

## HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

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### TAX REFORM COMMITTEE MINUTES March 22, 2007

- PRESENT: Deputy Mayor Sue Uteck  
Councillor David Hendsbee  
Councillor Linda Mosher  
Councillor Reg Rankin  
Mr. Randy Anstey  
Mr. Mark Gilbert  
Mr. David John Grace  
Ms. Giselle Kakamousias  
Ms. Janice Malay  
Mr. Andrew Murphy
- ABSENT: Councillor Brad Johns  
Councillor Andrew Younger, with regrets  
Mr. Robert Grace
- 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. Kim Borgal, Marketing and Communications Assistant  
Ms. Carolyn Wiper, Administrative Assistant, Fiscal & Tax Policy

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1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 11:10 a.m. in Halifax Hall, City Hall.

2. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - February 22, 2007**

**MOVED by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Randy Anstey, that the Minutes of February 22, 2007 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

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

**MOVED by Deputy Mayor Uteck, seconded by Giselle Kakamousias, 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**

5.1 **Tax Reform and Public Participation**

- A report dated March 8, 2007, titled Tax Reform - Approach to Public Participation, was before the Committee.

In addition to the report before the Committee, Bruce Fisher, Manager of Fiscal and Tax Policy made a presentation to the Committee. He reviewed the TRC's Terms of Reference and noted that a public participation plan including information sharing and dissemination, project plan time line, public materials, development of public participation and communications plan, and time line for public consultation would be required before the Committee can move ahead.

**MOVED by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Deputy Mayor Uteck, that TRC move forward with spring consultations subject to TRC approval of the work plan, and subject to Regional Council approval.**

It was noted that written submissions could be incorporated in both spring and fall consultations and should include all groups including special interest groups.

The Committee agreed that a survey would be a useful way to get comments back from the public and would allow an opportunity for those who do not wish to speak during the public consultation.

Acting Director of Finance, Cathie O'Toole informed the Committee that a brochure "How Your Tax Dollars Are Spent" is being circulated to the public through Naturally Green. She suggested that the Tax Reform Committee prepare a couple page insert including questions to provide the Committee with the public's views on principles and foundations.

Councillor Mosher also informed the Committee that Councillors are able to send a newsletter to their districts which is sent to both residential and commercial properties. She suggested that TRC include a survey to be included in the Councillor's newsletters as well as local newspapers.

It was noted that the Committee should go to the public and present the principles as they exist, get public input on those principles, their feelings about them and whether some should take priority over others.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS - None**

**7. REPORTS**

**7.1 Allocation Model Presentation**

Andre McNeil, Financial Consultant, Financial Services made a presentation to the Committee on the TERA Model - Tool for Expenditure & Revenue Allocation Model for Residential, Commercial and Institutional Properties. He explained how residential, commercial and institutional properties use HRM services and contribute to HRM's cost drivers, their results and benefits.

**8. ADDED ITEMS - none**

**9. NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting has been set for Thursday, April 12, 2007 in the Halifax Room, City Hall from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED by Giselle Kakamousias, that the meeting adjourn at 1:10 p.m.

Carolyn Wiper  
Administrative Support Assistant