

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES

May 13, 2008

PRESENT: Mayor Peter Kelly
Deputy Mayor Stephen D. Adams
Councillors: Krista Snow
David Hendsbee
Harry McInroy
Andrew Younger
Bill Karsten
Jackie Barkhouse
Jim Smith
Mary Wile
Patrick Murphy
Dawn Sloane
Sue Uteck
Sheila Fougere
Russell Walker
Debbie Hum
Linda Mosher
Brad Johns
Robert Harvey
Tim Outhit
Reg Rankin
Gary Meade

REGRETS: Councillors: Steve Streach
Gloria McCluskey

STAFF: Mr. Dan English, Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. Mary Ellen Donovan, Municipal Solicitor
Ms. Julia Horncastle, Acting Municipal Clerk
Ms. Shawnee Gregory, Legislative Assistant

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1. CALL TO ORDER 3
- 2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES 3
- 3. PROPOSED BY-LAW S-308, AN AMENDMENT TO BY-LAW S-300,
RESPECTING STREETS 3
- 4. PROPOSED BY-LAW A-400, RESPECTING ALTERNATIVE VOTING 4
- 5. ADJOURNMENT 6

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:33 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - Budget Deliberations - April 15, 16, 17 & 29, 2008 & April 15 & 22, 2008

Corrections:

April 15, 2008 3. Councillor Murphy requested that the minutes reflect that the public would have full engagement in the five (5) year plan.

April 22, 2008 3. Councillor McInroy - *He added that concrete should be considered an option for the trail beds.* The Councillor clarified that he meant this to be a one time example.

Councillors Uteck and Hum requested that the minutes reflect their presence at the April 22, 2008 Regional Council meeting. They advised that the irregular meeting times on that date caused an error in their attendance record.

MOVED by Councillor Wile, seconded by Councillor Sloane, that the minutes from the Budget Deliberations of April 15, 16, 17 & 29, 2008 and April 15 & 22, 2008 as corrected, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. PROPOSED BY-LAW S-308, AN AMENDMENT TO BY-LAW S-300, RESPECTING STREETS

C A report dated April 28, 2008 was submitted.

Mr. Angus Doyle, Manager of Utility Coordination, provided the presentation. Highlights were as follows:

C Staff was requesting that a two (2) year moratorium be required which would also be at the engineers discretion;

C Any work that requires access to the right of way, such as tree cutting and contract work, will now also require a permit. This will enable better power over the streets.

MOVED BY Councillor Younger, seconded by Councillor Karsten, that Halifax Regional Council approve in principle and begin the formal process for the adoption of By-Law S-308, Amendments to Street Bylaw S-300 "By-Law

Respecting Streets”.

A discussion on the motion ensued. The following points were noted:

- C The moratorium is meant to encourage utilities to bundle their projects with paving projects;
- C With respect to emergency or maintenance issues, all utilities have an annual permit to repair streets;
- C Regarding the installation of gas lines under sidewalks rather than roads, it was noted that Heritage Gas avoided this for economic reasons;
- C A paved street is classified as everything from micro to full paving. Micro paving should last from five (5) to seven (7) years;
- C The cost for a permit to open a street is fifteen (15) percent of the reinstatement charge or two hundred and fifty (25) dollars; whatever amount is larger;
- C The new proposal will be based on the state of the pavement itself. Every street has a quality index which is evaluated on a three (3) year basis;
- C The permit fee for work being done in the right of way will be one hundred (100) dollars per project;
- C Regarding the warranty on contract paving, staff is currently developing standards.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. PROPOSED BY-LAW A-400, RESPECTING ALTERNATIVE VOTING

- C A report dated May 5, 2008 was submitted.

Ms. Cathy Mellett, Division Manager of Client Services, provided the presentation. Highlights were as follows:

- C Staff was confident that this By-Law would be passed in the spring sitting of the house;
- C There is a substantial planning process in place in order to ensure the least risk possible with this pilot;
- C It is very important for residents to be on the voters list in order to participate in the first advanced polling;
- C The definition of a friend voter will be the same with the philosophy of maintaining consistency;
- C There will be an opportunity to cast your vote for no one by submitting a blank ballot;
- C Section 20 rather than 23 contains the information pertaining to secrecy;
- C Collecting pins will be an offense and is specifically referenced as such in the proposed By-Law.

A discussion ensued with Ms. Mellett, Mr. Derk Slaunwhite, Solicitor, and Ms. Linda Grant, Returning Officer, responding to questions. The following points were noted:

- C Several Councillors were concerned with the early date of the advanced polling; three (3) weeks prior to the election;
- C Several Councillors were concerned with the security issues surrounding e voting. Staff directed them to the penalties listed in section 27 of the proposed By-Law stating that these were consistent with voting fraud in the Municipal Government Act;
- C Council suggested advertising the penalties for voting fraud;
- C Regarding the control of e voting in districts with large numbers of university students, Council was assured that the elections office had been working on this issue to ensure maximum accuracy. It was noted that the lists had been getting cleaner over the last several years;
- C Staff can arrange a presentation for Council by Intelivote;
- C The voter card being sent to residents will contain both the e voting pin number and the second secret. Staff is currently working on what information the voter card will contain and are liaising with Canada Post staff as well;
- C There have been no contested elections in any of the work that Intelivote has done in Ontario or Great Britain.

Councillor Rankin entered the meeting at 3:10 p.m.

MOVED BY Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Younger, that Halifax Regional Council:

- 1. Approve in principle By-Law A-400, Respecting Alternative Voting for Municipal Elections and set a public hearing date.**
- 2. Approve the date of August 22, 2008 for the completion of the final list of electors to be used in the 2008 Municipal School Board elections.**

A discussion ensued regarding the necessity to have a week of advanced voting. Staff stated that this was in order to provide the broadest opportunity for residents to vote. Both elections staff and the Municipal Solicitor stated that it would be Council's prerogative to change this time line.

Councillor Harvey therefore proposed the following amendment:

MOVED BY Councillor Harvey, seconded by Councillor Hum, that advance polling days for the alternative voting options will be from 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, October

4, 2008 to 8:00 p.m. on Monday, October 6, 2008. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Councillor Hendsbee requested information on the cost of an automated vote counter.

Ms. Geri Kaiser, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, advised that staff would come back to Council with an information report outlining what was possible, regarding voting, under the Municipal Elections Act.

Councillor Snow requested that staff email her regarding whether e voting would be possible on Black Berries.

A vote was then taken on the main motion.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:24 p.m.

Ms. Julia Horncastle
Acting Municipal Clerk