

# HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

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## HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL MINUTES MAY 25, 2010

PRESENT: Mayor Peter Kelly  
Deputy Mayor Brad Johns  
Councillors: Steve Streach  
Barry Dalrymple  
David Hendsbee  
Lorelei Nicoll  
Gloria McCluskey  
Darren Fisher  
Bill Karsten  
Jackie Barkhouse  
Jim Smith  
Mary Wile  
Jerry Blumenthal  
Dawn M. Sloane  
Sue Uteck  
Jennifer Watts  
Russell Walker  
Debbie Hum  
Linda Mosher  
Stephen D. Adams  
Robert P. Harvey  
Tim Outhit  
Reg Rankin  
Peter Lund

STAFF: Mr. Wayne Anstey, Acting Chief Administrative Officer  
Ms. Mary Ellen Donovan, Municipal Solicitor  
Ms. Sherrill Murphy, Acting Municipal Clerk  
Ms. Shawnee Gregory, Legislative Assistant

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## 1. INVOCATION

The meeting was called to order at 3:27 p.m. with the Invocation being led by Councillor Streach.

## 2. SPECIAL COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Deputy Mayor Johns wished to recognize the accomplishments of a life member of the Sackville Kinsmen Club, Mr. Bob Taylor, as he and his wife were leaving HRM; noting that a recognition dinner had been held for Mr. Taylor on May 24, 2010.

Councillor Sloane made the following announcements for events being held on May 29, 2010:

- The 100<sup>th</sup> annual Kermesse Fun Fair IWK Fundraiser.
- Beautification Day on Uniacke Street starting at 11:00 a.m.
- The North End Community Garden Clean Up starting at 11:00 a.m.

Councillor Blumenthal indicated that Mr. Fred Bishop, Chairman of the Committee of Accessibility of Transit, had passed away on May 24, 2010. A moment of silence was held in honour of Mr. Bishop.

Councillor Blumenthal announced that St. Stephen's Elementary School would be holding their Spring Fair on May 29, 2010 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and that St. Joseph's Elementary school would be holding their Spring Fair on the afternoon of May 27, 2010. In closing, Councillor Blumenthal indicated that a meeting would be held on June 2, 2010 at St. Stephen's Elementary School regarding the proposed roundabout for District 11.

Councillor Mosher announced that tickets were now on sale for the Theatre Arts Guild production of 12 Angry Men and further information was available at [www.tagtheatre.com](http://www.tagtheatre.com). She thanked Mr. Russ Manderville of Fairmount for coordinating a community clean up as well as all volunteers who had helped. In closing, Councillor Mosher indicated that Bike Week would be taking place from May 28, 2010 to June 6, 2010 and that more information was available on the HRM website.

Councillor Barkhouse announced that a meeting regarding the Frog Pond Surf Park on Cow Bay Road would be held on May 27, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at the Cow Bay Hall.

Councillor Hum announced that the annual general meeting of the Friends of Hemlock Ravine Society would be held on May 26, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Peter's Anglican Church.

Councillor Dalrymple announced that the Waverley Rate Payers Association would be holding their annual general meeting on June 3, 2010 at the Waverley Legion.

Councillor Hendsbee announced that the Orenda Canoe Club would be hosting a fishing derby on Lake Echo on May 29, 2010 and that on May 30, 2010 St. Genevieve's Church in East Chezzetcook would be holding their annual lobster supper.

Councillor Lund made the following announcements for events being held on May 29, 2010:

- The St. Margaret's Bay Toy Library would be holding an expo showcasing local home based businesses.
- A fundraiser yard sale would be taking place at the St. Nicolas Anglican Church.
- The annual May Fair would be taking place at Jerry Lawrence Provincial Park.

Councillor Fisher announced that Spring Fairs would be taking place at Ian Forsyth Elementary School on June 5, 2010 and at Brookhouse Elementary School as well as Michael Wallace Elementary School on June 12, 2010.

Councillor Smith wished to remind residents that the Public Hearing for Case 01361 - Municipal Planning Strategy Amendment - Dartmouth Bridge Transit Terminal would be taking place at the Regional Council meeting on June 8, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - NONE**

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

Addition:

12.1 2010/2011 Operating and Capital Budget

The agenda was accepted as amended.

**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**

**9.2.1 Councillor Karsten**

Councillor Karsten submitted a petition containing 46 signatures on behalf of the residents of Valkyrie Crescent, Dartmouth, requesting that speed bumps be installed on Valkyrie Crescent as the danger of harm to children by reckless drivers, and those who use Valkyrie Crescent as a thoroughfare was far too great.

**9.2.2 Councillor Barkhouse**

Councillor Barkhouse submitted a petition containing 68 signatures on behalf of the residents of Eastern Passage requesting a formal investigation into the impact of recent and future developments and the effects on existing infrastructure for storm water management.

**10. REPORTS**

**10.1 CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

**10.1.1 Parks Canada's National Historic Sites of Canada Cost-Sharing Program**

- A staff report dated May 19, 2010 was before Council.

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

- 1. Authorize staff to enter into an agreement with Parks Canada for a contribution of up to \$425,000 for Memorial Tower National Historic Site and for a contribution of up to \$250,000 for Halifax Public Gardens National Historic Site;**
- 2. Transfer funding in the amount of \$85,500 from capital account CBX01046 - City Hall Stone Restoration to CPX01230 - Dingle Tower-Restoration Plaques;**
- 3. Increase capital account CPX01230 - Dingle Tower-Restoration Plaques by \$75,000 for Parks Canada cost sharing beyond 2009/10 budget assumptions;**

**4. Authorize staff to withdraw the City Hall funding application under the Parks Canada's National Historic Sites of Canada Cost-Sharing Program for the reasons outlined in the discussion section of the staff report dated May 19, 2010.**

Councillor Mosher thanked Mr. Phil Townsend, Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management, Mr. Terry Gallagher, Manager of Facility Development and all HRM and Government of Canada staff for their hard work on this endeavour. She indicated that a celebration would be taking place at the Memorial Tower National Historic Site on Natal Day.

Councillor McCluskey expressed concern that although this was a necessary expense it was also a message for HRM to not neglect such structures in order to avoid costly repairs.

Councillor Sloane stated that HRM should be making maintenance on such structures a priority.

Mr. Townsend noted that the agreement was only between HRM and the Federal Government as there had been no opportunity for the Provincial Government to be involved.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**11. MOTIONS - NONE**

**12. ADDED ITEMS**

**12.1 2010/2011 Operating and Capital Budget**

The following item was dealt with at the Committee of the Whole meeting held on May 21, 2010 and was now before Council for ratification.

Mayor Kelly advised Council of the following amendments to the motion:

- That *be approved* be added to the end of items a), f) and bb); and
- that the date included in item o) be changed to *Friday, October 29, 2010*.

**MOVED BY Deputy Mayor Johns, seconded by Councillor Streach, that Halifax Regional Council hereby resolve that:**

- a) the 2010/2011 Corporate Plan be approved**

- b) **the Operating Budget in the amount of \$726,381,964 gross expenditures (which includes \$595,185,762 in municipal expenditures), \$589,966,353 non-departmental revenues, and \$136,415,611 departmental revenues be approved;**
- c) **the Project Budget in the amount of \$157,250,866, be approved;**
- d) **the general rates of taxation on commercial and business occupancy be set at**
  - (i) \$3.257 for the urban area;**
  - (ii) \$3.257 for the suburban area; and**
  - (iii) \$2.899 for the rural area****applied to the full assessed value of the property;**
- e) **the general rates of taxation on residential and resource property be set at**
  - (i) \$0.7088 for the urban area;**
  - (ii) \$0.6918 for the suburban area; and**
  - (iii) \$0.6850 for the rural area****applied to the full assessed value of the property;**
- f) **the 2010/2011 Annual Transit Service Plan be approved**
- g) **the tax rates associated with Transit Tax be set at**
  - (i) \$0.051 for the Regional Transportation tax rate;**
  - (ii) \$0.105 for the Local Transit tax rate****applied to the full assessed value of the property;**
- h) **(i) the boundary of the urban, suburban and rural areas is as delineated in the attached “Tax Structure Map”;**

- (ii) the boundary of the Regional Transportation area includes all properties within communities included within the attached “Regional Transportation map”;
  - (iii) the boundary for the Local Transit area includes all properties within 1km walking distance of any HRM transit stop.
- i) the *Provincial Area Rate for Mandatory Education* on residential and resource property be set at the rate of \$0.306; and at a rate of \$0.333 for all commercial and business occupancy assessment;
- j) the *Provincial Area Rate for Property Valuation Services* on residential and resource property be set at the rate of \$0.023; and at a rate of \$0.013 for all commercial and business occupancy assessment;
- k) the *Provincial Area Rate for Corrections Services* on residential and resource property be set at the rate of \$0.022; and at a rate of \$0.010 for all commercial and business occupancy assessment;
- l) the *Provincial Area Rate for Metro Regional Housing Authority and Other* on residential and resource property be set at the rate of \$0.005; and at a rate of \$0.006 for all commercial and business occupancy assessment;
- m) *Supplementary Education*, under Section 530 of the Municipal Government Act, shall be set at the rate of \$0.045 to the residential and resource assessment and \$0.133 to the commercial assessment including business occupancy;
- n) *Fire Protection* rates shall be set at \$0.075 for all commercial assessable property, including business occupancy; and at a rate of \$0.026 for all residential and resource property which is within 1,200 feet of a hydrant that is designed and operated for public fire protection purposes.
- o) the final tax bills will become *due on Friday, October 29, 2010*;
- p) the interest rate on the Special Reserve Funds, designated as requiring interest under Section 100(2) of the Municipal Government Act, be set at the rate of return on funds invested by HRM for the period April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2011;



- q) 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, 2010 to March 31, 2011;
- r) the interest rate on all reserves except for those identified in n) and o) will be set at the rate of return on funds invested by HRM for the period April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2011;
- s) the interest rate on trust funds will be set at the annual rate of return on specific investments held by the trusts;
- t) approve in principle amending Administrative Order 14, Application of Interest Charges on Outstanding Accounts to provide for an increase in the interest charges on outstanding accounts from 4% above the prime lending rate of the Halifax Regional Municipality's Banker to 1.25% monthly (15.00% annually) effective July 1, 2010;
- u) approve in principle amending Schedule "A" of Administrative Order 15, Respecting License, Permit and Processing Fees, to provide for an increase in the fee for Street and Services Permits from \$100 to \$125, \$250 or \$750 depending on the complexity of the proposed street opening or work upon a street;
- v) approve in principle amending Schedule "A" of Administrative Order 15, Respecting License, Permit and Processing Fees, to provide for a new fee of \$25.00 where the development proposed is not required to have a building permit;
- w) approve in principle amending Schedule "A" of Administrative Order 15, Respecting License, Permit and Processing Fees, to provide for a new fee of \$250.00 where the development proposed is a Multi-Unit Residential, Industrial, Commercial or Institutional (MICI) development and a construction permit is not requested at that time;
- x) approve in principle amending Schedule "A" of Administrative Order 15, Respecting License, Permit and Processing Fees, to provide for a 10% increase in the fees for planning applications;
- y) approve in principle amending Schedule 6 of Administrative Order 18, the Revenue Collections Policy Administrative Order, to provide for a new fee of \$5.00 for Friendly Reminder Notices;

- z) approve in principle amending subsection 23(2) of By-Law S-300, a By-Law Respecting Streets, by deleting the following wording "Every Application for a Permit shall include a fee in the amount of \$100" and replacing it with the wording "Every Application for a Permit shall include a fee as specified in Administrative Order 15" effective July 1, 2010.**
- aa) approve an increase in the charge for cheques returned for Non-Sufficient Funds from \$20.00 to \$40.00 effective July 1, 2010.**
- bb) the service review priorities 2010/2011 be approved.**

Discussion on the motion ensued with staff responding to questions of clarification.

Councillor Uteck expressed concern that Council had not completed a thorough budget review.

Mr. Ken Reashor, Acting Director of Transportation and Public Works, clarified that there were no funds allotted in the 2010/2011 budget for the proposed roundabouts.

Councillor Mosher stated, for the record, that she had to leave the budget debate early on Friday, May 21, 2010 to attend a previously scheduled community meeting. She expressed disappointment that the discussions had concluded that evening as her name was on the Speakers List and she had a page of proposed cuts to propose; noting that she would submit these suggestions to staff. In closing, Councillor Mosher advised that HRM had done a great job in looking at service cuts.

Mayor Kelly advised that Councillors had been requested to forward any proposals for fall 2010 budget cuts to staff; noting that staff would be coming back with \$13,000,000 worth of further cuts at that time. He indicated that the budget discussion did finish on May 21, 2010, however, Council had been given the opportunity to continue over the weekend and on May 25, 2010.

Mr. Bruce Fisher, Manager of Fiscal and Tax Policy, provided three slides in order to clarify the changes to the commercial tax rate.

Mr. Wayne Anstey, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, advised Council that they could not retroactively change the tax rate as a result of the \$13,000,000 in savings staff were hoping to present in the fall. He did, however, state that the proposed savings may well result in a surplus for the year which would take some pressure off of the 2011/2012 budget or give HRM extra money to deal with issues. He noted that a review of recreation would be taking place in the fall as well.

Councillor Streach advised, for the record, that the debate had not been cut off on May 21, 2010 and ample time had been provided. He stated that Council had asked staff in March to bring forward cuts as Council dictated and staff had done that and more which he appreciated.

Councillor Adams agreed with Councillor Streach; noting that most of the budget discussions had taken place at the March 23, 2010 meeting and that Council could not start micro managing staff.

Ms. Cathie O'Toole, Director of Finance, indicated that staff had come back with \$8,000,000 on the transit tax versus \$10,000,000 on the transit rate. She noted that staff had been given direction to find \$14,000,000 in reductions and had come back with \$22,500,000; \$6,000,000 added on the general tax rate was able to be reduced to \$3,000,000 and the initial direction for fall cuts was \$10,000,000, however, staff were now recommending \$13,000,000.

Councillor McCluskey expressed concern regarding the commercial tax rate; noting that it was her understanding that all businesses would be paying 3% more in taxes than last year.

Councillor Sloane advised that she too was concerned for local businesses as Council had not discussed the commercial tax rate during the budget deliberations.

Ms. O'Toole indicated that staff's estimation was that 80% of businesses would see a reduction in their bills as based on a review all commercial tax accounts.

Councillor Harvey agreed with Councillor Adams; noting that the real budget debate occurs when Council sets the framework. He stated that staff had managed to go above and beyond Council's goals and there was now a tighter budget than was requested. In closing, he added that this was not an isolated budget as it would be carried forward in the fall.

In response to a question posed by Councillor Outhit, Ms. O'Toole indicated that an additional \$3,300,000 worth of cuts would have had to been made in order to have a general tax increase of zero.

In response to a question posed by Councillor Smith, Ms. O'Toole stated that there had been no motion directing staff to carry forward anything regarding the commercial tax rate to the fall. She stated that there was, however, a plan for staff to start looking at an Economic Strategy in the Financial Business Plan.

A recorded vote was taken on the motion.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED. (17 in favour, 7 against)**

Those voting in favour were Mayor Kelly, Deputy Mayor Johns and Councillors Adams, Dalrymple, Fisher, Harvey, Hendsbee, Hum, Karsten, Lund, Nicoll, Rankin, Streach, Uteck, Walker, Watts and Wile.

Those voting against were Councillors Barkhouse, Blumenthal, McCluskey, Mosher, Outhit, Sloane and Smith.

Deputy Mayor Johns requested that staff consider reinstating the Program and Service Review Committee.

Councillor Uteck requested that staff consider going back to the original budget planning process whereby Business Units come to Council one Unit at a time in order to facilitate a more open and frank discussion.

**13. NOTICES OF MOTION**

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 4:24 p.m.

Sherryl Murphy  
Acting Municipal Clerk