

MARINE DRIVE, VALLEY AND CANAL  
COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
APRIL 26, 2000

PRESENT: Councillor Gordon R. Snow, Chair  
Councillor Steve Streach

REGRETS: Councillor Keith Colwell

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Walter R. Fitzgerald  
K. R. Meech, Chief Administrative Officer  
Kulvinder Dhillon, Director Engineering and Transportation Services  
Supt. Stan Ferguson, RCMP  
David VanSlyke, Department of Transportation and Public Works  
Reg Rigley, HRM Finance  
Julia Horncastle, Assistant Municipal Clerk

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**1. INVOCATION**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. with an invocation. Councillor Snow advised Councillor Colwell could not be in attendance and had sent his regrets.

Councillor Snow introduced the Mayor, Mr. Ken Meech, Supt. Stan Ferguson, RCMP and members of staff who were in attendance.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - March 22, 2000**

**MOVED by Councillors Streach and Snow that the minutes of March 22, 2000 be approved as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

Deletions

1. Councillor Snow - Miller Lake Water

Information Report

1. Street Exchange for Winter Maintenance

**MOVED by Councillors Streach and Snow that the Order of Business, as amended, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - NONE**

**5. MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION - NONE**

**6. MOTIONS OF RESCISSION - NONE**

**7. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - NONE**

**8. PUBLIC HEARINGS - NONE**

**9. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS**

**9.1 Correspondence**

**9.1.1            Correspondence from Department of Transportation and Public Works re status of the paving of the East Chezzetcook Road**

- A copy of correspondence from David VanSlyke, Area Manager Halifax East, Department of Transportation and Public Works, dated April 3, 2000, was before Community Council.

The Clerk of the Community Council read the correspondence into the record.

**MOVED by Councillor Streach and Snow that the letter be received and filed.  
MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**9.2                Petitions**

**9.2.1            Councillor Streach - Fire Service Policy re Volunteer Firefighters**

Councillor Streach submitted a petition in opposition to the Halifax Regional Municipality Fire Service policy that would diminish the role or possibly disqualify volunteer fire fighters age 60 and over and requested the petition be forwarded to appropriate staff.

**10.                REPORTS**

**10.1              Members of Council**

**10.1.2           Councillor Snow - Miller Lake Water**

This item was deleted under approval of the Order of Business.

**11.                MOTIONS - NONE**

**12.                ADDED ITEMS - NONE**

**13.                NOTICES OF MOTION - NONE**

**14.                PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

- A copy of the report from Councillor Jack Mitchell, Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Rural Issues and District 1 Boundaries, dated January 31, 2000 was made available to the public.

After Councillor Streach read the report into the record, opportunity was provided for

members of the public to pose questions.

Ms. Norma Kennedy, School Board representative for District 1, reading from prepared text, stated she was not in agreement with the rural areas leaving Halifax Regional Municipality and joining neighbouring Municipalities. She suggested that if there is a downsizing in municipal districts, the boundaries of the new districts follow the School Board boundaries.

Mayor Fitzgerald advised the NS Utility and Review Board have recommending reducing the number of districts for the next election and stated he would take into consideration the wishes of the majority in making decisions.

Ms. Judy Bell, Lake Egmont, spoke in favour of District 1 remaining within the Halifax Regional Municipality, noting the newspapers had quoted the Mayor as saying this area could become part of a neighbouring Municipality. She stated that if this was a misquote then clarification needs to be sought from the newspaper. She stated the residents had made it very clear that District 1 wanted to remain a part of the Regional Municipality.

Mayor Fitzgerald stated that he had said the people will decide, noting the application to the URB was to reduce the number of districts within the Municipality, not the Municipality.

Councillor Snow expressed concern with recommendation to downsize Council. In response, the Mayor said that any committee that is set up to make recommendations on downsizing will have to be unbiased and non political.

Mr. Dennis Holliday stated people were not asked, rather told, what was happening and any opinions that were offered were not heard.

Mr. Art MacKenzie, Sheet Harbour, suggested Council take into consideration the size of District 1. He stated that District 1 should be entitled to some of the benefits of the industry within HRM. He stated that it has been made clear in comments from those present that District 1 wants to remain as part of HRM and this issue should now be allowed to die.

Mayor Fitzgerald stated that he would have preferred the Municipal Districts be downsized for the upcoming election rather than wait until the 2004 election.

Mr. David Dwyer stated Musquodoboit Harbour is cooperating with HRM. He noted 70% of the people from this area work in the core area. Mr. Dwyer advised this area is growing and development is rapidly taking place.

Councillor Streach stated there is a need for more partnering between the residents and

elected officials.

Mr. Keith Booth, Elderbank, stated that the concerns and comments offered at the District 1 meetings were not passed on and incorporated in the report that was sent to Regional Council.

In response to a resident from Elderbank regarding the report from the Ad Hoc Committee, Councillor Streach advised the data and minutes from the meetings are available to anyone wishing information on how the conclusions and final recommendation was reached.

Ms. Christina Hardy, Upper Musquodoboit, stated that a small group is not representative of the wishes of the community. She stated this is a rural area and in order to get a true picture of the wishes of the people a vote should be held and decision should not be based on the recommendations of a few. She stated she has seen no positives for the community as a result of amalgamation.

In response, Councillor Streach advised there are far reaching implications if District 1 became part of the Municipality of Colchester County. The Councillor advised that Colchester County has advised that it was not interested in taking on the responsibility of District 1 at the present time.

Mr. Michael Hardy, Upper Musquodoboit, expressed concern with the amount charged for permitting fees.

Mr. Bert Miller, Cooks Brook, noted the Archbishop's residence was being sold for less than its original purchase price. In response, Mayor Fitzgerald advised the house is in very poor condition and renovations and repairs would cost close to the original purchase price. Mr. Meech advised the property value is in the vacant land which has waterfront on the Northwest Arm. He advised the house property will be subdivided from the land that fronts on the waterfront and HRM will still retain the bulk of the land.

Mr. Tony Gallant expressed concern with the response time for both ambulance and police for this area.

In response to Mr. Frank MacKay, Mr. Meech advised there is approximately \$50 million towards the Harbour Cleanup, noting rates will increase by approximately \$0.10 over the next three to four years. He stated there is no charge to the general tax bill unless you are serviced by the sewer system.

Mr. Jack Braydon, Lindsay Lake, noted the rural areas do not have street lights and the only service is waste collection.

Mr. John Ryan, Cooks Lake, questioned whether the residents in District 1 are paying for services they do not receive.

Mr. Aubrey Colbeck, Middle Musquodoboit, stated the community has an up-to-date sewer system and its own water system. He stated the sewer outflow goes into the Musquodoboit River from an up-to-date treatment plant; therefore, why would they have to pay for the cleanup of the Halifax Harbour.

A resident stated that at the time of amalgamation it was indicated that there would be satellite offices. She noted there are offices but they are not always staffed by a person qualified to deal with all issues and a phone call to the HRM main office is a long distance call.

In response to Ms. Christine Hardy, Supt. Stan Ferguson, RCMP, advised that a house will be built in the Musquodoboit area and an RCMP officer will be transferred to the area in the summer.

Mr. Tim Flemming, Meaghers Grant, stated Community Council should adopt the report of the District 1 Boundaries Committee.

**MOVED by Councillors Streach and Snow that Community Council accept the recommendation as outlined in the District 1 Boundaries Committee to maintain the status quo. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Mr. Herman Pye, Schooner Drive, Lawrencetown, questioned by surplus vehicles are being sold only to dealers and not individuals. In response, Mr. Meech advised that a better price is obtained through the auction process.

A resident suggested the 1-800 HRM numbers be publicized so that the residents would be more aware that this option is available.

**15. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 24, 2000 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fall River Recreation Centre Portable, 3182 Highway #2, Fall River.

**16. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOVED by Councillors Streach and Snow that the meeting be adjourned at 10:00 p.m. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**Julia Horncastle**  
**Assistant Municipal Clerk**