

HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL  
MINUTES

April 30, 2013

PRESENT:

Mayor Mike Savage  
Deputy Mayor Reg Rankin  
Councillors: Barry Dalrymple  
David Hendsbee  
Bill Karsten  
Lorelei Nicoll  
Gloria McCluskey  
Darren Fisher  
Waye Mason  
Jennifer Watts  
Linda Mosher  
Russell Walker  
Stephen Adams  
Matt Whitman  
Brad Johns  
Steve Craig  
Tim Outhit

STAFF:

Mr. Richard Butts, Chief Administrative Officer  
Ms. Marian Tyson, Municipal Solicitor  
Ms. Cathy Mellett, Municipal Clerk  
Ms. Sherryl Murphy, Deputy Clerk  
Mr. Matt Godwin, Legislative Assistant

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**1. INVOCATION**

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. with the Invocation being led by Councillor Hendsbee.

Former HRM Poet Laureate Ms. Shauntey Grant presented to Regional Council.

**2. SPECIAL COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Councillors noted a number of community announcements and acknowledgements.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – NONE**

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

**MOVED by Deputy Mayor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Karsten that item 10.2.1 “2013-14 Project and Operating Budget Recommendation Report” be moved forward to directly follow item 9.2.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**MOVED by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Craig that Regional Council suspend the rules regarding the number of times Councillors are permitted to speak during the discussion of 10.2.1 “2013-14 Project and Operating Budget Recommendation Report”.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED. (15 in favour; 2 opposed)**

Those voting in favour were: Mayor Mike Savage; Deputy Mayor Rankin; and Councillors Karsten, Nicoll, McCluskey, Fisher, Mason, Watts, Mosher, Walker, Adams, Whitman, Johns, Craig, Outhit.

Those voting against were: Councillors Dalrymple and Hendsbee.

**MOVED by Councillor Mosher, seconded by Deputy Mayor Rankin that Information Item #2 “Memorandum from the Director of Transportation and Public Works & Director of Finance and ICT dated March 19, 2013 re: Sidewalk Snow Clearing Service and Taxation” be considered during the budget discussion.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor McCluskey, that the Order of Business be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES – NONE**

- 6. MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION – NONE
- 7. MOTIONS OF RESCISSION – NONE
- 8. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE
- 9. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS
- 9.1 Correspondence – NONE
- 9.2 Petitions – NONE

**10.2 Audit and Finance Standing Committee**

**10.2.1 2013-14 Project and Operating Budget Recommendation Report  
(i) Board of Police Commissioners Report**

The report and presentation, dated April 25, 2013 and April 30, 2013, respectively, were before Council, along with the 2013/14 Operating Budget, the 2013/14 Project Budget and the 2013/14 Detailed Change Report. Correspondence was received on Information Item #2, discussed below, from Mr. Alan Inkpen.

**MOVED by Deputy Mayor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Karsten that Halifax Regional Council approve the 2013/2014 Project and Operating Budget as per Attachment B - “Resolution for Approval of Operating and Project Budget and Tax Rates for Fiscal 2013/14” to the April 25, 2013 staff report:**

- a) the Operating Budget in the amount of \$821,236,000 gross expenditures (which includes \$691,871,000 in municipal expenditures including the reserve withdrawals specified in the Operating and Project Budget and listed in appendix A), \$606,749,500 in property tax revenues (including area rate revenues) and \$214,486,500 in other revenues be approved;
- b) the Project Budget in the amount of \$165,042,500 be approved;
- c) the general rates of taxation on commercial property be set at
  - (i) \$3.037 for the urban area;
  - (ii) \$3.037 for the suburban area; and
  - (iii) \$2.691 for the rural area

**And applied to the taxable assessment of the property;**

- d) the general rates of taxation on residential and resource property be set at
  - (i) \$0.651 for the urban area;
  - (ii) \$0.635 for the suburban area; and
  - (iii) \$0.629 for the rural area

**And applied to the taxable assessment of the property;**

- e) the Metro Transit Annual Service Plan and that the tax rates associated with Transit Taxation be set at**
  - (i) \$0.051 for the Regional Transportation tax rate;**
  - (ii) \$0.105 for the Local Transit tax rate**

**And applied to the taxable assessment of the property;**

- f) (i) the boundary of the urban, suburban and rural areas is as delineated in the “Tax Structure Map” attached to the April 25, 2013 staff report;**
  - (ii) the boundary of the Regional Transportation area includes all properties within communities included within the “Regional Transportation map” attached to the April 25, 2013 staff report;**
  - (iii) the boundary for the Local Transit area includes all properties within 1km walking distance of any HRM transit stop.**
- g) Supplementary Education, under Section 80 of the Halifax Charter, shall be set at the rate of \$0.035 to the residential and resource assessment and at \$0.104 to the commercial assessment including business occupancy;**
- h) Fire Protection rates shall be set at the rate of \$0.025 for all residential and resource assessment and at \$0.075 to the commercial assessment including business occupancy; for properties which are within 1,200 feet of a hydrant that is designed and operated for public fire protection purposes.**
- i) the final tax bills will become due on Thursday, October 31, 2013;**
- j) the interest rate on the Special Reserve Funds, designated as requiring interest under Section 121(2) of the Halifax Charter, be set at the rate of return on funds invested by HRM for the period April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014;**
- k) the interest rate on the Pollution Control Reserves be set at the rate of return on funds invested by HRM for the period April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014;**
- l) the interest rate on all reserves except for those identified in j) and k) above will be set at the rate of return on funds invested by HRM for the period April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014;**
- m) approve in advance, a funding commitment in the amount of \$72,400,000 for the 2014/15 fiscal year, for the projects listed in Appendix B of the April 25, 2013 staff report.**

Mr. Richard Butts, CAO, Mr. Greg Keefe, CFO and Mr. Bruce Fisher, Manager, Financial Policy and Planning presented the 2013/14 budget.

The CAO provided background on the budget process and noted that at the Audit and Finance Standing Committee meeting of April 24, 2013 the committee recommended the “no tax increase” option and that is what is included in this submission. The CAO reviewed a number of points in the budget, including the BMO and Sackville sports facilities, a new internship program, new transit positions, budget expenditures, the three-year project budget and the pegging of commercial tax to Gross Domestic Product (GDP), with adjustments.

Mr. Keefe explained the residential and commercial taxation changes, noting that the increased surplus allows for a zero tax increase for homes which have not changed and the new formula for commercial taxation which staff hope will begin a trend to reducing the commercial tax burden.

The CAO thanked staff, the Audit and Finance Standing Committee and Regional Council for their efforts in bringing the budget forward.

The Mayor thanked staff for their work.

Councillor Adams asked where HRM sits with respect to levels of taxation across the country, with Mr. Keefe responding that it is challenging to compare tax rates, but HRM is not the highest taxed jurisdiction in the country, but closer to the median.

Councillor Karsten thanked staff for their efforts, as well as the members of the Audit and Finance Standing Committee. He commended staff on finding the increased surplus and on a fiscally prudent and responsible approach to managing finance.

**MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Mason that Regional Council not increase transit fares by \$0.25, but instead, increase the transit tax for a maximum of two years to fund Metro Transit’s planned technological adaptations.**

Councillor Watts noted that increasing the fare means users are paying twice, as they also pay the transit tax, and this disproportionately impacts users who have supported Metro Transit in difficult times. A transit tax will cover the funds needs for Metro Transit’s planned technology expansion. Once the fare increases, it is very hard to return it to previous levels, unlike the transit tax.

Mr. Eddie Robar, Director, Metro Transit confirmed that the increase is for technological adaptations, with Mr. Fisher explaining what the impact of an increase to the transit tax would mean property owners.

Councillor Dalrymple noted that his residents are significantly under-served by Metro Transit at present and he will not support a transit tax increase entirely in support of

changes for technology for existing buses when his area does not get the basic services it needs.

Councillor Mason asked which residents will see the tax increase, with Mr. Fisher responding there will be a 10.5 cent change to the local rate, and those not in proximity to a bus stop would not be affected. The regional transportation rate would go up by 1%.

Councillor Outhit asked if staff have calculated for a ridership drop if the fare is increased, with Mr. Robar responding they have. He further noted that changes to new technology will allow for more informed decisions in the future about fare and transit tax changes.

Councillor Nicoll noted that the bulk of the increase will not be felt by non-urban residents and Metro Transit needs to prioritize an increase in ridership to ensure the sustainability of the system. She indicated her support for the temporary tax increase.

Councillor Fisher asked what the per-household cost of this tax increase would be, with Mr. Fisher responding that there would be \$10.00 increase to the average \$200,000 home.

Councillor Mason proposed that the motion on the floor be amended such that the temporary transit tax increase be on the local transit tax only.

Councillor Watts indicated this was a friendly amendment to the original motion.

Councillor Walker indicated he would not support the motion given its late arrival at this stage of the process and also indicated that he would not support a further increase in the transit tax to subsidize a service many residents don't use.

A vote was held on the motion as amended:

**MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Mason that Regional Council not increase transit fares by \$0.25, but instead, increase the local transit tax for a maximum of two years to fund Metro Transit's planned technological adaptations.**

**MOTION DEFEATED. (5 in favour; 11 opposed)**

Those voting in favour were: Councillors Nicoll, Fisher, Mason, Watts and Whitman.

Those voting against were: Mayor Mike Savage; Deputy Mayor Rankin; and Councillors Dalrymple, Hendsbee, Karsten, McCluskey, Mosher, Walker, Adams, Craig, Outhit.

Councillor Johns was not present for the vote.



**MOVED by Councillor Mosher, seconded by Deputy Mayor Rankin that Halifax Regional Council approve that all sidewalk costs in existing urban and suburban areas be funded from the urban and suburban General Tax Rate based on the current service standards and that the 2013-2014 tax rate be adjusted accordingly as outlined in the motion provided to Regional Council at the meeting of April 30, 2013.**

- c) General rate on commercial property be increased to:**
- i) \$3.054 for urban area**
  - ii) \$3.054 for suburban area**
  - ii) \$2.691 for the rural rate (no increase)**

**And applied to the taxable assessment of the property.**

- d) General Rate of taxation on residential and resource property be increased to:**
- i) \$0.668 for the urban area**
  - ii) \$0.635 for the suburban area, and**
  - ii) \$0.629 for the rural area (no increase)**

**And applied to the taxable assessment of the property.**

Councillor Mosher noted that this has been an ongoing issue for a number of years and that HRM would be joining a number of other cities in implementing sidewalk snow-removal through the general rate. The issue is also one of accessibility as many seniors and those with disabilities struggle with mobility issues as a result of snow on sidewalks.

Councillor Mason asked if HRM will move to an 18 hour standard for sidewalk snow removal, with Mr. Ken Reashor, Director, Transportation and Public Works responding that the standard will remain 36 hours.

Councillor Mason responded that he has not consulted with his residents to the extent necessary to support to the motion.

Councillor Outhit asked what would happen to residents already paying an area rate, with Mr. Fisher responding that the area rate would disappear and the general tax rate would increase as outlined in the motion.

Councillor Watts indicated she has not heard enough from her residents to support this motion and there is an existing by-law which compels snow-clearing on sidewalks.

Councillor Whitman asked what impact this change will have on his community, with Mr. Fisher responding that there will be no impact given that he represents a largely rural district.

Councillor Nicoll asked how this will affect areas which have a performance based contract for this service, with Mr. Reashor responding that service standards will be the same everywhere.

Councillor Walker noted that this service has been very effective in his community through the area rate and would recommend it to all Councillors.

Councillor Mosher noted that snow-clearing standards are often exceeded. With twelve of sixteen districts already having this service, only three remain who do not have it. In addition, HRM's downtown is used by individuals from all over HRM and the implementation of this decision will support accessibility for all residents.

Councillor Karsten indicated he does not believe these items should be discussed during the budget process and there are still a number of unanswered questions, including the capacity of contractors and the gathering of best practices. He asked if the areas not already served would have the opportunity to adopt an area rate, with Mr. Fisher responding that they could, but consultations would have to take place beforehand.

Councillor Outhit asked what the impact would be for universities and businesses on the peninsula, with Mr. Reashor responding that businesses are largely already taken care of.

A vote was held on the amendment and a tie was recorded. Councillor Whitman indicated that he had actually voted in the affirmative, but it was not recorded as such.

After consultation with the Clerk, the Mayor asked a new vote be taken on the amendment.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED. (9 in favour; 8 opposed)**

Those voting in favour were: Deputy Mayor Rankin; and Councillors Hendsbee, Nicoll, McCluskey, Mosher, Walker, Adams, Whitman, Outhit.

Those voting against were: Mayor Mike Savage; Councillors Dalrymple, Karsten, Fisher, Mason, Watts, Johns, Craig.

The Mayor recessed the meeting at 3:35 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 3:45 p.m. with the Mayor summarizing where Council was in its proceedings.

**MOVED by Councillor McCluskey, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee that Halifax Regional Council direct staff to reinstate the late night Alderney Ferry Service to the schedule that existed prior to the reduction of service which was implemented August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012.**

Councillor McCluskey indicated there will be a great deal of growth in downtown Dartmouth over the coming years and the service is an essential link for commuters and those accessing services on the peninsula.

Councillor Watts proposed a friendly amendment to consider changing day-time services, with Mr. Robar indicating that he could move the midday service back by half an hour. Councillor McCluskey recognized this as friendly amendment.

The motion now reads:

**MOVED by Councillor McCluskey, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee that Halifax Regional Council direct staff to reinstate the late night Alderney Ferry Service to the schedule that existed prior to the reduction of service which was implemented August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012. and, in addition, to move the midday service back by ½ an hour with funding provided from Metro Transit's 2013/14 operating budget (representing no increase to the 2013/14 operating budget or tax rate).**

Councillor Mason indicated his support given the pending work on the bridges.

Councillor Outhit cautioned that this may set a precedent that HRM will not cut services, even though they have low usage, with Mr. Robar responding that his staff are advertising to increase services.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. (17 in favour)**

Councillor Adams commended staff on the budget and indicated he was pleased to see the debt going down. Councillor Adams indicated his displeasure with the \$170,000.00 contribution to the Greater Halifax Partnership (GHP) and asked that any further funding decisions wait until the outcome of the Auditor General's report.

**MOVED by Councillor Adams that Halifax Regional Council remove from the 2013/14 Operating Budget the \$170,000.00 commitment for the Greater Halifax Partnership at this time, until Regional Council receives the Auditor General's report and further information from the CAO's Office.**

**With no seconder, the motion was lost.**

Councillor Outhit noted he was pleased to see the effort to save residential taxpayers money, but indicated his concern with the tax increase facing a number of HRM businesses. In order to support more services, the tax base will have to grow. Staff should look at a more accurate categorization for businesses of different sizes and he also indicated his concern with the use of the GDP for calculating commercial taxation, as growth in GDP may only be reflective of commercial growth in one sector.

Councillor Mason indicated the need for a rolling assessment average to limit sudden increases for businesses, which are causing them difficulties. He asked staff about its plans for HRM park maintenance and fundraising efforts in this regard.

Mr. Reashor responded that staff will look to inventory all parks and get a clearer understanding of their state of repair. He noted that the donation boxes at the Public Gardens are an effort to ease maintenance costs.

Councillor Fisher commented on the budget process, indicating he supported its passage through a staggered, committee-led review. He further asked staff to clarify its comments with respect to the unsustainability of the decline in household debt.

Mr. Keefe noted that HRM will continue to reduce tax-supported debt per-household, but as there will be more houses, it will look like it's not being reduced by as much. There is a need for a new indicator.

Councillor Watts indicated she would have liked to have seen more public participation in the budget process and would have preferred having the budget go through a Committee of the Whole.

**MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Fisher that Regional Council direct staff to fund the operationalization of the Urban Forest Master Plan (UFMP), which was passed unanimously by Regional Council in 2012, in the 2013-2014 fiscal year, in the amount of \$350,000 (tree pruning) to partially implement the UFMP. These funds to come from surplus funds.**

Councillor Watts noted that Regional Council supported the Urban Forest Master Plan unanimously, but the budget does not commit to actioning the necessary funds. She asked staff what the impact will be to commit this funding for the upcoming fiscal year.

Mr. Keefe indicated staff have been planning to operationalize the plan, but had expected to commit funding in the 2014/15 budget. However, it is possible to commit the \$350,000.00 in this fiscal year.

Councillor Craig noted that there is a commitment for this in the existing budget, with Mr. Reashor responding that that commitment is for staff to conduct bylaw work and these additional funds would be used to begin tree-pruning.

Councillor Mosher noted that there is a June 1<sup>st</sup> deadline for tree-tendering and asked if staff can meet this deadline, with Mr. Reashor indicating that this is the reason they requested advanced funding so planting can begin in the spring. He also indicated that this work will be contracted out.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED. (15 in favour; 1 opposed)**

Those voting in favour were: Deputy Mayor Rankin; and Councillors Dalrymple, Hendsbee, Karsten, Nicoll, McCluskey, Fisher, Mason, Watts, Mosher, Walker, Adams, Whitman, Craig, Outhit.

Those voting against were: Councillor Johns.

Mayor Mike Savage was not present for the vote.

Councillor Dalrymple indicated his displeasure with more tax dollars from rural and suburban communities funding measures in central HRM.

Councillor McCluskey indicated this is the first budget she will be able to support and commended staff on the process. She asked staff about the new management agreement for the Alderney Landing noted in the budget.

Mr. Reashor noted that HRM is looking for a new agreement for Alderney Landing including new parameters to address maintenance issues at the facility.

Councillor Nicoll was pleased to see how comprehensive the budget was and its specific targeting of Council priorities. She asked staff to look at the projection process to understand why they were not aware of the surplus earlier, with Mr. Keefe responding that staff are reviewing this work to identify where improvements can be made.

Councillor Hendsbee asked that a Committee of the Whole process be used for reviewing the budget, which would ensure more meaningful participation. He would have liked to have seen the process begin earlier and noted that the regional tax rate should include active transportation, among other items.

Councillor Hendsbee further asked how the remainder of the surplus would be allocated, with Mr. Keefe responding that staff will prepare a report for Council on how to allocate the surplus.

Councillor Craig thanked staff for their efforts on the budget and noted that this budget puts HRM in a sound financial state. He noted his support for the emphasis on the state of good repair and also approved of the budget review process, which was detailed and informative. Using the Committee of the Whole process would have been a slight improvement.

Councillor Watts echoed Councillor Craig in calling for a Committee of the Whole process of future budgets and noted that HRM should be moving toward more sustainable forms of transportation.

**MOVED by Councillor Johns, seconded by Councillor Karsten that, in order to maintain a flat tax burden in 2013-2014, Halifax Regional Council direct staff to use \$2.3 million of the forecast surplus to offset the additional operating costs of sidewalk snow plowing and to postpone any tax rate increases for 2013-2014 due**

**to the additional sidewalk plowing and, request staff to find an additional \$2.3 million in efficiencies for 2014-2015 and, should the efficiencies not be found that Council would implement the proposed 2013-2014 sidewalk plowing tax changes in 2014-2015.**

A discussion ensued on the amendment with Councillors debating its viability and staff offering information on impacts to the general rate as a consequence of this suggestion.

Regional Council recessed at 5:10 p.m.

Regional Council resumed at 6:00 p.m.

After deliberations over the break, the CAO recommended that Regional Council proceed with the budget as presented.

After further discussion and clarification from staff, Councillor Johns offered to withdraw the motion, to which Council agreed.

#### **MOTION WITHDRAWN.**

Councillor Watts asked why surplus dollars cannot be applied to Metro Transit rather than asking for a fare increase, with the CAO responding that staff do not support using the surplus for one-time money. He further noted that the Federation of Canadian Municipalities meeting is approaching and HRM will voice its support for a national transit strategy.

The motion as amended now reads:

**MOVED by Deputy Mayor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Karsten that Halifax Regional Council approve the 2013/2014 Project and Operating Budget as per Attachment B - "Resolution for Approval of Operating and Project Budget and Tax Rates for Fiscal 2013/14" to the April 25, 2013 staff report:**

- a) **the Operating Budget in the amount of \$821,236,000 gross expenditures (which includes \$691,871,000 in municipal expenditures including the reserve withdrawals specified in the Operating and Project Budget and listed in appendix A), \$606,749,500 in property tax revenues (including area rate revenues) and \$214,486,500 in other revenues be approved;**
- b) **the Project Budget in the amount of \$165,042,500 be approved;**
- c) **General rate on commercial property be increased to:**
  - i) **\$3.054 for urban area**
  - ii) **\$3.054 for suburban area**
  - iii) **\$2.691 for the rural rate (no increase)**

**And applied to the taxable assessment of the property.**

- d) General Rate of taxation on residential and resource property be increased to:
  - i) \$0.668 for the urban area**
  - ii) \$0.635 for the suburban area, and**
  - iii) \$0.629 for the rural area (no increase)****

**And applied to the taxable assessment of the property.**

- e) The Metro Transit Annual Service Plan and that the tax rates associated with Transit Taxation be set at
  - (i) \$0.051 for the Regional Transportation tax rate;**
  - (ii) \$0.105 for the Local Transit tax rate****

**And applied to the taxable assessment of the property;**

- f) (i) the boundary of the urban, suburban and rural areas is as delineated in the “Tax Structure Map” attached to the April 25, 2013 staff report;**  
**(ii) the boundary of the Regional Transportation area includes all properties within communities included within the “Regional Transportation map” attached to the April 25, 2013 staff report;**  
**(iii) the boundary for the Local Transit area includes all properties within 1km walking distance of any HRM transit stop.**
- g) Supplementary Education, under Section 80 of the Halifax Charter, shall be set at the rate of \$0.035 to the residential and resource assessment and at \$0.104 to the commercial assessment including business occupancy;**
- h) Fire Protection rates shall be set at the rate of \$0.025 for all residential and resource assessment and at \$0.075 to the commercial assessment including business occupancy; for properties which are within 1,200 feet of a hydrant that is designed and operated for public fire protection purposes.**
- i) the final tax bills will become due on Thursday, October 31, 2013;**
- j) the interest rate on the Special Reserve Funds, designated as requiring interest under Section 121(2) of the Halifax Charter, be set at the rate of return on funds invested by HRM for the period April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014;**
- k) the interest rate on the Pollution Control Reserves be set at the rate of return on funds invested by HRM for the period April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014;**

- l) the interest rate on all reserves except for those identified in j) and k) above will be set at the rate of return on funds invested by HRM for the period April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014;**
  
- m) approve in advance, a funding commitment in the amount of \$72,400,000 for the 2014/15 fiscal year, for the projects listed in Appendix B of the April 25, 2013 staff report.**

A vote was taken on the motion.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. (17 in favour)**

At the request of Councillor Johns, items 10.4.1 and 10.4.2 were dealt with at this time.

**10. REPORTS**

**10.4.1 Summer Festival Grant Program**

The report dated April 15, 2013 was before Council.

**MOVED by Councillor Johns, seconded by Councillor Karsten that Halifax Regional Council:**

- 1. Approve the 2013/14 Summer Festival grant awards of \$25,000 funded from the Community/Civic Events Operating Budget (C760-6933) as identified below:**

<b>Beaver Bank Canada Day</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>
<b>Cole Harbour Harbourfest</b>	<b>\$7,500</b>
<b>Fall River Canal Days</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>
<b>Seaside Harvest Festival</b>	<b><u>\$7,500</u></b>
	<b>\$25,000</b>

Councillor Hendsbee noted that the Rhythm and Roots on the Shore festival had submitted an application for \$5,000.00, but the deadline had passed and asked if their application can still be reviewed for this funding.

Councillor Johns indicated that guidelines are in place for a reason and that all successful groups met the application deadline. He committed to consider the group through other funding streams if they are eligible.

Councillor Hendsbee asked if \$20,000.00 could be shared evenly among the applications, with \$5,000.00 held in abeyance until a decision can be made on the application.



**MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Dalrymple that Halifax Regional Council amend the four (4) grants to \$5,000 and refer the late application of the Rhythm & Roots on the Shore to the Special Events Advisory Committee for consideration.**

A discussion ensued on whether district capital funds could be used to fund the festival, with the Solicitor reporting that he is not able to decide on whether or not this is allowable, and indicated he will have to report back with an answer.

**MOTION DEFEATED. (3 in favour; 14 opposed)**

Those voting in favour of the motion were: Councillors Hendsbee, Mosher and Outhit.

Those voting against the motion were: Mayor Mike Savage; Deputy Mayor Rankin; and Councillors Dalrymple, Karsten, Nicoll, McCluskey, Fisher, Mason, Watts, Walker, Adams, Whitman, Johns and Craig.

A vote was taken on the main motion:

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED. (16 in favour; 1 against)**

Those voting in favour were: Mayor Mike Savage; Deputy Mayor Rankin; and Councillors Dalrymple, Karsten, Nicoll, McCluskey, Fisher, Mason, Watts, Mosher, Walker, Adams, Whitman, Johns, Craig, Outhit.

Those voting against were: Councillor Hendsbee.

#### **10.4.2 Festival and Events Grant Funding Request — First Intake**

This item was advanced at the request of Councillor Johns.

The report dated April 10, 2013 was before Council.

**MOVED by Councillor Johns, seconded by Councillor Nicoll that Halifax Regional Council approve the 2013/14 Festival and Events grant awards of \$23,000 funded from the proposed 2013/14 Operating Budget Account No. C760 Regional Events & Culture as identified in Table 1 of the February 12, 2013 staff report and subject to the approval of the 2013/14 Operating Budget.**

Councillor Hendsbee asked whether this is the first or second intake for grants, with Councillor Johns indicating that it is the first and the Councillor should contact staff to see where the process is at present.

Ms. Denise Schofield, Manager, Community and Recreation Services advised that the second intake has not yet closed.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. (17 in favour)**

**10.1 CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

**10.1.1 Award - Unit Price Tender No. 13-225, Micro Surfacing – Phase 1 – Various Locations**

The report dated April 2, 2013 was before Council.

**MOVED by Councillor Karsten, seconded by Councillor McCluskey that Halifax Regional Council:**

- 1. Approve a budget increase of \$61,500.58 (net HST included) to Project Account No. CYX01345 – Street Recapitalization, funded through cost sharing with Halifax Water.**
- 2. Award Tender No. 13-225, Micro Surfacing – Phase 1 – Various Locations, to the lowest bidder meeting specifications, Industrial Cold Milling for a Total Tender Price of \$1,621,924.18 (net HST included) with funding from Project Account No. CYX01345 – Street Recapitalization, as outlined in the Financial Implications section of the April 2, 2013 staff report.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. (16 in favour)**

Councillor Johns was not present for the vote.

**10.1.2 Award - Unit Price Tender No. 13-228, Street Reconstruction, Asphalt Walkway Resurfacing and Water Main Renewal, Kincardine Drive – East Region**

The report dated March 28, 2013 was before Council.

**MOVED by Councillor Fisher, seconded by Councillor McCluskey that Halifax Regional Council:**

- 1. Approve a budget increase of \$346,323.86 (net HST included) to Project Account No. CYX01345 – Street Recapitalization, funded through cost sharing with Halifax Water.**
- 2. Award Tender No. 13-228, Street Reconstruction, Asphalt Walkway Resurfacing and Water Main Renewal, Kincardine Drive – East Region to the lowest bidder meeting specifications, J. R. Eisener Contracting Limited for a Total Tender Price of \$698,113.43 (net HST included) with funding from Project Account No. CYX01345 – Street Recapitalization and CRU01079 – Other Road Related Works, as outlined in the Financial Implications section of the March 28, 2013 staff report.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. (16 in favour)**

Councillor Johns was not present for the vote.

**10.1.3 Request for Permanent Encroachment – Colins Road, Bedford**

The report dated April 3, 2013 was before Council.

**MOVED by Councillor Outhit, seconded by Councillor Whitman that Halifax Regional Council approve the encroachment agreement allowing the encroaching structure to remain at its current location within the right of way as attached to the April 3, 2013 staff report.**

Councillor Hendsbee asked if any fees apply, with Mr. Reashor, Director, Transportation and Public Works, indicating there would be a \$60.00 annual fee.

The Mayor asked if there would be any impact on those with accessibility challenges, with Mr. Reashor indicating there would not be.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. (16 in favour)**

Councillor Johns was not present for the vote.

**10.1.4 Case 18288 – Amendments to the Cole Harbour/Westphal MPS and LUB to enable residential development adjacent to Lake Loon, Westphal**

The report dated March 21, 2013 was before Council.

**MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Karsten that Halifax Regional Council:**

- 1. Authorize staff to initiate the process to consider amending the Cole Harbour/Westphal Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS) and Land Use By-law (LUB) to enable residential development for the application at 661 Main Street and the rear portion of 667 Main Street in Westphal, and to consider other amendments, as appropriate, to the MPS and LUB for lands to the rear of 613 Main Street, Westphal, to allow similar proposals in the future.**
- 2. Request that staff follow the public participation program as approved by Council in February 1997.**

Councillor Hendsbee indicated that he would like Sobeys to be part of the solution on this project and also noted that the area is a commuter hub, which is something staff should consider.

Councillor Watts asked if staff is considering sidewalks in the design of the project, with Shayne Vipond, Senior Planner, Community and Recreation Services, responding that staff are considering pedestrian connections to Main St. Staff is also conducting an assessment on traffic and will be inviting Sobeys, among others, to be part of the planning process.

Councillor McCluskey asked what the protection buffer will be for Lake Loon, with Mr. Vipond responding that it is 20 metres, but could be enhanced.

Councillor Fisher asked if the amendment to the motion is specific to this site only, with Mr. Vipond responding that it is site specific and this decision will not preclude other owners coming forward with other projects.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. (16 in favour)** Councillor Johns was not present for the vote.

**10.1.5 Case 17000: Amendments to Downtown Halifax Secondary MPS & LUB – Barrington Street South Precinct**

The report dated April 9, 2013 was before Council. Correspondence was received from Ms. Colleen Lynch, Ms. Peggy Cameron, Ms. Linda Forbes, Mr. Phil Pacey, Heritage Trust, Dr. Larry Haiven, Dr. Judy Haiven and Ms. Beverley Miller.

**MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Mosher that Halifax Regional Council:**

- 1. Give First Reading to consider the proposed amendments to the Downtown Halifax Secondary Municipal Planning Strategy and the Downtown Halifax Land Use By-Law, as contained in Attachments A and B of the February 15, 2013 staff report and schedule a public hearing.**
- 2. Approve the proposed amendments to the Downtown Halifax Secondary Municipal Planning Strategy and the Downtown Halifax Land Use By-Law, as contained in Attachments A and B of the February 15, 2013, staff report.**

Councillor Mason gave background on the item, which has elicited concerns from the community with respect to heritage, and he asked staff what a heritage district for the area would offer.

Mr. Luc Ouellet, Senior Planner, Community and Recreation Services, responded that it would make little difference and staff will be considering the height of the building in relation to neighbouring ones in its planning.

Councillor Mason asked what the timeline is with respect to addressing heritage on Barrington Street and Schmidville, with the CAO responding that Barrington Street will be considered this year and Schmidville following the completion of Barrington Street.

Councillor Watts noted that she would have preferred option #2 in the report and asked if this option can proceed without a public hearing, leaving the rest until a determination can be made about the area. Mr. Ouellet responded that there are four groups of properties and there is no issue with one remaining the same height until the district designation is developed.

Councillor Mosher asked why the project in question can't proceed while a discussion is held on the area more broadly, with Mr. Ouellet responding that it made sense to consider the area around Cornwallis Park.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. (15 in favour)**

Councillor Johns and Rankin were not present for the vote.

**10.1.6 Priority Snow Clearing of Bus Stops**

The report dated April 16, 2013 was before Council.

**MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Mosher that Halifax Regional Council adopt Option 2 and change the standard for clearing bus stops to 48 hours in order to bring the service standard for bus stops more in line with street and sidewalk standards.**

Councillor Watts asked staff if decisions made earlier with respect to snow-removal have bearing on this item, with Mr. Reashor, Director, Transportation and Public Works, responding that the earlier decision will not affect this item. Funding for Option 2 was contained in the budget as proposed to Council.

Councillor Fisher asked if staff will be plowing sidewalks first, with Mr. Reashor clarifying that staff already clear sidewalks and will give priority to bus routes and shelters. This decision will allow staff to work at night and avoid having to do traffic control.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED. (14 in favour; 1 against)**

Those voting in favour were: Mayor Mike Savage; Councillors Hendsbee, Karsten, Nicoll, McCluskey, Fisher, Mason, Watts, Mosher, Walker, Adams, Whitman, Craig, Outhit.

Those voting against were: Councillor Dalrymple.

Deputy Mayor Rankin and Councillor Johns were not present for the vote.

**10.2 Audit and Finance Standing Committee**

**10.2.1 2013-14 Project and Operating Budget Recommendation Report  
(i) Board of Police Commissioners Report**

This item was dealt with earlier in the meeting. See page 5.

**10.3 Community Planning and Economic Development**

**10.3.1 HRM and the Proposal for Regional Enterprise Networks (REN)**

The report dated April 15, 2013 was before Council.

**MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor McCluskey that Halifax Regional Council:**

- 1. Request that ERDT (Nova Scotia Economic and Rural Development and Tourism), when it implements the REN model, leave HRM intact**
- 2. Ask staff to begin discussions with the Province of Nova Scotia on:**
  - Strengthening collaboration between the Province and HRM on economic development promotion and support**
  - Developing new forms of financial support for economic development work in HRM, both urban and rural**
- 3. Ask staff to open discussions with RENS, once established, on ways to cooperate to strengthen economic development across the Province.**

Councillor Nicoll noted that she met with the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities (UNSM) and there is a desire to remain united with respect to economic development.

Councillor Hendsbee asked if rural economic development is being considered, particularly the promotion of eco-tourism.

Councillor Nicoll responded that both urban and rural areas are being considered.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (13 in favour).**

Deputy Mayor Rankin and Councillors Johns, Mosher and Craig were not present for the vote.

**10.3.2 Local Immigration Partnership Opportunity for HRM**

The report dated April 15, 2013 was before Council.

**MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Nicoll that Halifax Regional Council request staff provide a report to determine the benefits and costs of having HRM negotiate a funding agreement with Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) for 3-year funding to house the Local Immigration Partnership (LIP) Coordinator.**

Councillor Watts attended the public consultation on this and noted that it is important to support immigrants in HRM given that, for example, recent immigrants actually pay more in tax revenue than native-born residents and the rate of immigrants working in their field in Nova Scotia is higher than both Ontario and British Columbia.

Councillor Hendsbee asked if the Greater Halifax Partnership will be involved in this, with the Mayor responding that they will be an integral part, particularly through their connector program.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. (15 in favour)**

Deputy Mayor Rankin and Councillor Johns were not present for the vote.

### **10.3.3 AdHoc Special Arts and Culture Advisory Committee**

The report dated April 16, 2013 was before Council.

**MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Nicoll that Halifax Regional Council direct staff to:**

- 1) Establish an AdHoc Special Arts and Culture Advisory Committee, in accordance with the Standard terms of reference for advisory committees and for a term not to exceed December 2013.**

**The purpose of the AdHoc Committee is to advise, provide feedback and guidance to staff related to the following:**

- Best practice models for how municipalities have enabled and support strong links between the professional arts and culture sector and the municipality**
- Best practice models and possible program directions HRM could undertake to support the professional arts and culture sector in HRM in support of the Regional Plan objectives and to inform the development of the Culture and Heritage Priority Plan**
- Staff to report with recommendations, including any input received back from the advisory committee to the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee for their review and consideration no**

**later than December 31, 2013 in order to make recommendations to Regional Council in advance of the 2014-2015 budget process.**

- 2) Further, that Regional Council direct the CPED Standing Committee to be both the nominating and appointing body for the AdHoc Committee and provide governance overview and direction to the work undertaken by the Committee.**
- 3) And further, as there may be budget implications to support this committee, that Regional Council request a staff report be provided to the June meeting of CPED outlining any budget implications, staff support plan and detailed Terms of Reference for review and recommendation by CPED Standing Committee for approval by Regional Council.**

Councillor Mason introduced the item, noting that feedback from arts professionals indicated the community wants more strategic guidance for this industry.

Councillor Outhit asked staff why amateur artists were not included in the motion, with Mr. Brad Anguish, Director of Community & Recreation Services, responding that it was discussed at the April 11, 2013 Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee meeting, but was not ultimately included in the motion.

Councillor Hendsbee asked how this initiative relates to the Regional Plan, with community grants and what opportunities there will be through this for local museums.

Councillor Mason responded by noting that HRM will continue to enhance professionals through grants programs and that this priority plan will move parallel to the Regional Plan. With respect to museums, there is concern for those, but the best way to address these would be a focused advisory committee.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (15 in favour).**

Deputy Mayor Rankin and Councillor Johns were not present for the vote.

**10.4 Special Events Advisory Committee**

**10.4.1 Summer Festival Grant Program**

This item was dealt with earlier in the meeting. See page 16.

**10.4.2 Festival and Events Grant Funding Request – First Intake**

This item was dealt with earlier in the meeting. See page 16.

**10.5 MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**



**10.5.1 Councillor Johns Extension of Water Service District Boundary to McCabe's Lake North Lands (Information Report dated March 11, 2013)**

**MOVED by Councillor Johns, seconded by Councillor Nicoll that this item be deferred until the May 7, 2013 meeting of Regional Council.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**11. MOTIONS**

**11.1 Ratification of In Camera Motion- April 23, 2013  
Citizen Appointments to Boards and Committees**

This matter was considered at an In Camera session held on April 23, 2013 and was now before Council for ratification.

**MOVED by Councillor Karsten, seconded by Councillor Nicoll that Halifax Regional Council:**

- 1. Approve the appointment to the Board of Police Commissioners as outlined in the Private and Confidential Report of April 10, 2013.**
- 2. Release the Citizen appointment to the public following Council ratification.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**12. IN CAMERA – NONE**

**13. ADDED ITEMS – NONE**

**14. NOTICES OF MOTION**

**14.1 Councillor Dalrymple**

Take Notice that at the next regular Halifax Regional Council meeting to be held May 7, 2013, I propose to move approval of Administrative Order SC-74, the purpose of which is to close a portion of the Cobequid Road right-of-way.

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Cathy J. Mellett  
Municipal Clerk

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

1. Proclamation- Global Love Day- May 1, 2013
2. Memorandum from the Director of Transportation and Public Works & Director of Finance and ICT dated March 19, 2013 re: Sidewalk Snow Clearing Service and Taxation
3. Memorandum from Director of Finance and ICT dated April 16, 2013 re: Residential Tax Exemption: Revised Rebate Values for 2013-2014
4. Memorandum from the Acting Director of Legal Services and Risk Management dated April 12, 2013 re: Status of By-Law Prosecutions – March 1, 2013 – March 31, 2013
5. Memorandum from the Municipal Clerk dated April 23, 2013 re: Requests for Presentation to Council- None