eastern Passage, the real traffic flow that interested the residents was from the Lawrencetown Road getting to Highway 107 and Main Street. Mr. Smith advised that in the Cole Harbour area, these two issues will be looked at.

In response, Councillor McInroy requested the record indicate that it has been recommended more than once, that the access to Cow Bay / Eastern Passage be an access that connects to the existing Circumferential Highway and not further out and in through Cole Harbour.

Mr. Smith suggested that in the areas of Cole Harbour and Sackville, future road corridor studies are required and staff will attempt to undertake this within the next few months. If not, these studies may have to be carried out next year. He did note, however, that staff would take into account Councillor McInroy's suggestion that the access to Cow Bay / Eastern Passage be an access that connects to the existing Circumferential Highway and not further out and in through Cole Harbour.

Councillor Cooper suggested staff revisit a proposal to widen Barrington Street North. Further, staff must determine what is the relationship of GoPlan to future development - which one is driving the other. Reference was also made to the under-utilization of the A. Murray MacKay Bridge.

Councillor Stone stated that Council needs to revisit how traffic will get downtown. The he Councillor stated it would be logical to extend Barrington Street through the McIntosh Street area to the Fairview overpass. Further, Councillor Stone referenced truck traffic exiting the Bicentennial Highway and suggested a new off - ramp along the right hand side of Highway 102, between the roadway and the golf course, and bring it down to Howe Avenue. Should there be concern regarding the golf course, Councillor Stone understood the municipality owned land behind Fairmount Subdivision in the Springvale area and suggested a land trade.

Deputy Mayor Greenough thanked staff for their presentation.

4. **AMENDMENTS TO FINANCIAL PROVISIONS - HRM ACT**

MOVED by Councillors Uteck and Rankin to refer this matter directly to the April 15, 1997 Regional Council Meeting. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. **GENERAL AMENDMENTS TO HRM ACT**

MOVED by Councillors Kelly and Barnet to refer this matter directly to the April 15, 1997 Regional Council Meeting. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Deputy Mayor Greenough suggested Members of Council meet with Mr. Wayne Anstey, Municipal Solicitor, prior to April 15, for clarification on any aspect of the Amendments.

7. GRANTS COMMITTEE

- 7.1 **-Municipal Grant Program, Grant Committee Terms of Reference**
-Residential Tax Relief Program
-Tax Exemptions for Non Profit Organizations

MOVED by Councillors Uteck and Blumenthal to refer the above-noted report, dated March 18, 1997, to staff for a report. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7.2 (a) NEPTUNE THEATRE REQUEST FOR FUNDS

MOVED by Councillors Hendsbee and Blumenthal to not recommend a grant to Neptune Theatre at this present time. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Councillor Hetherington requested a staff report on the amount of funding Neptune Theatre has obtained from the four former units, over the past five years, including this year.

7.2 (b) 1997 WORLD CANOE CHAMPIONSHIPS

A report from Councillor David Hendsbee, Chair, Grants Committee, pertaining to Canoe '97, was distributed to Council.

MOVED by Councillors Hendsbee and Hetherington to approve the Grant Committee recommendation that \$40,000 be held in abeyance to cover municipal services for Canoe '97. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7.3 REVISED COMPOSITION - GRANTS COMMITTEE

A report from Councillor Hendsbee, Chair, Grants Committee, pertaining to Revised Composition - Grants Committee - was distributed to Council.

MOVED by Councillors Hendsbee and Schofield to change the Council component of the Committee composition to 6 Councillors, the additional one being from the Harbour East Community Council due to the size and population of the area covered by this Community Council. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

8. PRESENTATION - RICK HANSEN - MAN IN MOTION LEGACY

Mr. Rick Hansen, Man in Motion Foundation; Mr. Laughlin Rutt, Executive Director of the Nova Scotia Division of the Canadian Paraplegic Association; and Dr. Ken Ozman, President, St. Mary's University, and Chair, of the Rick Hansen, Man in Motion University Tour, arrived in the Chambers at approximately 5:45 p.m.

Deputy Mayor Greenough addressed Council welcoming Mr. Rick Hansen and the representatives of the Nova Scotia Chapter of the Canadian Paraplegic Association. Deputy Mayor Greenough referenced Mr. Hansen's "Around the World Journey" ten years ago and the hero's welcome he received at that time, in Halifax and in other cities.

No one in Canada has done more to promote the needs and abilities of persons with spinal cord injuries than Rick Hansen. Mr. Hansen was now revisiting sixteen cities across Canada to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the completion of his amazing journey. Funds totalling \$24 million were raised in 1986 for the Man in Motion Legacy Fund, and the Fund has since grown to \$60 million in disability support through the Rick Hansen Institute.

Mr. Hansen's message has been felt here in the Halifax Regional Municipality. There are Accessible Buses and Cabs for people in wheelchairs; signals for the visually impaired at crosswalks, improved standards for access in the Building Code and most important of all, there is increased awareness from staff and citizens, of the plights of people with disabilities, to participate in the full life of this community.

On behalf of Mayor Fitzgerald, Members of Council, and the citizens of Halifax Regional Municipality, Deputy Mayor Greenough presented Mr. Hansen with a gift, to commemorate his visit to Halifax Regional Municipality.

Mr. Rick Hansen accepted the gift from Deputy Mayor Greenough and addressed Council, noting the incredible support he received from the people of this Province, which carried him across the country.

Mr. Laughlin Rutt, Canadian Paraplegic Association of Nova Scotia, addressed Council referencing ten years of change and legacies created by the Man in Motion Foundation.

Dr. Ken Ozman, President, St. Mary's University, addressed Council on the Atlantic Centre of Support for Disabled Students and the importance of providing access to education.

In closing, Deputy Mayor Greenough thanked Mr. Hansen, Mr. Rutt and Dr. Ozman, for taking the time to address Council, and wished them well.

9. **REVISED SOLID WASTE/RESOURCE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY
IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE - CONTINUED DISCUSSION**

It was agreed to defer this item to the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Councillors Hetherington and Mitchell to adjourn the meeting at 6:10 p.m. **MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Vi Carmichael
MUNICIPAL CLERK

