HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

GOVERNANCE & BOUNDARY REVIEW COMMITTEE
MINUTES

April 19, 2010

PRESENT: Mayor Peter Kelly, Chair
Councillor Tim Outhit, Vice Chair
Councillor Gloria McCluskey
Councillor Barry Dalrymple
Councillor Jerry Blumenthal
Councillor Linda Mosher
Councillor Reg Rankin

STAFF: Ms. Cathy Mellett, Acting Manager/Clerk
Mr. Paul Morgan, Sr. Planner
Mr. Ken Lenihan, GIS Technician
Ms. Alva Robinson, Data Analyst
Ms. Melody Campbell, Legislative Assistant

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.   CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Kelly called the meeting to order at 2:08 p.m.

2.   APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Dalrymple that the minutes of the April 1, 2010 meeting of the Governance & Boundary Review Committee, as presented, be approved. MOTION PASSED.

3.   APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA, ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

The Chair advised that Item 4.1 and 4.2 will be addressed together.

MOVED by Councillor Blumenthal, seconded by Councillor Dalrymple that the agenda, as amended, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4.   BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

4.1   Presentation - Mapped Population of Current Districts (over & under) *and*
4.2   Possible Boundary Changes - Council Scenarios

Ms. Cathy Mellett, Acting Manager/Clerk provided a presentation of the Mapped Population of current and proposed districts to the Committee.

Ms. Mellett expressed her appreciation to Ms. Ms. Alva Robinson, Data Analyst, and Mr. Ken Lenihan, GIS technician, in preparing additional detail relating to the District scenarios.

Committee members discussed the merits of a decrease and of maintaining the status quo in the number of districts throughout HRM.

Councillor Mosher expressed concern regarding the validity of the number of household per districts. Ms. Mellett advised the numbers indicated are the most accurate ever received. She advised the Committee that staff are willing to continue to look at the issue.

In response to a question by Mayor Kelly, Ms. Mellett advised that HRM development officers and a consultant worked on the process to determine the number of households, population and voters.

In response to a question by Councillor Outhit, Ms. Mellett advised that the projected population was reached with known future development and the likelihood of development taken into consideration.

MOVED by Councillor Mosher, seconded by Councillor McCluskey, that the District Boundaries Committee request staff prepare additional detail regarding the existing and projected population per district on current and proposed district boundaries, including the rationale on how the numbers are determined. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Councillor Rankin noted that the district boundaries has nothing to do with governance. He stated that it is wrong to focus on districts and individual boundaries at this time.

Councillor Mosher stated that it is essential that all future developments are encapsulated when the population numbers are taken into account.

Councillor Mccluskey stated that the Committee has to provide a rationale as to the basis of a decision on the number of districts that will be determined during the review.

4.3   Discussion on Powers of Community Council and other Council Effectiveness Initiatives

The following points of discussion ensued among Committee members regarding the future role of Community Councils:
•   the number of Councillors appointed to each Community Council
•   consideration be given to communities of interest when determining districts of a Community Council
•   consideration of increased and improved functions of Community Councils
•   determination to be made of Community Council structure
•   consideration of the number of Community Councils in HRM
•   a suggestion that the Community Councils be determined by urban, suburban and rural

Councillor Outhit retired from the meeting at 3:24 p.m.

•   the need to streamline Council and giving more power to Community Council
•   consideration of the issues permitted to be determined by a Community Council, for example, MPS amendments, signage, area rates, green cart pickup

Ms. Mellett advised the Committee members that there is currently a proposed amendment in front of the Nova Scotia Legislature regarding changes to the Charter to allow Community Councils specific power to "stand in the place of Council' to amend

the MPS with respect to issues local in nature to enable a site specific land use amendment. However, the Province would need to enact the change requested by HRM.

Committee members continued discussion on the appropriate number of Councillors appointed to each future Community Council.

The Committee agreed to request staff to provide additional detail, including legal and finance, to enable the Committee to consider recommending additional powers for Community Council.

Councillor Mosher requested that staff provide specific examples relating to the additional roles in the Community Council when the report is sent to Regional Council.

MOVED by Councillor Mosher, seconded by Councillor Rankin that each future Community Council, following the Governance and District Review process, consist of a minimum of four Council members, with an optimum of five Council members. The Chair will vote if an equal number of Councillors are in attendance. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5.   CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - NONE

6.   CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS
   6.1   Correspondence - None
   6.2   Petitions - None
   6.3   Presentations - None

7.   REPORTS - NONE

8.   ADDED ITEMS - NONE

9.   NEXT MEETING DATE - Monday, April 26, 2010

10.   ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Melody Campbell
Legislative Assistant