

ENERGY AND UNDERGROUND SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

September 17, 2010

MINUTES

- PRESENT: Councillor Sue Uteck, Chair
Councillor Debbie Hum, Vice Chair
Councillor Jennifer Watts
Councillor Dalrymple
- REGRETS: Councillor Jackie Barkhouse
Councillor Darren Fisher
Councillor Stephen Adams (absent)
- STAFF: Mr. Angus Doyle, Manager, Utilities Coordination
Mr. Julian Boyle, Energy Auditor
Mr. Richard MacLellan, Manager, Sustainable
Environmental Management Office
Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. without a quorum.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 16, 2010

This was deferred to later in the meeting when a quorum was present.

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

Information Item:

Correspondence RE: update on NSP's Potential Transmission System Upgrades in Greater Dartmouth was added for information.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES / DEFERRED ITEMS: None

5. REPORTS:

5.1 Staff:

5.1.1 Refreshments Canada Update – Verbal

A draft copy of a Memorandum of Understanding between The Halifax Regional Municipality and Refreshments Canada Association was circulated.

At 10:02 a.m. Councillors Dalrymple and Watts entered the meeting and a quorum was present.

Mr. Richard MacLellan provided an overview of the draft Memorandum of Understanding.

MOVED by Councillor Uteck, seconded by Councillor Hum that the Memorandum of Understanding be accepted as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The Chair noted that this was a good news storey for all involved and suggested that representatives of Refreshments Canada be invited to attend a meeting of Committee of the Whole to speak to this matter.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 16, 2010

With a quorum now present, the Committee dealt with the approval of the minutes.

MOVED by Councillor Hum and Councillor Dalrymple that the minutes of July 16, 2010 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5.1.2 Mill Cove Thermal Utility Project Update

Mr. Julian Boyle provided an update on why Provident Development decided against participating in the Mill Cove Thermal Utility Project.

Mr. Boyle advised that it was after the Committee's July meeting, Provident filed for their building permits and at that time they started to see some issues about relaying the contractual obligations they would have to pass on to their clients, adding that there were complexities around the point that they would not be the owner and operator of the building. Mr. Boyle also noted that they were not willing to redesign the building because it would put their budget timeline in jeopardy.

Mr. Boyle advised that to avoid this from happening in the future, more money should be invested earlier on so staff can get out ahead of a particular building and the requirements which will be needed. He added that staff may also have to start looking at adopting an approach for District Energy the way it is in Europe and other places in Canada – i.e. looking at District Energy the same way we look at our water supply system—if the Municipality is going to put in the infrastructure, then connection to the system would be required.

Mr. Boyle noted that in this particular case the developer understood that he would have cost savings but the reasons for backing out of the project were, basically, the complexity and timing of the project.

Mr. Boyle responded to questions.

Councillor Watts questioned if it would be productive to hold a symposium or provide an opportunity for staff and those in the private sector to get together for a full discussion the concept of district energy.

In response, Mr. Boyle advised that he believed the issue needs a higher profile and more education on the costs and benefits, and what it means from a community energy perspective. He added that over the summer, an organization called QUEST which is collaboration between the Provincial Government, HRM, and the private sector was created and several meetings were held. Mr. Boyle noted that a few developers are aware of district energy, but it is necessary to get those developers that are not aware of district energy, tuned in to its potential.

Mr. Richard MacLellan suggested that in a couple of months he could provide a report to the Committee outlining the status of District Energy, the opportunities, and what is required by HRM in this regard.

MOVED by Councillor Hum, seconded by Councillor Dalrymple that the Energy and Underground Services Advisory Committee rescind its July 16, 2010 recommendation to Regional Council to proceed with detailed engineering design

**and exploration of a Green Thermal Utility at Mill Cove with Halifax Water.
MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

5.2 Committee Members: None

6. ADDED ITEMS:

**6.1 Correspondence RE: update on NSP's Potential Transmission System
Upgrades in Greater Dartmouth**

A letter dated September 15, 2010 was submitted from Mr. Terry Toner, Director, Environmental Services, Nova Scotia Power.

In reference to the submitted letter, Mr. Doyle explained that Nova Scotia Power is changing direction on this issue and they now intend to step back and engage a community committee to advise on potential routes for the transmission system. He added that NSPI has indicated they are willing to appear before this Committee.

A brief discussion ensued and **it was agreed** that the Chair would write a letter on behalf of the Committee requesting that NSPI representatives attend a Committee of the Whole session to speak to this matter and other issues such as the undergrounding of wiring.

7. NEXT MEETING DATE: October 15, 2010

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:23 a.m.

Sheilagh Edmonds
Legislative Assistant