

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

SOLID WASTE RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

September 23, 2010

PRESENT: Councillors: Peter Lund, Chair
Sue Uteck, Vice Chair
Debbie Hum
Darren Fisher
Lorelei Nicoll
Reg Rankin
Tim Outhit
Bill Karsten

REGRETS: None

STAFF: Mr. Gord Helm, Manager, Solid Waste Resources
Mr. Robert Orr, Collection & Processing Coordinator,
Solid Waste Resources
Ms. Laurie Lewis, Diversion Planning Coordinator, Solid Waste
Resources
Ms. Krista Tidgwell, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m. in Halifax Hall, City Hall.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – June 24, 2010

The Clerk noted the following amendments to Item 4.1 – Discussion re: Recycling Theft at the Curbside:

- a change **has** been laid against an individual respecting a similar situation
- staff will be **reviewing** Section 16 of **By-law S-600**
- By-law Enforcement Officers have assumed greater responsibility to address **alleged** recycling theft at the curbside
- HRP will be responsible for enforcement between the hours of 2 a.m. and 6 **a.m.**
- there has been one successful **prosecution** respecting a similar charge laid by By-Law Enforcement

MOVED by Councillor Hum, seconded by Councillor Nicoll, that the minutes of June 24, 2010 be approved, as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions:

- 4.2.6 Status Update – Recycling Theft at Curbside
- 4.2.7 Update re: Solid Waste Resources – Operations
- 4.3 Councillor Uteck – Discussion re: Big Belly Launch
- 10.1 Councillor Outhit – Request for Report

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Hum, that the Order of Business be approved, as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The Committee dealt with Items 4.2.6, 4.2.7, 8.1 and 4.3 at this time.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4.2.6 Status Update – Recycling Theft at Curbside

Gold Helm, Manager, Solid Waste Resources, advised that a meeting has been set up between Solid Waste Resources, Halifax Regional Police and By-Law Enforcement to review By-law S-600, as well as, the legal precedent. Staff is in receipt of correspondence from residents expressing their concern regarding theft at curbside and asking what initiatives can be taken to stop this form of theft. Information has been posted under HRM's By-laws webpage, as well as, the Solid Waste Resources'

webpage. Residents are encouraged to report all incidents, which are then forwarded to By-Law Enforcement for review. He clarified that if the incident is an “after the fact” the matter is addressed through By-Law Enforcement, matters that are ongoing are addressed through Halifax Regional Police. Mr. Helm advised that once staff has determined the mechanisms in which to proceed with this form of theft, an information report will be provided to the Committee.

Later in the discussion Councillor Hum expressed concern regarding organized recycling theft amongst some of the neighbourhoods within District 16 during the Thursday collection. She noted that she has in the past confronted individuals/groups within these neighbourhoods and has even contacted the Halifax Regional Police due to the individuals' aggressive nature. She commented that these individuals are using motorized vehicles (half ton trucks) to collect recycling from the curbside and some are even hiding their recyclables in near by parks until they can be taken to a recycling depot. Many of her constituents have expressed similar concerns and she asked what measures can be taken to address this form of theft. Mr. Helm advised that these concerns are the type of aspects staff is addressing with Halifax Regional Police and By-Law Enforcement to develop a comprehensive plan that will address theft by disadvantage individuals with grocery carts to individuals who use motorized vehicles and operate it as a business.

4.2.7 Update re: Solid Waste Resources - Operations

Mr. Gord Helm, Manager, Solid Waste Resources, provided an update to the Committee, noting that a staff report will be provided to the Committee upon completion of the Mirror contact negotiations.

10.1 Councillor Outhit – Request for Report

Councillor Outhit expressed concern on behalf of a resident who lives in an owner occupied condo unit that was unable to dispose of his refrigerator with the regular solid waste. He commented that had the resident lived in a residential dwelling, arrangements could have been made to have the refrigerator picked up. Councillor Outhit requested a staff report identify how HRM will address large appliances pickups for owner occupied condos.

Mr. Gord Helm, Manager, Solid Waste Resources, advised that under By-Law S-600 – Solid Waste Collection & Disposal, owner occupied condos over six units are governed under the same regulations as Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (ICI) properties. If a building is under six units, it is governed under residential regulations, which has the same collection as an individual dwelling. Apartments and high rise condos pay a fee for this type of collection.

Councillor Outhit commented that residents living in an owner occupied condo pay the same amount in taxes as a resident in a single residential dwelling; however, residents in owner occupied condos do not receive the same types of collection services.

Mr. Helm advised that the services provided to a condo are different that the services provided to a residence.

MOVED by Councillor Outhit, seconded by Councillor Karsten, that Solid Waste Resource Advisory Committee direct staff to prepare a report regarding the difference between an owner occupied condo's solid waste disposal, specifically the disposal of refrigerators and other large appliances, versus a residential home's solid waste disposal.

Councillor Rankin indicated that Regional Council had passed a motion to override By-law S-600 by offering solid waste collection to all condominium operations similar to residential solid waste collection. Mr. Helm noted that HRM Solid Waste Resources provides a registered fund. Councillor Rankin suggested that the same solid waste collection services should be extended to owner occupied condos that is offered to residential properties.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4.3 Councillor Uteck – Discussion re: Big Belly Launch

Mr. Gord Helm, Manager, Solid Waste Resources, provided a verbal update to the Committee.

4.1 Resource Recovery Fund Board's Funding Mechanisms to Promote Reduction of Solid Waste to Achieve Provincially Set Targets

A draft letter to the Honourable Sterling Belliveau, Department of Environment, from Gord Helm, Manager, Solid Waste Resources, dated September 17, 2010 was before the Committee for review.

Mr. Gord Helm, Manager, Solid Waste Resources, advised that the September 17, 2010 letter to Minister Belliveau was drafted in response to an action item brought forward during the Committee's June 24, 2010 meeting. He noted that through confirmation in the communication protocol for external communication, the letter would be signed by the Mayor or if he so delegates the Chief Administrative Officer. Mr. Helm indicated that there has been one recommendation to add an offer and recommendation that HRM work with the Department of Environment based on the 300 kg Provincial target on a Regional target that is practical for HRM's use.

The Committee reviewed the draft September 17, 2010 letter and entered into discussion.

Councillor Rankin suggested that the letter be signed by the Mayor and copied to all MLAs and appropriate HRM staff. He further commented that the 300 kgs is a measure that applies to all Regions, which is counterproductive to the overall diversion rate that the Province wants to achieve. The total amount of solid waste per capita varies from Region to Region.

Councillor Karsten expressed concern respecting the manner of which the letter has been written to Minister Belliveau. He noted that the Committee could direct staff to forward the letter to Regional Council for review and Council would determine whether the letter should be signed off by the Mayor. Councillor Karsten expressed concern regarding a sentence in the letter that seems to be giving the Province an ultimatum. He cautioned the Committee and staff to maintain a good working relationship with the Province.

Further suggestions made by the Committee regarding amendments to the draft September 17, 2010 letter were as follows:

first sentence, second paragraph: *HRM takes exception to this position* should be removed

second paragraph, the following wording should be added: ...for example, the Western region (population 49,779) is unfair *and we believe not to be the intent* of the EGSPA the letter should end with *continue a positive working relationship*

last sentence, second paragraph, the following should be omitted: *and have any programs designed around their flawed interpretation cancelled*

Mr. Helm clarified that the letter refers to two separate programs. Funding in the amount of \$1 million that was left over from the disbursements of regular funding was distributed equally among the Regions by the Resource Recovery Board (RRFB) in a one time amount of \$100,000. The Province has created a new incentive program that is based on Regions reaching the 300 kg diversion rate, which is over and above the regular diversion incentive per capita program, of which HRM is challenging. HRM presently diverts 60% of its waste which is what the 300 kgs per capita is based on; however, due to the size of HRM and the amount of waste generated, HRM will never be able to obtain the 300 kgs incentive based on the amount of waste generated.

Councillor Lund suggested that the last paragraph of the draft September 17, 2010 letter should be reviewed by staff. He noted that the letter addresses the diversion program; however, it is not clear what HRM is asking for from the Province.

Councillor Lund referenced a document respecting the amount of funds allocated to Regions by the RRFB through the diversion rate incentive program. He noted that the RRFB's intent is for every Region to achieve the 300 kgs diversion target rate by 2015. He commented that in 2009 the RRFB awarded \$44,000 to three Regions and HRM did not receive any money because it did not meet the 300 kgs target rate and probably never will due to size of HRM and the amount of waste generated.

Ms. Laurie Lewis, Diversion Planning Coordinator, Solid Waste Resources, advised that the document referenced by the Chair is located in the approved RRFB Guidelines of the diversion rate incentive program. She noted that she could provide this document to the Committee by way of PDF.

In response to question of clarification from Councillor Hum, Mr. Helm advised that during the June 24, 2010 meeting, the Committee directed staff to seek further clarification from the Province respecting the Resource Recovery Fund Board's funding mechanisms to promote reduction of solid waste to achieve provincially set targets. He noted that staff has already sought clarification from the RRFB, of which Minister Belliveau was copied on, and staff was not satisfied with the RRFB's response. In seeking further clarification from the Minister Belliveau it is HRM's protocol through external communications that the letter be signed by the Mayor. Mr. Helm advised that he has a good working relationship with the Deputy Minister of Environment; however, this matter is felt to be a policy regulatory issue in terms of one body (RRFB) that is independently interpreting the Provincial Legislation that HRM feels in is error.

It was noted by members of the Committee that there is no concern if staff forwards the draft September 17, 2010 letter to the Deputy Minister of Environment.

MOVED by Councillor Uteck, seconded by Councillor Outhit, that the Solid Waste Resource Advisory Committee approve the draft letter to Honourable Sterling Belliveau, Department of Environment, dated September 17, 2010 as amended and defer this matter to the next meeting to allow for staff to provide a revised draft.

Mr. Helm noted that if the letter goes to the Deputy Minister of Environment the letter would be signed off by the Director.

It was noted that staff would revised the letter with the approved amendments and provide a copy back to the Committee for review/direction. If the letter is to go to the Minister of Environment it will require direction of Regional Council.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4.2 STAFF UPDATES

4.2.1 Waste Stabilization Facility (WSF) Project

A staff memorandum dated September 17, 2010 was before the Committee.

Mr. Gord Helm, Manager, Solid Waste Resources, provided an overview of the September 17th memorandum.

4.2.2 Borrow Pit Road Project

A staff memorandum dated September 17, 2010 was before the Committee.

Mr. Gord Helm, Manager, Solid Waste Resources, provided an overview of the September 17, 2010 memorandum and responded to questions of clarification raised by the Committee.

Councillor Lund suggested that staff provide a copy of the site plan/map with the report to Regional Council.

4.2.3 Waste Characterizations RFP Status

A staff memorandum dated September 17, 2010 was before the Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Uteck, seconded by Councillor Nicoll, that the Solid Waste Resource Advisory Committee accept the September 17, 2010 memorandum as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4.2.4 Compost Maturity RFP

A staff memorandum dated September 17, 2010 was before the Committee.

Mr. Gord Helm, Manager, Solid Waste Resources, provided an overview of the September 17, 2010 memorandum and responded to questions of clarification raised by the Committee.

Councillor Outhit exited the meeting at 4:01 p.m.

MOVED by Councillor Uteck, seconded by Councillor Karsten, that the Solid Waste Resource Advisory Committee accept the September 17, 2010 memorandum as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4.2.5 Cell 4B Closure

A staff memorandum dated September 17, 2010 was before the Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Karsten, seconded by Councillor Uteck, that the Solid Waste Resource Advisory Committee accept the September 17, 2010 memorandum as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4.2.6 Status Update – Recycling Theft at Curbside

This matter was discussed earlier in the meeting. See page 3.

4.2.7 Update re: Solid Waste Resources – Operations

This matter was discussed earlier in the meeting. See page 4.

4.3 Councillor Uteck – Discussion re: Big Belly Launch

This matter was discussed earlier in the meeting. See page 5.

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - NONE

6. PRESENTATIONS – NONE

7. REPORTS – NONE

8. CORRESPONDENCE – NONE

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Solid Waste Removal Changes – Cowie Hill – Mr. Jon Coates & Mr. Byron Feener, Halifax County Condominium Corporation Number Ten

A Draft Extract of the Chebucto Community Council September 13, 2010 Minutes along with a copy of the presentation entitled: Background on Halifax Condominium Corporation Number Ten was before the Committee.

Council Hum provided an overview of the draft minute extract.

MOVED by Councillor Hum, seconded by Councillor Uteck, that the Solid Waste Resource Advisory Committee request that staff prepare an information report regarding the issues addressed within the September 13, 2010 Chebucto Community Council motion, to be provided to the Solid Waste Resource Advisory Committee, and copied to the Chebucto Community Council.

The Committee entered into discussion.

Councillor Nicoll exited the meeting at 4:20 p.m.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.2 Recurring Curbside Garbage Dumping on the Peninsula

An overview of the September 13, 2010 Peninsula Community Council meeting respecting recurring curbside garbage dumping on the Peninsula was before the Committee for review.

Mr. Gord Helm, Manager, Solid Resources, indicated that staff is working to address these concerns.

9.3 Sackville Landfill – Leachate Processing Site

Mr. Gord Helm, Manager, Solid Resources, provided a verbal update to the Committee.

10. ADDED ITEMS

10.1 Councillor Outhit – Request for Report

This matter was addressed earlier in the meeting. See page 4.

11. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public came forward at this time.

12. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting will be held November 25, 2010 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. in Halifax Hall, City Hall.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Krista Tidgwell
Legislative Assistant

INFORMATION ITEMS
September 23, 2010

1. Correspondence from Bill Ring, CEO, RRFB Nova Scotia, dated July 13, 2010
re: RRFB Nova Scotia's Diversion Incentive Program.