

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

TAX REFORM COMMITTEE MINUTES January 18, 2007

PRESENT: Deputy Mayor Sue Uteck
Councillor David Hendsbee
Councillor Brad Johns
Councillor Linda Mosher
Councillor Reg Rankin
Councillor Andrew Younger
Mr. Randy Anstey
Mr. Mark Gilbert
Mr. David John Grace
Mr. Robert Grace
Ms. Giselle Kakamousias
Ms. Janice Malay
Mr. Andrew Murphy

STAFF: Ms. Geri Kaiser, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. Cathie O'Toole, Acting Director, Finance Services
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

Table of Contents

1.	CALL TO ORDER	2
2.	APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - January 4, 2007	2
3.	APPROVAL OF ORDER OF BUSINESS.	2
4.	BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES	2
5.	CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS	
	5.1 Election of Chair and Vice Chair	3
	5.2 Administration & Support	4
	5.3 Ground Rules, Facilitation	4
6.	CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS	4
7.	REPORTS	
	7.1 Tax Reform Issues, Objectives and Scope	4
	7.2 Communications and Public Participation Plan	5
8.	ADDED ITEMS	5
9.	NEXT MEETING DATE	5
10.	ADJOURNMENT	5

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

MOVED by Councillor Johns, seconded by Deputy Mayor Uteck, that the meeting be called to order at 11:10 a.m. in the Media Room, City Hall. **MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

2. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - January 4, 2007**

- The minutes of January 4, 2007 were approved but no motion was put forward.

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

- The Order of Business and Approval of Additions and Deletions was approved but no motion was put forward.

4. **BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES**

Deputy Mayor Uteck requested that Staff provide the Committee with a copy of the Assessment Roll.

Bruce Fisher, Manager of Fiscal & Tax Policy will provide the Committee with stats on the 2006 Assessment Roll. Cathie O'Toole, Acting Director of Finance asked the Committee to clarify how they would like the breakdown. The Committee agreed they would like the breakdown be done by district and residential/commercial.

Councillor Mosher has a three page executive summary on Assessment Cap which she will provide to the Committee.

5. **CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS**

5.1 **Election of the Chair & Vice Chair**

Councillor Uteck nominated Mark Gilbert as Chair and was seconded by Councillor Johns. Mark Gilbert declined the nomination due to time constraints but agreed to serve as Vice-Chair.

Councillor Johns nominated Andrew Murphy for Chair. The nomination had to be pulled as Andrew Murphy was not present to accept.

Randy Anstey nominated David Grace as Chair and was seconded by Councillor Mosher. David Grace accepted the nomination.

MOVED by Randy Anstey, seconded by Councillor Mosher, that David Grace serve as Chair for the Tax Reform Committee. **MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Uteck, seconded by Councillor Johns, that Mark Gilbert serve as Vice-Chair for the Tax Reform Committee. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5.2 Administration & Support

Bruce Fisher, Manager Fiscal & Tax Policy explained that a meeting will be scheduled with Staff, the Chair and the Clerk's Office to help clarify Administrative Roles & Support and will bring back information to the Committee.

5.3 Ground Rules, Facilitation

Bruce Fisher, Manager Fiscal & Tax Policy made note of the Ground Rules provided in their agenda package which were formed by the Committee during their facilitated meeting of January 4, 2007. The Ground Rules include:

- Identify all the decisions that need to be made (focus)
- People read background materials provided and come prepared to meetings
- Start on time, finish on time
- Need structure to follow agenda & turn off distractions
- Work in a timely manner
- Keep Committee within scope
- Accept decisions and move forward

The Committee agreed that the following rules should be added:

- Chair speak for the Committee
- Members represent all of HRM
- Urban, Suburban & Rural are represented as a whole

Staff will add the three new rules and prepare a report for the Committee's review.

A question was raised as to the purpose of the report provided by the facilitator at the meeting of January 4, 2007. Geri Kaiser, DCAO indicated that this report will be a working document for the Committee.

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS - None

7. REPORTS

7.1 Tax Reform Issues, Objectives and Scope

- A report dated January 12, 2007 on the above noted, was before the Committee.

Staff were asked to provide the Committee a copy of the report on Fiscal Framework being presented to Council on January 23, 2007.

MOVED by Councillor Mosher, seconded by Mark Gilbert, that:

1. The Tax Reform Committee confirms the key issues for the Tax Reform project as described in the Terms of Reference.
- 1a. The purpose of the Committee will study and recommend philosophy and options to tie in with the Regional Plan.
2. The Tax Reform Committee direct staff to prepare (a) project objectives and (b) project scope, reflecting the directions of Regional Council and the TRC.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7.2 Communications and Public Participation Plan

- A report dated January 18, 2007, on the above noted, was before the Committee.

The Committee discussed whether or not education should be dealt with concurrently or as a separate issue while reviewing different options before going to public consultation.

**MOVED by Deputy Mayor Uteck, seconded by Councillor Rankin, that education be dealt with concurrently while determining options prior to public consultation.
MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Staff were requested to provide the Committee with different approaches for public consultation.

8. ADDED ITEMS - none

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

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

Staff were asked to provide the Committee with a bi-weekly meeting schedule.

Staff were asked to provide the Committee with updates over the summer months.

10, ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Carolyn Wiper
Administrative Support Assistant

