



P.O. Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

Executive Standing Committee
October 28, 2013

TO: Chair and Members of Executive Standing Committee

ORIGINAL SIGNED

SUBMITTED BY:

Cathy J. Mellett, Municipal Clerk

DATE: October 21, 2013

SUBJECT: **2014 Council Meeting Schedule**

ORIGIN

It has been the practice for Regional Council to adopt a schedule outlining meetings of Regional Council for the forthcoming year.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

The mandate of the Executive Standing Committee, as adopted by Regional Council is to fulfil the self-governance role of Regional Council including:

3.6 General Council Governance

3.6.1 The Executive Standing Committee shall act as a review committee for matters related to the general self-governance and administration of Council as directed by Council.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Executive Standing Committee review scheduling options and put forward a recommendation to Regional Council in regard to the 2014 Regional Council schedule.

BACKGROUND

In accordance with Administrative Order One, Section 8(2), regular Council sessions are held on Tuesdays at an hour deemed appropriate by the Mayor and the Chief Administrative Officer jointly. Regularly scheduled meetings of Regional Council may be canceled with the agreement of the Mayor/CAO or may be added with appropriate notice provided in accordance with the HRM Charter.

DISCUSSION

Since amalgamation Halifax Regional Council has adopted a Regional Council meeting schedule for the coming year. This process allows members of Council, staff and members of the public to be notified and plan in advance for Regional Council meetings.

Traditionally Halifax Regional Council has adopted a modified weekly meeting which combined a schedule for both Committee of the Whole and Regional Council.

Regional Council adopted a Standing Committee structure in December 2011. A number of matters are now initiated and/or addressed in Standing Committees prior to coming to Regional Council. This change in process has contributed to more streamlined agendas for Regional Council.

Following the 2012 Municipal Elections, Council moved from six (6) to three (3) Community Councils covering much larger geographic areas. Several Community Councils have a substantial number of planning and community matters to be dealt with at Community Councils which has resulted in additional meeting requirements.

Significant time commitment is required of members of Council in preparation and attendance at Community Councils, Standing Committees and other Boards & Committees of Council. Recommendations in regard to these changes will be addressed further by the Executive Committee through the governance review process currently underway.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget implications associated with the recommended course of action.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The 2014 meeting schedule for Halifax Regional Council, once adopted, is posted online at Halifax.ca to enable members of the public, Council and media to have access to the meeting schedule, agendas and reports (once posted).

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no environmental implications associated with the recommended course of action.

ALTERNATIVES

The Executive Committee may adopt and/or adjust the proposed 2014 Regional Council meeting schedule as they see fit for recommendation to Halifax Regional Council.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 –Modified bi-weekly 2014 Council Schedule

Attachment 2 –Modified weekly 2014 Council Schedule

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/commcoun/cc.html> then choose the appropriate Community Council and meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by: Laura Lewis, Agenda & Council Coordinator, Office of Municipal Clerk (490-6525)

2014 HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL SCHEDULE

MEETING TIMES ARE TO BE ANNOUNCED

MONTH	DATE	MEETING	MONTH	DATE	MEETING	
January	January 7	No Scheduled Meeting	July	July 1	No Scheduled Meetings	
	January 14	Regional Council		July 8		
	January 21	No Scheduled Meeting		July 15		
	January 28	Regional Council		July 22	Regional Council	
February	February 4	No Scheduled Meeting	August	August 5	Regional Council	
	February 11	Regional Council		August 12	No Scheduled Meetings	
	February 18	No Scheduled Meeting		August 19		
	February 25	Regional Council		August 26		
March	March 4	Regional Council	September	September 2	Regional Council	
	March 11	No Scheduled Meeting (March Break)		September 9		
	March 18	Regional Council		September 16		No Scheduled Meeting
	March 25	No Scheduled Meeting		September 23		Regional Council
April	April 1	Regional Council	October	September 30	No Scheduled Meeting	
	April 8	No Scheduled Meeting		October 7	Regional Council	
	April 15	Regional Council		October 14	No Scheduled Meeting (Thanksgiving)	
	April 22	No Scheduled Meeting (Easter)		October 21	Regional Council	
May	April 29	Regional Council	November	October 28	Regional Council	
	May 6	No Scheduled Meeting		November 4	No Scheduled Meeting (UNSM)	
	May 13	Regional Council		November 11	No Scheduled Meeting (Remembrance Day)	
	May 20	No Scheduled Meeting		November 18	Regional Council	
June	May 27	Regional Council	December	November 25	No Scheduled Meeting	
	June 3	No Scheduled Meeting (FCM)		December 2	Regional Council	
	June 10	Regional Council		December 9	Regional Council	
	June 17	No Scheduled Meeting		December 16	No Scheduled Meetings	
	June 24	Regional Council		December 23		
		December 30				

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			December 30		