

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES February 3, 1998

PRESENT:

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

REGRETS:

Councillor Bob Harvey

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

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - January 20, 1998

MOVED by Councillors Blumenthal and Hetherington that the minutes of January 20, 1998 be approved, as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

The Municipal Clerk requested that the following item be added to the agenda:

6.1 Award of Tender #97-385 - Oyster Pond Fire Station - Phase II

Councillor Dooks requested that this item be dealt with first on the agenda so it could be ratified during the special Council session later in the evening.

The Municipal Clerk requested that the following item be deferred to the next Committee of the Whole meeting:

4.2.2 FCM Request re Telecommunications: Access to Municipal Rights of Way

MOVED by Councillors Dooks and Hetherington that the Order of Business, as amended, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES - None

6.1 Award of Tender #97-385 - Oyster Pond Fire Station - Phase II

C A staff report prepared for Gary Greene, Commissioner of Fire Services, regarding the above, was circulated to the Committee for its consideration.

MOVED by Councillors Dooks and Hetherington that it be recommended to Council that Tender #97-385 Oyster Pond Renovations Phase II be awarded to the low bid of Kasco Construction for \$118,400.00 including taxes. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Committee agreed to forward the matter to Council at this evening's Special Session/Public Hearing.

4. REPORTS

4.1 SABLE GAS COMMITTEE

4.1.1 Gas Distribution within Halifax Regional Municipality

- C A report prepared by Councillor Stephen Adams, Chair, Sable Gas Committee, regarding the above, was before the Committee for consideration.
- C Correspondence from Karen Robinson, President, Citizens for a Safe Learning Environment, regarding the above was circulated to the Committee for its consideration.

Councillor Adams reviewed the Committee's report.

MOVED by Councillors Adams and Stone that it be recommended to Council that staff of HRM be directed to expeditiously pursue and take all steps necessary to engage in discussions with potential distributors of natural gas within HRM, with the intent to reach an operating agreement with them. In the course of this work, HRM staff will prepare for the eventual introduction of natural gas to the municipality; further, that Council direct the Sable Gas Committee and HRM staff to pursue avenues for partnership and negotiate with potential distributors of natural gas within HRM. In this respect, staff is given the authority to engage external expertise, up to a maximum \$50,000.00, to assist in the development of a partnership option, along with necessary travel expenses.

Councillor Adams explained the \$50,000 would be used to hire individuals who have knowledge and expertise in the distribution of natural gas and the types of negotiations that take place, to ensure that Council gets the best possible agreement for the citizens of HRM.

Deputy Mayor Rankin spoke in favour of the motion noting there are two parallel directions to take: to prepare an operating agreement, and to explore some level of partnership. The Deputy Mayor noted some in-house services HRM can provide to the franchiser are mapping, in kind services, meter reading, etc., which are definable assets in such an operation. Deputy Mayor Rankin noted the report states there was not a majority agreement on behalf of the Committee to become involved in a municipally-owned utility.

(Councillor Hanson took his place at the meeting at 6:05 p.m.)

Councillor Barnet spoke against the motion expressing concern with getting into a private venture partnership for profit, as he did not believe the Municipality has been established to do this. The Councillor stated the Halifax Regional Water Commission has also set aside a substantial amount of money to hire a consultant to determine whether or not they want to enter into some type of partnership arrangement. He questioned why both the Municipality and the Water Commission would be somewhat in a competitive nature, and inquired if the Sable Gas Committee has discussed this issue with the Water Commission. Mr. Meech responded stating he followed up on this matter with Mr. Carl Yates, General Manager, Halifax Regional Water Commission, and the current

understanding is the Water Commission will not be going off on its own, and if anything is done, it will be done jointly. Councillor Hetherington stated it has always been the intention of the Water Commission to work hand-in-hand with the Municipality. The Councillor congratulated the Committee in their work on the report and spoke in support of the recommendation.

Councillor Blumenthal stated he would like the letter from the Citizens for a Safe Learning Environment forwarded to the Sable Gas Committee for it to consider.

Councillor Stone spoke in support of the motion stating it is a worthwhile venture to explore the possibilities.

Councillor Epstein stressed the importance of keeping all options open and available to HRM at this stage of the process. The Councillor stated, if gas comes forward, there has to be some level of involvement by the Municipality. The question then becomes at what level. Councillor Epstein spoke in favour of the utility approach, making the following points:

- C It is important to recognize if gas is distributed, the proposed scheme of the Gas Distribution Act of Nova Scotia is to do it on a monopoly basis. The Councillor had no objection to this, but prima facie ownership of this should be in the public sector.
- C There are dollar benefits to the citizens of HRM for this to operate as a utility, similar to the Water Commission. Whatever profits are made, if the utility was owned by HRM, would be profits for HRM. The other economic advantage would be HRM's ability to borrow on the bond market at lower rates than any private company. This would mean the operating costs would be lower, and this would reflect in lower costs to customers of the gas.
- C Another advantage of holding this in the public sector is environmental concerns can be introduced right at the beginning.

Councillor Epstein stated he believed a partnership is second best, because the costs for customers of the gas would be a little higher, and the profits would go somewhere else. He suggested the other members of the Sable Gas Committee may not have supported the idea of a monopoly due to HRM's lack of expertise in the gas business. However, this can be acquired by hiring the necessary expertise, which is readily available in the private market. In closing, Councillor Epstein stated he supports the spending of money to keep all options open.

Councillor Greenough inquired if the proposal includes discussions with the Nova Scotia Power Corporation. Ms. Betty Macdonald, Principal, Priority and Planning, stated correspondence from the NSPC indicated they were interested in serving a number of municipalities, so a partnership solely with HRM was not a preferred option. However, they are interested in working with HRM.

Councillor Greenough inquired if there is a possibility of cost sharing with the Water Commission in this proposal. Mr. Meech replied attempts to share the cost will be made.

Councillor Schofield spoke in support of spending the funds to get advice on this matter. However, he did not believe a utility or a partnership may be necessary.

Councillor Hendsbee agreed HRM should take a long look at this opportunity and not discount the possibility of a utility or a partnership until all the facts are known, to ensure the best decision is made for the residents and the commercial industry. The Councillor stated there is another opportunity to keep in mind, which is to provide a parallel trail system in the wilderness areas.

Councillor Kelly clarified the reason why the Committee did not support a utility approach was it would cost the Municipality up to \$300 million to bring it about, and it would be at least a 20 year time frame before a return on the investment would be achieved.

Councillor Sarto stated he could support the recommendation on the basis there was cost sharing involved.

Councillor Barnet stated he did not believe it was prudent for HRM to become involved in the gas business at this time. The Councillor stated there will not be a monopoly as there will be several sellers. With respect to a monopoly on home heating, residents of the Municipality have many options such as propane, wood, oil, electric, etc. Mayor Fitzgerald spoke in support of Councillor Barnet's comments, stating he would like to have a meter with a set charge in place as the gas line enters the Province.

In closing, Councillor Adams stated the consultant will give advice as to what extent HRM should become involved in this matter. If HRM initiates the process and requests to become a partner, a more favourable agreement can be negotiated at the beginning, which will benefit the residents of HRM. With respect to the Water Commission, Councillor Adams suggested it would helpful if there was dialogue with the Committee. Councillor Adams stated a benefit of partnering would be another competitive energy source will be created in HRM.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4.2 CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

- 4.2.1 1) Award of Tender #97-125 for a Two (2) Bay Vehicle Exhaust Extraction System for Walker and Second Street Fire Station**
- 2) Award of Tender #97-126 for a Five (5) Bay Vehicle Exhaust Extraction System for Cole Harbour Fire Station**

- C A staff report prepared for Gary Greene, Commissioner of Fire Services, recommending the award of the above tenders, was before the Committee for consideration.

MOVED by Councillors Greenough and Cunningham that it be recommended to Council that Council authorize the award to the lowest bidder for each station as follows:

- 1. Tender #97-125 - L.E. Cruickshanks Sheet Metal Limited at a cost of \$22,219.15 including HST.**
- 2. Tender #97-126 - L.E. Cruickshanks Sheet Metal Limited at a cost of \$76,739.50 including HST.**

In response to a question from Councillor Walker, Mr. Dale Carman, Procurement Coordinator, stated there will be some cost sharing in these tenders.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4.2.2 FCM Request re Telecommunications: Access to Municipal Rights of Way

- C A report prepared for Valerie Spencer, Commissioner, Priority and Policy, regarding the above, was before the Committee for consideration.

This item was deferred, during approval of the Order of Business, to the next Committee of the Whole meeting to be held on February 17, 1998.

4.2.3 Possible Acquisition, 22 Prince Albert Road

- C A report prepared for Larry Corrigan, Commissioner of Corporate Services, regarding the above, was before the Committee for consideration.

MOVED by Councillors Cunningham and Hetherington that it be recommended to Council that:

- 1. The purchase of the property at civic number 22 Prince Albert Road from Crane Plumbing Supplies for \$76,000, plus applicable taxes and closing adjustments with funds to be drawn from the Sale of Land Capital Reserve Account, and;**
- 2. Authorize an additional expenditure from the Sale of Land Capital Reserve Account in the amount of approximately \$12,000, for demolition of the existing structure on the property.**

In response to questions from Councillor Kelly regarding the long term plans for this area, Mr. Blair Blakeney, Regional Coordinator, Recreational Facilities, stated, at this point, both properties, 22 Prince Albert Road and 2 Pine Street, are an important part in the overall site package in sense of complementing the Starr Manufacturing property and from a perspective of putting the multi-use trail through the site. Mr. Austin French, Superintendent, Real Estate Services, stated there is some potential for revenue on a short term basis for 22 Prince Albert Road on a month-to-month lease basis. The revenue potential for 2 Pine Street is much stronger as there is an existing tenant. Since both buildings are near the end of their life span, it seemed appropriate to have money on hand in the event demolition would occur. However, in the short term, rental incomes of \$800 per month for 22 Prince Albert Road and \$1200 per month for 2 Pine Street are possible.

Councillor Kelly inquired about the time frame for a comprehensive report on the Starr Manufacturing site area. Mr. Blakeney replied, at this point, there is no funding in the budget for a comprehensive study. Ms. Donna Davis-Lohnes, General Manager, Planning Applications, noted some preliminary work could be done in-house, with a report coming back to Council in four to six months, in terms of definitive plans for that site. She added the staff project team put together to work on purchasing the property has been resurrected to explore various options for this property.

Councillor Cunningham stated there is a lot of community interest in these lands, and acquisition of these properties will go a long way to open this important piece of land in the centre of Dartmouth. The Councillor stated money is available through the Sale of Land account, and he urged Council to support this important project.

Councillor Stone inquired if staff could examine the possibility of squaring off Civic Lot #2 as shown on the plan attached to the report. Mr. French replied this can be taken into discussion with the abutters. With respect to the Greenvale School site, Ms. Davis-Lohnes stated staff are looking at future opportunities for this site. Also, a detailed planning exercise is being embarked on for the downtown Dartmouth community in concert with the community. Councillor Stone suggested the committee should examine the possibility of selling the Greenvale School site and using the revenue to help put together the plan for the Starr Manufacturing site and the trail system. The Councillor expressed concern with the further depletion of the Sale of Land account. With respect to the Greenvale School building, Ms. Davis-Lohnes noted it is a registered heritage property and the matter has been forwarded to the Heritage Advisory Committee for comment.

Mayor Fitzgerald inquired if any consideration had been given to opening the canal from the Halifax Harbour to Sullivan's Pond. Ms. Davis-Lohnes noted this was one of the key issues discussed when staff came to Council to purchase the Starr Manufacturing site, however, it would require a substantial amount of money.

In response to a question from Councillor Schofield regarding the status of the multi use trail from Graham's Grove to Mic Mac Blvd., Mr. Blakeney replied the detailed design for the rerouting of the trail has been completed and has been forwarded for a full

environmental assessment. Staff expect to be back to Council in the near future with a new recommendation.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4.2.4 Possible Acquisition of 2 Pine Street, Dartmouth

C A report prepared for Larry Corrigan, Commissioner of Corporate Services, regarding the above, was before the Committee for consideration.

MOVED by Councillors Cunningham and Greenough that it be recommended to Council that Council authorize:

- 1. The purchase of the property at civic number 2 Pine Street from Robert Creelman for \$84,690, plus applicable taxes and closing adjustments with funds to be drawn from the Sale of Land Capital Reserve Account, and;**
- 2. An additional expenditure from the Sale of Land Capital Reserve Account in the amount of approximately \$15,000, for demolition of the existing structure on the property. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

RECESS

The meeting recessed at 7:00 p.m. to hold the scheduled Public Hearings. The meeting reconvened at 9:00 p.m.

4.2.5 RFP #97-133, Traffic Signal Control Review

C A report prepared for Kulvinder Dhillon, Acting Commissioner of Regional Operations, regarding the above, was before the Committee for consideration.

MOVED by Councillors Hanson and Mitchell that it be recommended to Council that the Delcan Corporation be awarded the contract RFP #97-133, Traffic Signal Control Review for the amount of \$52,000 plus taxes.

Councillor Kelly requested when staff perform an evaluation process and analyse an RFP, that they provide the matrix as to how the recommendation was derived. Mr. Dhillon replied staff can provide this information.

Councillor Sarto reported he has received complaints with respect to the time cycles for pedestrians at the intersections of Portland St./Caldwell Rd. and Main St./Major St. Mr. Ken Silver, Manager, Traffic and Transportation, replied he would have staff investigate this and report back to the Councillor.

Councillor Barnet expressed concern with the replacement of equipment and the budget constraints. He inquired about the financial impact of this on the Municipality. Mr. Silver replied the purpose of the study is to determine this. Councillor Barnet inquired if this project was included in the Capital Budget. Mr. Kulvinder Dhillon replied it was not and has arisen due to the Year 2000 problem. The money has been reallocated from money left over from the underground wiring project from the 1997 Capital Budget already

approved by Council. Councillor Barnet expressed concern with bringing items forward on a one-on-one basis, and stated this item should have been placed on a priority list in the 1998 Capital Budget. Mr. Dhillon stated this would not have provided the necessary time to meet the deadline of Year 2000 for this project. Councillor Barnet suggested this information should have been provided in the staff report.

Councillor Walker expressed concern with the possibility of replacing two systems and starting over with a new system. Mr. Silver stated the intent would be to examine the host software that controls the hardware on the street. The intent would not be to replace all the street hardware in the next couple of years. Councillor Walker requested that more detailed information be provided in the report when this matter goes to Council for ratification.

Councillor Cooper expressed concern with approving this project outside of the 1998-99 Capital Budget.

MOVED by Councillor Cooper that this item be referred to the 1998-99 Capital Budget discussion.

There was no Secunder of this motion.

Councillor Stone stated if there is money left over in accounts, it should be put together and used to save any tax rate increase. He asked if a replacement program will have an effect on any opportunity to add new traffic lights where the need arises. Mr. Dhillon replied this will not affect what is in the proposed budget for traffic signals.

In response to a question from Councillor McInroy, Mr. Silver stated the consultant will assist in determining the implications of the Year 2000.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4.2.6 Silver Property - 3 India Road

- C A report prepared for Kulvinder Dhillon, Acting Commissioner of Regional Operations, regarding the above, was before the Committee for consideration. The report recommended that HRM provide a comfort letter to the owners of civic numbers 3, 5, and 7 India Road.

Councillor Schofield reviewed the situation regarding the Silver property, 3 India Road, and expressed concern with the staff recommendation, noting Mr. and Mrs. Silver have already received letters of comfort in the past from the former City of Dartmouth, and they do not help in making the property saleable. The Councillor noted the report indicates roads must be at least 50 feet. He noted if an easement were given to correct this problem on India Road, it would mean the road would only be 48 feet wide. Councillor Schofield inquired if this is acceptable. Mr. Dhillon replied, at this time, the HRM Act will not permit a street

width of less than 50 feet. Councillor Schofield suggested this situation should be corrected by HRM, if possible, either by amending the HRM Act or purchasing the property.

Mr. Anstey, Municipal Solicitor, stated the amendment to the Act that is currently before the House, will permit streets that are less than 50 feet wide. He suggested Council could deal with this matter once the amendment is approved, which is expected to happen before the House adjourns the next sitting.

Councillor Kelly suggested the possibility of obtaining the extra two feet from the other side of the street should be examined.

MOVED by Councillors Schofield and Sarto that it be recommended to Council that this matter be referred to the Municipal Solicitor until the HRM Act is amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4.2.7 Three Month Extension of Refuse/Recyclables Collection Contracts

C A report prepared for George McLellan, Commissioner of Regional Operations, regarding the above, was circulated to the Committee for its consideration.

MOVED by Councillors Rankin and Mitchell that it be recommended to Council that Council approve the extension of refuse and recyclables collection contracts as described in the staff report, for a period of three months after March 31, 1998, at the existing terms and payment rates as defined in the tender documents. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4.2.8 Solid Waste Resource Management Strategy:

(i) Residential Collection Customer Definition

C A supplementary report prepared for George McLellan, Commissioner, Regional Operations, regarding the above, was circulated to the Committee for its consideration.

C Correspondence from Mr. David Wimberly, regarding the above, was circulated to the Committee for its consideration.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Rankin and Councillor Uteck that it be recommended to Council that the Halifax Regional Municipality adopt the criteria, as set out in the supplementary report dated January 29, 1998, in defining eligibility for residential collection services.

Councillor Kelly questioned the number of bags for curb side pick up, stating in the areas he visited, the average number of bags was in the one to three range. Mr. Mann replied

the numbers given are not intended to portray an average. They are intended to deal with seasonal situations, such as spring clean up, where more than the average number of bags will be set out.

(Deputy Mayor Rankin assumed the Chair at 9:32 p.m.)

With respect to reducing, Mr. Mann stated there is a considerable amount of funding for education and communication to deal with this, particularly once the carts are issued.

Responding to a question from Councillor Kelly regarding the collection schedule, Mr. Mann reviewed the schedule as set out in the January 14, 1998 staff report.

Councillor Kelly noted last year's tax bill had a breakdown showing the allocation of taxes and indicated the amount for each service. He questioned why the cost for the collection service is not included in the staff report. Mr. Mann replied this question is integral to a user pay approach which has yet to be analysed and discussed by Council. Councillor Kelly inquired if there will be an opportunity for a tax rebate for those not utilizing the service. Mr. McLellan replied there is no compensation envisaged, and this is consistent with a lot of changes that have taken place in the blending and amalgamation of services. Mr. McLellan stated the vast majority of the staff report maintains the same level of service that existed in any of the municipalities prior to amalgamation. Deputy Mayor Rankin added the total collection costs are increasing by 50 percent. Mr. McLellan stated it is incumbent upon staff, in the time of change, to see if there are ways to save money, and this is an opportunity to do so, without dramatic impact.

Councillor Kelly stated the commercial tax rate in District 21 increased twenty-five percent last year. Certain services were received for those dollars, and now they are being removed while the dollar amount remains the same.

Councillor Walker raised several questions for which he requested answers be provided by staff before this matter comes before Council for approval. The Councillor's questions were as follows:

- C How many apartment buildings over six units currently receive curb side collection?
- C How does this recommendation affect townhouses with private roads?
- C With respect to the containers, how many are staff projecting will be at the end of a private road, in particular, in the Braemount subdivision in his District?
- C Who will police the thirty bag limit on buildings with less than six units?

Mr. Mann noted there is no real change being proposed in how these issues will be treated compared to how they are currently handled.

With respect to organics, Councillor Walker asked what is the average weight of the organic containers. Mr. Mann replied the containers are 220 litres in volume and the

weight is 220 lbs. However, these figures have to be confirmed by the suppliers and that is why they were not included in the report.

Councillor Walker objected to the limit of twenty bags of leaf and yard waste per organics collection day per civic address, and suggested it should be any number due to the trouble experienced this fall with leaf collection. Mr. Mann stated if Council wishes to amend this, staff will do so. The twenty bag limit is to ensure the haulers can complete their routes within a prescribed day. The problem with leaf bags during spring and fall is, due to their weight, they force the trucks to visit the transfer stations more often which slows down the service to residents. Councillor Walker stated this limit is unacceptable and should be amended to reflect no limit.

Councillor Blumenthal expressed concern with small businesses and institutions receiving residential services in certain zones, while others will have to pay the commercial rates.

Councillor McInroy stated there needs to be flexibility with respect to commercial pick up as it is more economical to include this in the residential collection process in some situations. He asked if there will be an opportunity for small businesses in other areas to be included in the residential system, if it is more logical to do so. Mr. Mann replied if Council wishes to extend small business collection to areas other than those staff has identified and recommended, staff will do so.

Councillor Cooper inquired if there is a definition for "small businesses" as it relates to residential collection. Mr. Mann replied the working definition is businesses that have employees of nine people or less. Councillor Cooper noted there could be businesses with nine employees producing one bag per week, and another producing a hundred bags per week. The Councillor inquired if any research has been done to determine the average number of bags put out by a small business. Mr. Mann replied this type of exercise will be contingent on experience in the field. After the carts are issued and source separation is occurring, staff will know exactly what type of impact there is on waste generation and the streaming thereof, and adjustments can be made at that time.

With respect to cart weight restrictions, Councillor Cooper inquired if there has been a minimum amount set out that must be handled by the lifters. Mr. Mann replied the tender contract will specify the weight restrictions, which will be determined by the actual specifications by the cart manufacturer and the lifter specifications, which have to conform to the warranty specifications of the cart.

With respect to the request for additional information, Mr. McLellan stated time is limited as the existing contract arrangements expire at the end of March 1998. He suggested if there are further questions, staff would prefer to answer them this evening in order to permit a recommendation to be put forward to Council next week.

(Mayor Fitzgerald resumed the Chair at 10:00 p.m.)

MOVED by Councillors Blumenthal and Uteck that the meeting extend past 10:00 p.m. for an additional thirty minutes. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Councillor Stone requested a list of establishments in his area that will lose the service they currently receive. Mr. Mann responded, to his knowledge, there is no change to any service in that area.

Councillor Stone stated he has a number of apartment dwellers who expressed concern that their rent will increase because they are going to continue to be paying the cost of garbage through tipping fees, which are at the commercial rate. Mr. Mann replied it is being proposed that this will continue. Councillor Stone inquired if staff investigated the possibility of finding a way to include the apartment buildings by charging them the cost to collect the garbage by separation. Mr. Mann replied SWRAC requested a report last summer on this specific question. The staff report indicated it would cost \$1.5 million, without source separation, in extra contract fees. It would cost another \$1.5 million in lost ICI tip fees at the facilities.

Councillor Stone expressed concern with serving the businesses and institutions in zones where residential people, particularly condominiums, will have a reduction. He suggested there needs to be a different approach to do this.

With regards to bag limits, Councillor Hendsbee noted the rural areas do not have the same concentration of businesses as the urban areas. Many of the small businesses are home based. Seventy-five percent of the small businesses in his District employ four or less people. He questioned the economic feasibility for a private collector to travel the vast distances to the various small businesses.

With respect to Zone 4, Councillor Barnet stated he did not recall this zone being recommended to be included in the commercial areas to receive residential service, when this issue was discussed last week. He questioned why this zone was now being included. Mr. Mann replied the SWRAC commented that Zone 4 businesses and institutions should also continue to receive residential collection services due to its status as host of the mixed waste processing facilities. This was the reason for the recommendation. Councillor Barnet stated he did not recall the SWRAC taking a position on this issue and, therefore, he cannot support it. Councillor Mitchell stated he raised this issue at SWRAC and noted answers to most questions raised this evening are included in the staff and SWRAC reports.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

(ii) Condominium Collection

- C A supplementary report prepared for George McLellan, Commissioner of Regional Operations, regarding the above, was circulated to the Committee for its consideration.

- C Correspondence from Dr. Richard H. James, regarding the above, was before the Committee for its consideration.

MOVED by Councillors Blumenthal and Walker that this item be deferred to the February 17, 1998 Committee of the Whole meeting which will allow staff the opportunity to contact the condominium corporations for input. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4.2.9 Residential Collection Zoning and Contract Administration

Mr. Smith provided a verbal report on this issue noting staff was asked at the last Council meeting to organize a public hearing on the detail of the contract for the solid waste collection system. Mr. Smith stated the report and principles, recommended for approval earlier in this meeting, are the basis of the contract. Mr. Smith noted Councillor Hetherington's preference is to debate the issues of concern in a public forum. Mr. Smith stated staff are struggling with how this can be accomplished, given the size of the document, and given that the principles contained in the contract are the principles that have been presented to Council. He requested that the reports recommended for approval this evening be forwarded to Council for approval, and that they be the basis for the contract. Mr. Smith asked if any Councillors have a contractor or hauler that has concerns, to please advise staff. He noted staff are in contact with most of the existing haulers, and they appear to be reasonably satisfied.

Councillor Kelly asked if staff believed there will be a competitive factor involved with the eight zone process. Mr. Smith replied the nine existing contractors will not provide the same service that is being proposed. The hauler for the zone will now collect everything for that zone. Whereas today, there are eight haulers with the ninth being responsible for the recyclables collection. The whole structure is changing. Staff have had some discussion regarding the zone boundaries with the haulers and have received reasonable acceptance. Mr. Smith stated it is HRM's responsibility to ensure open and fair competition. He noted a concept that has been recently discussed is the possibility of having a guideline to limit the number of zones per bidder, such as a maximum of three. This would be stipulated in the tender.

With respect to the closing of the transfer stations, Councillor Kelly asked if there has been an analysis of the change in transportation costs due to the closures. Mr. Mann stated it is anticipated the closing of the transfer stations will cost an additional \$200,000 - \$300,000 per year in extra residential collection contract costs, however, this is subject to the actual results of the tenders themselves. In addition to that, savings are anticipated in the range of \$1.5 million per year of operating costs, not including any capital impacts that may be required to keep those facilities open. Councillor Kelly inquired what the cost would be to keep the Halifax transfer station open. Mr. Mann stated there would be a considerable capital cost over a short period of time. Councillor Kelly asked that this figure be updated.

In response to a question from Councillor Cooper regarding mileage calculations for the zones, Mr. Mann stated many of the packer trucks will not be able to meet the weight restrictions of the bridge when they are fully loaded. Using smaller trucks would require more trips and travel which would increase the cost.

4.2.10 By-Law S-400, Respecting Charges for Street Improvements

C A staff report prepared for George McLellan, Commissioner of Regional Operations, regarding the above, was circulated to the Committee for its consideration.

MOVED by Councillors Blumenthal and Sarto that this item be deferred to the next Committee of the Whole meeting. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4.2.11 Street Lights

C A staff report prepared for Kulvinder Dhillon, Acting Commissioner of Regional Operations, regarding the above, was before the Committee for its consideration.

MOVED by Councillors Blumenthal and Sarto that this item be deferred to the next Committee of the Whole meeting. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

At a later point in the meeting, Mr. Meech stated an information session on this issue is planned for Councillors who have a particular interest in this report. The matter will be brought back to the public forum after this session. Council will be notified of the date and time of the information session once it has been confirmed.

4.2.12 Timberlea Collector Roadway - Proposal 97-145, Consultant Award

C A report prepared for K. S. Dhillon, Acting Commissioner of Regional Operations, regarding the above was before the Committee for its consideration.

MOVED by Councillors Rankin and Schofield that it be recommended to Council that Council approve the appointment of Wallace Macdonald & Lively Ltd. For the design of the collector roadway in Timberlea at an estimated cost of \$51,000 plus taxes with funding approval as per the Budget Implications section of the staff report. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4.2.13 PA-ES(E)-10-97 Request by Vladi Private Islands Limited to amend the Municipal Planning Strategy for Eastern Shore (East)

C A staff report prepared for Dan English, Commissioner of Community Services, regarding the above, was before the Committee for its consideration.

MOVED by Councillors Dooks and Schofield that it be recommended to Council that Council authorize staff to initiate a process to consider amending the Municipal Planning Strategy for Eastern Shore (East) in accordance with the public participation program adopted on February 25, 1997.

Councillor Epstein spoke against the motion as he believed this was not an example of good planning.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5. PRESENTATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE

5.1 Correspondence

5.1.1 Letter from Tom Traves, President and Vice-Chancellor, Dalhousie University - Request for Support of a Resolution re: Medical Research Council of Canada

MOVED by Councillors Uteck and Downey that it be recommended to Council that the following resolution be adopted:

WHEREAS the Government of Canada, in the September 23, 1997 Speech From the Throne committed to “build on the progress achieved and the foundations put in place .. to strengthen the economy and increase confidence” and to “take further action to encourage new investment, to create new jobs, and to generate the national wealth necessary to assure Canadians a stable and secure future”;

AND WHEREAS in its report “Keeping the Balance”, the Standing Committee of Finance of the House of Commons recommended that greater investments through the Granting Councils is “the most important action the federal government can take in the short term to boost long-term productivity, create jobs and help Canadians prepare for the economy of the future”;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Canada has put in place the Canada Foundation for Innovation to enhance the capacity of Canadians to carry out leading edge research and participate in the knowledge-based economy;

AND WHEREAS 56 percent of research at Dalhousie University is in the biomedical and health fields;

AND WHEREAS the budget of the Medical Research Council of Canada will have, by end of fiscal year 1998-99, been reduced by 13 percent;

AND WHEREAS MRC budget cutbacks since 1994 have meant that, for Dalhousie University, 22 world-class peer-reviewed recommended research projects, valued at \$1.4 million have not been funded, that funded projects have been reduced by \$431,000 and that 7 meritorious highly recommended researchers have not been funded;

AND WHEREAS these cutbacks have meant an approximate loss of 121 highly qualified jobs for the Halifax Regional Municipality;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Halifax Regional Municipality urges the Minister of Finance, the Honourable Paul Martin, to increase, in the next federal budget, the resources of the Medical Research Council of Canada in order to keep pace with CFI infrastructure investments in universities and teaching hospitals, and in order to optimize Canada's capacity to innovate in the health research sector and create long-term highly skilled jobs for the future economy of the Halifax Regional Municipality.

ALSO, BE IT RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the federal Minister of Health, the Honourable Allan Rock. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. ADDED ITEMS

6.1 Award of Tender #97-385 - Oyster Pond Fire Station - Phase II

This item was dealt with earlier in the meeting.

7. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Councillors Dooks and Blumenthal that the meeting adjourn at 10:30 p.m. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Vi Carmichael
Municipal Clerk