



**GRANTS COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
March 2, 2015**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Barry Dalrymple, Chair  
Councillor Russell Walker, Vice Chair  
Councillor David Hendsbee  
Mr. Donald Dodge  
Mr. John Falkenham

**REGRETS:** Councillor Brad Johns  
Ms. Linda MacKay  
Ms. Sara Colburne  
Mr. Francis Glover

**STAFF:** Ms. Denise Schofield, Manager, Regional Recreation & Culture  
Ms. Peta-Jane Temple, Team Lead, Tax, Grants, and Special Projects  
Mr. Peter Greechan, Community Developer, Grants & Contributions  
Ms. Shelly Hutt, Program Technician, Grants & Contributions  
Ms. Sherryll Murphy, Deputy Clerk  
Ms. Cathy Collett, Legislative Support

*The following does not represent a verbatim record of the proceedings of this meeting.*

*The agenda, supporting documents, and information items circulated to the Grants Committee are available online: <http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/bccgrants/agenda.php>*

*The meeting was called to order at 1:03 p.m. and adjourned at 1:25 p.m.*

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 9, 2015**

**MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Mr. Donald Dodge that the minutes of February 9, 2015 be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

Additions:

- 8.1 Amendments to Administrative Order 2014-012-ADM Respecting Grants for Rural Transit

**MOVED by Councillor Russell Walker, seconded by Councillor David Hendsbee that the order of business be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

**4.1 Orientation Presentation for Grants Committee Members**

The following was before the Committee:

- A staff presentation titled "Finance & ICT's Grants & Contributions"

**MOVED by Councillor Russell Walker, seconded by Councillor Barry Dalrymple that the Orientation Presentation for Grants Committee members be postponed to a future meeting at which all the new members are in attendance. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – None**

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

**6.1 Correspondence - None**

**6.2 Petitions - None**

**6.3 Presentation - None**

**7. REPORTS/DISCUSSION**

**7.1 STAFF**

**7.1.1 Grants to Volunteer Search & Rescue Organizations**

The following was before the Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated February 4, 2015

**MOVED by Mr. Donald Dodge, seconded by Councillor David Hendsbee that the Grants Committee recommend that Regional Council approve the award of operating and capital grant funding to the four (4) volunteer ground search and rescue organizations described in the Discussion section of the February 4, 2015 staff report for a combined total of \$138,500 from Operating Account C801-8004.**

The Committee discussed the timing and merit of the grant.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**7.1.2 Tax Relief to Non-Profit Organizations: Referral by Council**

The following was before the Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated January 15, 2015

Ms. Peta-Jane Temple, Team Lead, Tax, Grants, and Special Projects, briefly contextualized the staff report dated January 15, 2015.

**MOVED by Councillor Russell Walker, seconded by Mr. Donald Dodge that the Grants Committee recommend that Regional Council repeal and replace Schedules 27, 28, and 29 of Administrative Order 2014-001-ADM Respecting Tax Relief to Non-Profit Organizations as set out in Attachments 1,2,3, and 4 of the January 15, 2015 staff report.**

Ms. Temple responded to questions from the Committee. The Committee discussed the benefits of asking Volunteer Services if it is possible to provide support to a group requiring assistance in complying with municipal tax regulations. Ms. Temple indicated that she would follow up on this query and reiterated that staff is happy to offer support when possible and that the policies are not intended to be punitive.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**8. ADDED ITEMS**

**8.1 Amendments to Administrative Order 2014-012-ADM Respecting Grants for Rural Transit**

The following was before the Committee:

- A staff report dated February 2, 2015

**MOVED by Councillor Russell Walker, seconded by Councillor David Hendsbee that the Grants Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council amend Administrative Order 2-14-012-ADM “Respecting Grants for Rural Transit” as set out in Attachment B of the February 2, 2015 staff report.**

Ms. Patricia Hughes, Supervisor, Service Design & Projects, Halifax Transit, addressed the Committee about the rationale behind the amendments to Administrative Order 2014-012-ADM. She explained that the intent of the amendments to the Rural Transit Funding Program is to ensure that application deadlines and requirements are reasonable and practicable for applicants. As such, the proposed amendments should make it easier for prospective rural transit providers to meet the application requirements. Ms. Hughes explained that there are a number of other housekeeping items addressed by the amendments. Responding to a question from the Committee, she explained that, for example, an audit is quite a substantial burden and an external review is a viable alternative. The Committee discussed the merit of the recommendation. The Committee inquired as to whether this type of review could be done by KPMG for a small nominal fee and Ms. Hughes agreed to follow up on this.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – April 13, 2015, 1:00 p.m., Media Room, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, City Hall 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax**

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

The Committee adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

Cathy Collett  
Legislative Support