

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY STANDING COMMITTEE  
SPECIAL MEETING  
MINUTES

April 26, 2011

PRESENT: Councillors: Peter Lund, Chair  
Debbie Hum, Vice Chair  
Lorelei Nicoll  
Jennifer Watts  
Dawn Sloane  
Darren Fisher  
Jackie Barkhouse

REGRETS: Councillor Barry Dalrymple

STAFF: Mr. Phillip Townsend, Director, IAM  
Mr. Julian Boyle, Energy Auditor, IAM  
Mr. Angus Doyle, Manager, Utilities Coordination, TPW  
Mr. Richard MacLellan, Manager, SEMO  
Ms. Krista Tidgwell, Legislative Assistant

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The special meeting was called to order at 9:14 a.m. in the Council Chambers, City Hall.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – NONE**

**3. STAFF REPORT**

**3.1 ENERGY SAVING ROADWAY LIGHTING ACT**

A staff briefing noted entitled: Amendments to the Energy-efficient Appliances Act, dated April 26, 2011 was before the Standing Committee.

Staff provided a brief overview of the April 26<sup>th</sup> briefing note.

**MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Sloane, that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council direct staff to explore a business case for conversion of all existing street lights, both HRM owned and NSPI owned, to LED technology.**

The Standing Committee entered into discussion with staff responding to questions respecting:

- cost to purchase LED lights
- political impact
- flat rate - cost to maintain and cost of energy consumed
- health and safety impacts of LED lights
- potential impacts to HRM's 2011/2012 budget.

Concern was raised respecting the lack of consultation with the Municipalities.

Councillor Barkhouse entered the meeting at 9:38 a.m.

The Standing Committee suggested the following be identified within the business case:

- ownership of street lights along the Peninsula
- cost benefit of the conversion from existing technology to LEDs (ie. rural area)
- health and environmental impact of LED lights
- traffic safety impacts of LED lights

In response to a question raised by Councillor Watts, staff clarified that they are not suggesting that HRM build a business case to take over ownership of all the light standards; however, this one alternative. Another alternative could be for Nova Scotia Power to assume responsibility of HRM's existing lights. Staff could not confirm which direction HRM should proceed with, until the Province and the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board has identified the rate structure.

Councillor Sloane exited the meeting at 9:56 a.m.

During the ensuing discussion, question was raised as to whether it is premature to forward a recommendation to Council until staff has had an opportunity to determine the budget implications and other impacts. Staff noted that the Standing Committee could turn down the motion and make a recommendation to forward the April 26<sup>th</sup> briefing note to Council as an information report, identifying the Standing Committee's request to staff to explore a business case.

**MOTION PUT AND DEFEATED.**

**MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Barkhouse, that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee forward the April 26, 2011 staff briefing note to Halifax Regional Council as an information report, identifying that the Standing Committee has requested staff to explore a business case for conversion of all existing street lights, both HRM owned and NSPI owned, to LED technology.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**4. ADJOURNMENT**

The special meeting adjourned at 10:04 a.m.

Krista Tidgwell  
Legislative Assistant