

**GRANTS COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
March 4, 2010**

PRESENT: Councillor Russell Walker, Chair  
Councillor Barry Dalrymple, Vice Chair  
Councillor Jennifer Watts  
Deputy Mayor Brad Johns  
Councillor Peter Lund  
Councillor Jim Smith

REGRETS: Mr. Geoff Baker  
Ms. Monica Jordan  
Mr. David Woo  
Mr. Andrew Higdon

ABSENT: Ms. Pamela Henley  
Ms. Gina Byrne

STAFF: Ms. Peta-Jane Temple, Team Lead, Tax, Grants and Special  
Projects  
Ms. Krista Tidgwell, Legislative Assistant

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 10:21 a.m. in the Duke Boardroom 1, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Duke Tower, without a quorum.

The Committee raised concern regarding a non-attending member of the Committee and instructed the Legislative Assistant to send a letter to determine if this member is able to begin active involvement with the Committee.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - February 1, 2010**

Due to lack of quorum, the February 1, 2010 minutes could not be approved and will be carried forward to the next meeting.

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

There were no changes to the Order of Business.

**4. DEFERRED BUSINESS**

**4.1 Partial Tax Exemption for Homes Destroyed by Fire**

- An Extract of the HRM Grants Committee Minutes of December 7, 2009 was before the Committee.
- An information report dated February 18, 2010 was before the Committee.

Following a brief discussion, the Committee agreed to defer this item to the next Committee meeting for further discussion.

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

**6. REPORTS**

**6.1 Property Matter: Less than Market Value Sale, 2463 Rocky Lake Drive, Waverley - Waverley Ratepayers Association**

- A staff report dated January 6, 2010 was before the Committee.

Ms. Peta-Jane Temple, Team Lead, Tax, Grants and Special Projects, noted that the property title was assumed by HRM in 1995 under the *Halifax Regional Municipality Act*. There was no Agreement of Purchase and Sale registered at the Registry of Joint Stocks and therefore, the property title remains in the name of the former Village Commissioners of Waverley. In 1991 the former Village Commissioners of Waverley purchased the property from the Saint John's Anglican Church for the sum of \$40,000.

Councillor Dalrymple noted that the Waverley Ratepayers Association, a succession

body to the Village Commissioners of Waverley, raised an objection in 1996 during the amalgamation of HRM and did want to retain the property. The Association made an application to the HRM Grant's Committee and Regional Council and the sale for \$1 was approved; however, the property title was never registered. The building presently occupies a museum, a cap site and a community hall and is a registered heritage property.

Ms. Temple indicated the Committee could accept a late application for taxes. Once the property title is registered to the Waverley Ratepayers Association, the property will become taxable.

Deputy Mayor Johns asked if there is a reason why the Association wants to change their relationship with HRM. Councillor Dalrymple noted that with the change in title, it would allow the Association to apply for Federal and Provincial grants, which they cannot presently do with the property being under HRM.

Ms. Temple indicated that during discussions with the Association, they have requested that if at a later date the buy-back agreement is invoked, that they receive the \$40,000 they originally paid for the property, along with the capital they have invested. Ms. Temple noted that returning the money would set a precedence. She further noted that the \$40,000 would be coming out of the general tax rate and recommended that the Committee decline this request.

Deputy Mayor Johns commented that if other buildings assumed at amalgamation are to be sold, become surplus or the property title reverts back to the original owner, the purchaser does not receive funds back for their purchase.

Ms. Temple noted that receiving title of the property is also an emotional issue for the Association. She commented that this matter needs to be addressed regardless of who owns the property because there is no lease agreement. As owners of the property, the Association would be able to apply for assistance with property taxes. Ms. Temple advised that the Association has indicated that they feel deprived of what is rightfully theirs. By owning the property, the Association would be able to finance capital growth by using the asset to secure a loan.

Councillor Dalrymple commented that the Waverley Ratepayers Association has no intention to sell the property.

Ms. Temple suggested the Grants Committee table the report with Regional Council and address the \$40,000 as an amendment to the recommendation during Council's discussion.

Councillor Walker provided clarification regarding Attachment 2 of the staff report dated January 6, 2010, wherein the Minutes refer to Councilor Snow, which he indicated is Councillor Gordon Snow and not Councillor Krista Snow.

Due to a lack of quorum, this matter was deferred to the next meeting for recommendation.

## **6.2 By-Law T-226: Tax Exemption for Non-Profit Organizations**

- A staff report dated February 11, 2010 was before the Committee.

Ms. Peta-Jane Temple provided an overview of the staff report dated February 11, 2010. Ms. Temple noted that Charles Court was included in the Bylaw approximately four years ago at the affordable housing rate, which is 25% of the residential rate. The Grants Committee has been unable to add any other non-profit housing cooperatives since that time, due to lack of funding. She commented that should the Committee replace the Charles Court Housing Cooperative in the Bylaw with the North End United Housing Cooperative, it would be unfair to the applicants that have applied and are presently on a waiting list. She suggested adding the North End United Housing Cooperative to the Bylaw but with a stipulation that the grant will only apply to whatever properties the Committee deems applicable.

Ms. Temple advised that there are currently approximately 60 applications, or more, on the waiting list.

Ms. Temple provided clarification that the Pier 21 Society is going to convert into a Crown Corporation and will then operate the National Museum of Immigration. The Federal government owns the property and the Crown Corporation will operate the National Museum on their behalf. She noted that the Society should convert to a Crown Corporation by mid-year of 2010, at which time the Committee could make a recommendation to remove it from the Bylaw.

Deputy Mayor Johns indicated that on page 8 of the staff report dated February 11, 2010, there appears to be two properties assigned to the same ANN#. He noted that one property is the Fultz Corner Restoration Society and asked who is the owner for the other property. Ms. Temple indicated that she would look into this and provide a response at the next meeting.

Due to a lack of quorum, a recommendation could not be made. It was noted that staff has the option to forward the report directly to Regional Council and bypass the Grants Committee. Ms. Temple indicated that she will revise the report as necessary and proceed to Regional Council.

## **6.3 Community Grants Program 2010-2011 Proposed Sector Allocations** *(verbal presentation from staff)*

- A table entitled Community Grants Program: Sector Allocation, 2009-2010 was before the Committee.

Ms. Peta-Jane Temple provided a review of the 2009-2010 Sector Allocation. She noted that staff will proceed with recommendations based on the anticipation of receiving the same program budget as the previous year. Should the budget change, staff will make the necessary adjustments to their recommendations.

Ms. Temple advised that in regard to the Arts & Crafts category, staff are looking to

develop a separate program for professional arts groups. She commented that the intent of the Community Grants Program is to provide support primarily to volunteers. Staff would like to remove the professional groups from this category and create a separate program for them. The current program would be maintained for volunteers and small developmental professional arts groups.

Ms. Temple noted that the Recreation and Leisure category has a higher allocation due to applications requests being received each year which are in excess of \$300,000. She indicated that this category is well distributed throughout the rural, urban and suburban areas.

Ms. Temple indicated that the Committee had disbursed a one time allocation of an additional \$25,000 to tourism, heritage and culture. She commented that this was meant to be one time grant; however, funds were put into the budget as a recurring grant under the Community History category.

In response to a question raised by Deputy Mayor Johns, Ms. Temple advised that the Municipality is not permitted to provide funding for profit groups.

Following a brief discussion, Deputy Mayor Johns requested a copy of the Grants Committee's Interpretation Bulletin.

**6.4 HRM Community Facility Partnership Fund 2009-2010: Staff Update  
Shubenacadie Canal Commission** *(verbal update from staff)*

Ms. Peta-Jane Temple, relative to the Shubenacadie Canal Commission, provided an update to the Committee, reading from a draft supplementary report and responded to questions.

Councillor Dalrymple and Deputy Mayor Johns requested Ms. Temple contact representatives from the Provincial and Federal government to confirm if there is an application deadline, as well as, determine the likelihood of the applicant receiving funding from either government.

**7. ADDED ITEMS - NONE**

**8. NEXT MEETING DATE - April 12, 2010**

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Krista Tidgwell  
Legislative Assistant

**INFORMATION ITEMS**  
**March 4, 2010**

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None.