

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

TAX REFORM COMMITTEE MINUTES February 22, 2007

- PRESENT: Councillor David Hendsbee
Councillor Linda Mosher
Councillor Reg Rankin
Mr. Randy Anstey
Mr. Mark Gilbert
Mr. David John Grace
Mr. Robert Grace
Ms. Giselle Kakamousias
Ms. Janice Malay
Mr. Andrew Murphy
- REGRETS: Deputy Mayor Sue Uteck
Councillor Brad Johns
Councillor Andrew Younger
- STAFF: Ms. Cathie O'Toole, Acting Director of Finance
Mr. Bruce Fisher, Manager, Fiscal & Tax Policy, Finance Services
Mr. Andre MacNeil, Financial Consultant, Finance Services
Ms. Shannon Bennett, Research, Fiscal & Tax Policy
Ms. Carolyn Wiper, Administrative Assistant, Fiscal & Tax Policy

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1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 11:05 a.m. in Halifax Hall, City Hall.

2. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - February 8, 2007**

MOVED by Robert Grace, seconded by Mark Gilbert, that the Minutes of February 8, 2007 be approved. **MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

3. **APPROVAL OF ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS**

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Robert Grace, that the Order of Business be approved. **MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

4. **BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES** - None

5. **CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS** - None

6. **CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS**

It was noted that Information Items 3, 5 & 6 on the agenda were considered Correspondence, Petitions or Delegations and, at this time, be received for information only and a letter be sent to acknowledge receipt.

7. **REPORTS**

7.1 **Tax Reform and Public Participation**

7.1.1 **Tax Reform - Public Participation - Staff Presentation**

Bruce Fisher, Manager of Fiscal and Tax Policy, made a presentation to the Committee on Tax Reform - Public Participation. He explained the following:

- Tax Reform Decision Stages - Principles, Foundations, Goals & Tools
- Sample Tax Reform Packages
- Details on Sample Packages
- Options for Consultations

Bruce Fisher noted that the Committee, at their last meeting, had requested additional sample packages. Three additional sample packages were added for this presentation. He continued by explaining the ten sample packages.

Staff were requested to provide a breakdown of revenue for services, by district.

7.1.2 Tax Reform - Two Sample Packages

Bruce Fisher, Manager, Fiscal & Tax Policy, provided the Committee with further details found in report 7.1.2 to help clarify two of the ten packages described in presentation 7.1.1.

A lengthy discussion took place on the number of options/packages that should be provided to the public at the time of public consultation and what the packages should be based on. The Committee discussed how the packages could be based on assessment, ability to pay, fee for service, dwelling unit charge for municipal services, general rate for core public services and charge for optional services. It was noted that urban/suburban/rural rates and residential/commercial rates should be incorporated into these packages.

The Committee requested Staff to provide a definition for “core public services” and show a sample package that would include core public services.

The Committee requested a copy of the Y2K and Pandemic reports which list municipal services provided by HRM.

Staff recommended that Andre MacNeil, Financial Consultant, present his report on the Allocation Model to help explain what drives these services.

8. ADDED ITEMS - none

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting has been set for Thursday, March 8, 2007 in the Halifax Room, City Hall from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, that the meeting adjourn at 1:08 p.m.

Carolyn Wiper
Administrative Support Assistant