

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES

September 30, 2008

PRESENT: Mayor Peter Kelly
Councillors: Steve Streach
Krista Snow
David Hendsbee
Gloria McCluskey
Andrew Younger
Bill Karsten
Jackie Barkhouse
Jim Smith
Mary Wile
Patrick Murphy
Dawn Sloane
Sue Uteck
Sheila Fougere
Russell Walker
Debbie Hum
Linda Mosher
Robert Harvey
Tim Outhit
Reg Rankin
Gary Meade

REGRETS: Deputy Mayor Stephen D. Adams
Councillors: Harry McInroy
Brad Johns

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

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 11:05 a.m.

Mayor Kelly notified Council that staff needed more time to complete reports to deal with items 5) Reserve Contribution deferral for 2007 / 2008 year end and items 6) 2007/ 2008 year end Financial Report.

**MOVED by Councillor Wile, seconded by Councillor Sloane that Items 5 and 6 be removed from the agenda for today's session of the Committee of the Whole.
MOTION PUT AND PASSED**

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - None

3. ROUND TABLE ON VIOLENCE

C A Report to the Mayor 2008 was before Council.

Mayor Kelly introduced and thanked Professor Clairmont for a job well done.

Dr. Donald Clairmont reviewed the presentation with Council. He noted:

- c One out of every 60 residents of HRM participated in some way or another in this roundtable;
- C HRM has the in-depth analyses needed to make decisions and policies;
- C HRM is unique to the rest of the province; crime patterns, amount of population growth, dual policing agencies, amount of diversity among other things;
- C Two premises 1) there is a real problem and there is something that we can do about it and 2) the role of the municipal government;
- C HRM not only needs to deal with violence in the city but the perception of violence;
- C Crime patterns and the demographics;
- C Crime is being committed by young adults more than any other groups;
- C When HRM is compared to other municipalities in the country, Surrey BC is most likely to mirror HRM
- C Our student population is one of the largest populations in HRM.
- C There are 64 recommendations coming forth to Council

The Mayor, on behalf of the Council, thanked Professor Clairmont for the hard work, hours committed, and dedication to this Roundtable.

Council recessed at 12:15 p.m.

The afternoon session of the Committee of the Whole reconvened at 1:12 p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Peter Kelly, Councillors: Steve Streach, Krista Snow, David Hendsbee, Gloria McCluskey, 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.

MOVED By Councillor Walker seconded by Councillor McCluskey that Halifax Regional Council:

- 1. Accept the Mayor's Roundtable on Violence report and forward it to staff including police, Police Commission and all other relevant departments within HRM, Province of Nova Scotia and the Federal Government to create a implementation strategy; and**
- 2. Further; that in consideration of any other reports that impact on community safety initiatives; direct staff to return to Council with a report and any recommendations that should be considered in preparation for the upcoming business planning cycle.**

Discussion on the motion ensued with the following being noted:

- C Poverty and race relations have to be improved.
- C No budget or funds are available for the Race Relations Committee to act on.
- C Late night bussing for students to get them home safely is needed.
- C Students need to be accountable for their actions.
- C The Race Relations Committee needs to be revisited.

Chief Beazley informed Council that work has been ongoing and that all the major stakeholders have been communicating but direction from Council is needed.

Councillor Mosher requested that the Graffiti Report be brought forward as soon as possible.

Councillor Hum requested that it be noted for the record that as a member of the Community Race Relations Committee they did everything that they could within their mandate that was given to the Committee by Council.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED

4. 2007 2008 WINTER WORKS PROGRAM

- C A Staff report dated September 5, 2008 was before Council.
- C A Staff Presentation - Review of 2007/2008 Winter Works Program was before Council.

Mr. Michael Labrecque, P. Eng., Director Transportation and Public Works gave an overview of the report as well as the presentation noting the three priorities.

Priority One - tasks associated with snow and ice control

Priority Two - general municipal operations tasks, non snow related

Priority Three - other tasks generally outside of Municipal operations of responsibility

He gave a break down of the weather events for last winter noting that it is gradually getting worse each year. He further gave a breakdown of costs and the status of the winter works operations.

Mr. Labrecque advised Council of the Pros of this program:

- C Absenteeism is down by 30 % and the best improvement across HRM.
- C New shift schedule enhances priority 2 and 3 tasks tasking.
- C It promotes a positive relationship with the union.
- C More consistent reporting on performance against standards
- C Provides performance based contracts in place

Mr. Labrecque also noted the Cons of this program:

- C More formulaic approach to budgeting
- C More attention to not over-servicing
- C Improve salt management practices - costs and environment
- C Improve protocols to measure value and quality of contractors
- C Continue with the development of a Management Operating System

MOVED By Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Fougere to move the In camera session to 4:15 p.m. MOTION PUT AND PASSED

MOVED By Councillor McCluskey, seconded by Councillor Snow that Regional Council approve:

1. The withdrawal of \$2,100,000.00 from the Snow and ice Reserve (Q309);
2. The withdrawal of up to \$2,235,000 from the Operations Stabilization Reserve (Q308),

as per the Budget Implications section of the report dated September 5, 2008

Discussion ensued with staff answering any questions or concerns of Council.

Councillor Fougere suggested breaking the different tiers out, it gives a truer accounting of what and where it is being spent.

Councillor Murphy asked that a list of the Tier 1 and 2 duties be brought back to Council.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED

5. RESERVE CONTRIBUTION REVERSAL FOR 2007 2008 YEAR END

This item had been removed from the agenda. See Page 3.

6. FOURTH QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORTS 2007 2008

This item had been removed from the agenda. See Page 3.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Julia Horncastle
Acting Municipal Clerk