

NORTH WEST COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

JUNE 26, 1997

THOSE PRESENT: Councillor Harvey
 Councillor Mitchell
 Councillor Kelly
 Councillor Barnet

ALSO PRESENT: Brian Smith, Director of Transportation
 Roel Vis, Schedule Planner
 Jenifer Tsang, Planner
 Andrew Whittemore, Planner
 Sandra Shute, Assistant Municipal Clerk

Regrets: Councillor Rankin

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1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. with an Invocation at Sunnyside Mall, Bedford.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

2.1 **Regular Meeting - May 29, 1997**

MOVED by Councillors Kelly and Barnet that the Minutes of meeting held on May 29, 1997 be adopted as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

2.2 **Special Council Session - June 4, 1997**

Approval deferred to the next meeting.

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

Added Items: Copy of Letter from MLA Bill MacDonald to the Chair of Halifax Regional School Board re proposed cutbacks in teaching staff
Request from Crestview Properties Limited to address Community Council re Crestview CCDD Lands - Application DA-BED-00-95-CR
Report re Pay for Crossing Guards dated June 25, 1997

Councillor Barnet: Rankin Drive Drainage Problems

Councillor Harvey: Referendum - Supplementary Education

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

A letter dated June 3, 1997 from Theresa Scratch relating to R-1-0 density housing together with a package of information was before Community Council.

On a question from Councillor Kelly as to when the requested Staff Report regarding Small Lot Options would be available, Ms. Tsang advised that she thought the report might be available for the July 10, 1997 meeting.

MOVED by Councillors Barnet and Kelly that Ms. Scratch's letter with attachments be forwarded to Planning staff for those working on the Small Lot Options report and that the report be provided at the earliest possible date. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.2 Delegations

9.2.1 Proposed Transit Cuts in 1997/98 Operating Budget

Brian Smith, Director of Transportation referred to questions raised by North West Transit Advisory Committee and advised that he and Roel Vis, Schedule Planner had met with members of the Transit Committee recently. He provided information on some of the concerns and questions raised by Transit Committee. With regard to the proposal for service reductions and fare increases provided by Regional Operations to Regional Council at budget time, Regional Council agreed with the fare increases but rejected the service reductions. Councillors are the first to be informed of service cuts with consultation with Transit Committees after that.

Councillor Kelly asked if it was possible, after Councillors have the report for a few days, for the committees to then be provided with the details. Mr. Smith, in reply, advised that when the information is issued publicly, staff would ensure that the Transit Committees are provided with the same information.

9.2.2 First Lake Village Committee re First Lake Village Project

On the request of Councillor Harvey, Councillor Kelly took the Chair for this item.

Mr. Jack Brill, Chairman, First Lake Village Committee, Sackville Seniors Advisory Council provided background information on the formation of the Committee, meetings held with regard to the concept, agreements reached, the site and the motion passed by Halifax County Council which included the phrase "subject to a favourable reply from the Department of Health". Although approval was not received, the Minister of Health and Minister of Housing indicated that the site will be held for future development for the next

three years for the betterment of seniors. Municipal infrastructure was capable of accommodating the proposed development and there would be no cost to the Municipality associated with the extension of new services. He referred to a letter dated June 25, 1997 from Housing and Municipal Affairs confirming that the information provided re surplus sewer capacity is still valid. He quoted from the Sackville Servicing Study Phase B re future growth impact assessment dated May, 1997 and referred to the Second Lake Land Use Map, with the proposal by Department of Housing to put in a lift station to service the 38 acres of land and spread the costs over the total development. He listed letters and Minutes of support for the project and asked those in attendance in support to stand. As well, he listed Councillors in support.

Mr. Brill suggested the following motion: "The North West Community Council supports the development of the 17 acres for the First Lake Village site and Nova Scotia Department of Housing proposal to develop 20 acres which would be developed into 80 single family R-1 lots and a recreational tot lot conditional on flow monitoring procedures. Further, that the development of the land will be in accordance with Policy E-4 of the Municipal Planning Strategy for Sackville dated June, 1994". He explained that the motion was virtually identical to the one voted on by Sackville Community Council and Halifax County Council, with the exception that North West Community Council was used and the provision of having the Minister of Health sign on to Phase I has been deleted. He said that the Staff Report remains the same, in support of the proposal. Although there was the condition that the Minister of Health sign on to Phase I, which was not going ahead at this time, he asked if that was any reason not to support Phases II, III and IV. He added that the Department of Housing letter is updated and approved by the Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs and supported by MLA Bill MacDonald. He advised that they intended to press the provincial Department of Health for the community continuing care centre and he requested that Community Council vote on the matter this evening.

Councillor Kelly asked why the Minister of Health did not approve the health care component. In response, Mr. Brill advised that it was felt they were over bedded in the metro area which, in his opinion, was not true. In his opinion as well, the home care program was not looking after people adequately.

Councillor Kelly asked if Department of Health had looked at demand ratios. In reply, Mr. Brill said he had asked them to but they would not come back with the information.

Councillor Kelly referred to the letter from B. W. Stonehouse, Housing and Municipal Affairs with respect to extending the servicing boundary and asked if this posed a problem. In response, Ms. Tsang advised that the Commissioner of Community Services has requested Planning Staff to prepare a Staff Report. Mr. Brill explained that the serviceable boundary was extended on February 29, 1996 by County Council subject to the Minister of Health's approval. Since the Minister did not approve, it should not change anything

because the Minister of Housing was prepared to let them go ahead with the housing component and put in the lift station.

Councillor Kelly asked who would pay the costs for the service extension. Mr. Brill replied that Department of Housing would.

Councillor Harvey noted that the Agenda package received for tonight's meeting contained the following: a letter from Mr. Brill dated June 11, 1997 requesting to make a presentation, a letter dated June 2, 1997 to the Commissioner of Community Services requesting that Regional Council honour the motion of February 29, 1997 together with a copy of the motion which includes the words "subject to a favourable reply from Department of Health". There were copies of two letters from Minister Boudreau to Bill MacDonald, MLA and a letter from Dr. Smith, Minister of Municipal Affairs to Minister Boudreau. Tonight, on his desk he received a package which contained the suggested motion. He asked if the document received tonight, or any part of it, was provided to any member of Community Council prior to tonight. Mr. Brill replied no; however, that was not unusual.

Councillor Harvey asked the Chair if he had received the document or any part thereof prior to tonight. Councillor Kelly replied he believed he had received a fax on a couple portions of it but they were at his office. Councillor Harvey then asked Councillor Mitchell the same question. Councillor Mitchell advised he had received a one-sheet fax explaining about the meeting. Councillor Harvey asked if the amended motion was on the page he received to which Councillor Mitchell replied he did not think it was.

Councillor Harvey went on to explain that he had received nothing but had seen the package two hours ago with the proposed motion. It was, therefore, circulated to other members of Community Council and he was at a loss to know why the two Councillors for Sackville received no prior knowledge of this particular motion or the report with it.

Mr. Brill stated that the document was not circulated until he arrived here tonight.

Councillor Kelly asked Mr. Brill if there were any parts given out to other members of Community Council but not given to the two Sackville Councillors. Mr. Brill replied that he had given a copy of the original motion to Councillor Rankin to bring him up to date.

Councillor Harvey stated he saw a copy of the amended motion in Councillor Rankin's hands two hours ago.

Councillor Kelly asked for clarification as to which motion was faxed out to Councillor Rankin. Mr. Brill replied it was the original motion from County Council on February 29, 1996.

Councillor Harvey stated Mr. Brill's answer was false.

Councillor Kelly called for order. This was an important issue.

Councillor Harvey stated that for the record, he had read the motion two hours ago and it did not have the reference to approval by Department of Health.

Councillor Harvey continued with a reference to himself and Councillor Barnet attending a meeting on March 21, 1997 in support of First Lake Village. He stated that he had supported, at the time, being part of the delegation to meet with the Minister of Health to try to get from him a quick and favourable reply to the project. He pointed out that Mr. Brill did not attend the meeting.

Mr. Brill stated that he did not attend the meeting for obvious reasons.

Councillor Kelly called for order again.

Councillor Harvey said that the meeting did not take place with the Minister of Health but, at that point, he at least was in ignorance of the Minister's decision. The letter dated March 20, 1997 from the Minister indicated he would not be giving support to the project at this time. In his view, before Community Council tonight was a development proposal for a 17 acre parcel of land owned by Department of Housing which is zoned R-1 and before anything could be done, it would require a Staff Report and a Public Hearing. For any member of Council to prejudice that Hearing by voting on the proposal ahead of time, would be highly out of order. He added that the Staff Report of February 13, 1996 recommended that County Council support the extension of municipal water and sewer services pursuant to Policies E-4 and E-5 of the Sackville Municipal Planning Strategy in order to accommodate the provision of senior citizens housing, further that this support be based upon the conditions of understanding outlined in the conclusion of this report and that the motion of February 29, 1996 was based on that recommendation. Page 10 of the report indicated that development of a seniors site should proceed under a CDD agreement which would require that the extended care facility be constructed in the first phase of the development.

Councillor Kelly asked, with respect to the rezoning process, would the group be opposed to going through the formal process. In reply, Mr. Brill said of course not, and it would be the developer who would put forward the proposal. Servicing of the land was being requested now, they would seek proposal calls from the business community and then select a developer, who would go through the process. Councillor Kelly asked, then, if it was not premature because you would want to make sure of the rezoning before spending the money on extending the service. Mr. Brill said, in reply, that if the Minister of Health

had approved the care centre, it would have been fully in accordance with the Staff Report and they would have proceeded. He did not see the difference.

Mr. Brill said he wanted it known that Councillor Harvey opposed the motion on February 29, 1996. The vote was 19-2 in favour. He referred to Minutes of the Sackville Seniors Advisory Board of March 21, 1997 stating that both Councillors are supportive of First Lake Village; however, a commitment from the provincial government is needed for it to go ahead as the nursing home phase is Department of Health jurisdiction. He said, therefore, that they were looking for a change to that to try to get the housing component to go ahead. There was a need for this type of housing in the area. If the housing component was built now and the infrastructure was put in, and if next year the Department of Health agrees to put the care centre in, the infrastructure would already be there.

Councillor Kelly asked if there was a time frame for the special care facility to which Mr. Brill replied no.

Councillor Barnet stated he wished to clarify that he was not a member of County Council in February, 1996 and, therefore, was not in favour or against the motion. He referred to the March 21 meeting and said that the Minutes were somewhat vague but he had indicated that he supported the concept but had not committed to a location, numbers, size; therefore, it was inaccurate that the Councillors were supportive of First Lake Village. He had never publicly or privately supported the proposal because a public process was required and he did not want to prejudice himself. He said Mr. Brill indicated that the servicing study provided favourable conditions for the development but there were, however, other parts of the study where concerns were expressed with regard to pipes, ability to store capacity. He went on to explain storage concerns in the Bedford area. He believed that the HRM Act requires Plan Amendments to be dealt with by Regional Council. Because the application would require a Plan Amendment, it would have to go to Regional Council. He asked for input from staff.

Ms. Tsang advised that Plan Amendments did go to Regional Council. There was a report being prepared on this project at this time.

Councillor Mitchell outlined the meetings he had attended regarding this issue prior to amalgamation and advised he was in support of the concept. He added he had not seen any motion although he had spent most of the day with Councillor Rankin.

Mr. Brill said he had not gone to the meeting that Councillors Harvey and Barnet attended intentionally because he did not want it to become confrontational; however, the Minutes indicated that both Councillors were supportive of First Lake Village. He referred to the sewage problem and advised that the Staff Report addressed it, as well as the engineers from Department of Housing and he hoped the engineers knew what they were doing. He

understood, and he thought it was in the Staff Report, that a Plan Amendment was not necessary for this particular project. He would entertain going to Regional Council after a Staff Report comes forward but this was the last time he was going to go through this exercise as it was very frustrating.

Councillor Kelly referred to Department of Housing and the Engineering Department and asked what would solve the problem of surging into the Sackville River. Councillor Barnet advised there was a report being prepared at this time; however, the surge tank at Mill Cove did not affect the pumping station at Fish Hatchery Park and even though it was being replaced this year, it was not being upgraded.

Councillor Kelly asked Mr. Brill for clarification on this point; however, Mr. Brill advised he would have to read the report as he was not an engineer and not an expert. He took the information as presented. He suggested getting another Staff Report to go to Regional Council. He pointed out that the project was going nowhere and there was the potential loss of 250 jobs over the construction period.

Councillor Kelly said there was a process that must take place and sometimes it did not go the way you want; however, with the provincial government being involved in the details of so many components, it was a full-fledged partnership. The seniors have tried to go with the province but the province has backed off at this time and now it appears there is a different approach being taken. He said he understood the frustrations being experienced but there was a process that has to take place which would have to be done in the public forum.

Mr. Brill stated they had followed due process, there were public meetings held, it went to Sackville Community Council, to Halifax County Council with a detailed Staff Report and it was supported 19-2. The only difference was that, for whatever reason, the Minister has delayed it but why should it delay everything else when the infrastructure was required anyway.

Councillor Kelly said that the Staff Report being prepared should help. He requested that staff check as to the status of the Staff Report and when it would be presented. He agreed that Mr. Brill would be provided with a copy.

Councillor Harvey stated that this was the first time in four years of dealing with the project, Phase I of which he had supported from the beginning as a private non-profit undertaking, that Phase I has been put on the backburner and the other phases have been put forward without it. This was, therefore, a new arrangement of First Lake Village and his support in the past assumed, as did the Staff Report of February 13, 1996, that Phase I was first. He referred to the Minutes of February 29, 1996 and quoted from same with regard to what he had said about the project getting ahead of the process. It took until March 21 for the

process to catch up with the project when the Minister made a pronouncement on Phase I. This, therefore, was a rearrangement of things.

Councillor Harvey asked what the Staff Report being prepared would contain. In reply, Ms. Tsang advised it was in response to a letter dated June 2, 199(6)7 from Ian Maclaine to Dan English, Commissioner of Community Services. Councillor Harvey clarified that the motion was printed on the back of the letter which contains the reference to approval by the Department of Health.

Mr. Brill stated that this would not address the present situation. Councillor Kelly stated that staff would cover the comments this evening and make reference to it as part of the report.

Public Participation on First Lake Village

Mr. Ian Maclaine, President, Sackville Seniors Advisory Council advised he had attended the meeting that Councillors Harvey and Barnet had attended. He could attest to what they agreed to and getting the Minister to attend a meeting. In no way did they intimate they were throwing their support with First Lake Village per se but they would meet with the Minister if he came to Bedford/Sackville.

Mr. Al Merley, Long Range Planning Committee, Sackville Lions Club advised he endorsed the project and suggested that the Councillors should take the matter very seriously and lead with their hearts. He was confused with agreeing with a concept but not making any commitments. He said there was a need in the community and Councillors should get on with it and make a decision.

Councillor Kelly explained that with regard to process, Councillors were not supposed to be pre-disposed on the approach to take. They may support the project in principle but until they go through the process and get feedback from the public formally, they are not supposed to take sides one way or the other. To do so could put them in a libellous situation. With respect to need, the provincial government decides what beds are paid for and which ones are not. Unless there is a private sector group ready to come forward and pay the full costs, the provincial government has said they will not commit at this time.

Councillor Harvey said that when he came tonight, there was a request for a presentation to re-endorse a motion from last year; however, the presentation tonight is the first time that First Lake Village has come forward in this form. There was always a commitment to Phase I to make sure that those seniors in the most need of 24-hour care would get it in Sackville. He was still committed to this. The other may have merit and should be brought forward as a proposal. He asked on February 29 for a specific proposal for the public to evaluate but this has never come forward from a specific developer or developers to judge

the merits. That was why there needed to be a proper Staff Report and the Public Hearing process.

Councillor Barnet said he understood the frustrations of the seniors and he acknowledged the need; however, there may be other areas in Sackville that might be appropriate for a facility of this nature. To come out and prejudge a potential application would be wrong and may provide ammunition for someone who is opposed to a facility like this in the event of an appeal. For those reasons, he was reserving judgement.

Ms. Theresa Scratch advised she was a former Councillor for Sackville and had voted against the motion on February 29. The site chosen for First Lake Village was in the middle of the District she represented. The people she represented in her old District were never opposed to the long term care facility but were concerned with the other housing proposed in association with it, both on the site and the 20 acres of housing development. The community was concerned with the associated housing because there was no protection that the housing would be developed specifically for seniors and no proponent proposing to develop. During the discussions at the time, she made several suggestions - request to Department of Housing to rezone the entire parcel P-2 - Open Space Institutional Use - which would alleviate fear of anyone else buying the land and developing it for anything other than Community Facility which would provide for seniors. She also requested that staff amend the definition of Residential Care Facility which, in the Sackville MPS at present, can only be owned and operated by government for non-profit. She asked if there was a formal applicant to develop the proposal.

Mr. Brill advised that it was the committee bringing it forward. The next step would be to go with proposal calls and a number of companies could apply.

Councillor Kelly advised that the Staff Report was being prepared on the request of the Commissioner of Community Services because of the questions and concerns raised.

Mr. Mel Bartlett said he was a member of the Community Steering Committee for the Sackville servicing study which was released last night, the mandate of which was not to argue or propose any particular siting of any particular development within the community but to work to gather information so that Community Council and Regional Council would be able to make intelligent decisions as to how Sackville should continue to grow. The main reason the servicing study was done was to prevent piecemeal development in the Sackville area and invest community funds to develop the best community. He was in favour of a continuing care centre, had no opinion where it should go but this type of development gave him concern because it was one more postage stamp development glued on without logical, consistent planning. He did not think there was any commitment from government because politicians were politicians and he did not think people should take an implied promise as a commitment.

Ms. Eleanor Reeder advised she has been connected with the project since 1991. When the project was turned down, she and MLA MacDonald met with the Minister of Health to find out why. The Minister of Health indicated to her that the reason it was turned down was because the Stephens Group decided to go ahead on its own and improve the situation in Beaver Bank. Mr. Brill was trying to get the project started. There were so many services that should be provided in the community that were not.

Councillor Kelly thanked Mr. Brill for his presentation, stated that the Staff Report would include points raised this evening and a copy would be provided to the First Lake Village Committee. As to a presentation to Regional Council, he suggested waiting until the Staff Report was available. He then relinquished the Chair.

Councillor Harvey resumed the Chair.

10. **REPORTS**

10.1 **Application DA-BED-00-95-CR Submitted by Crestview Properties to amend Development Agreement #95-04 to Permit the Development of Phase II of the Crestview Commercial Comprehensive Development District (CCDD) in the Former Town of Bedford**

A Staff Report dated June 19, 1997 was before Community Council as well as a request from Crestview Properties Limited dated April 24, 1997 for a representative to speak on this matter. It was agreed to allow the representative to speak.

Michael Wood, Burchell MacAdam & Hayman, solicitor for Crestview Properties Limited provided a written submission dated June 26, 1997 in response to the Staff Report, and advised he had provided a copy to Planning staff and the Municipal Solicitor. He provided information on the two phases of the Development Agreement. At the time, the MPS did not have a specific percentage of the site which had to be devoted to particular uses; however, in September, 1995, an application for a substantial amendment was made which is still on going. Now, however, staff has raised a concern, because the MPS was changed in 1996 just before amalgamation, with a provision to require development of commercial uses on 50% of each CCDD site. The request to Community Council was to disallow the amendment because it cannot meet the requirement. Planning staff was basing its recommendation on information from the Legal Department and that was the reason why he forwarded a copy to the Municipal Solicitor.

Mr. Wood stated further that if staff's position was correct, the only way the property could be developed would be by an amendment to the Planning Strategy. His position was that the rules that govern the evaluation process should be those that were in place at the time the Development Agreement was entered into and the application was underway;

otherwise, the effect would be to change the rules three quarters of the way through and an amendment to the Plan must be done.

Mr. Wood stated that he was requesting that the Community Council decline the recommendation of staff and direct staff to consider the balance of the application in accordance with the Strategy that was in place at the time of the Development Agreement. Failing that, he requested that a legal opinion be sought. He pointed out that there is no appeal from Community Council's decision but it was felt that this was a fair issue and should be looked at again.

Councillor Kelly referred to a Supplementary Report dated March 25, 1996 and quoted from same. He pointed out that at that time it had been pointed out to the proponent that it would be dealt with in the way outlined but no concerns were raised.

MOVED by Councillors Kelly and Mitchell to defer this issue to the next meeting on July 10 in order to obtain a legal opinion from the Municipal Solicitor. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10.2 Review of Municipal Planning Strategy for Beaver Bank, Upper Sackville and Hammonds Plains - Public Participation Program

A Staff Report dated June 19, 1997 was before Community Council.

MOVED by Councillors Barnet and Kelly to recommend to Regional Council that the Plan Review process for the Beaver Bank, Upper Sackville, Hammonds Plains (Planning Districts 15, 18 and 19) Plan area as outlined in the report and the Terms of Reference for the Plan Review Committee be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10.3 Final Appointment to Area Advisory Committee for the Plan Review Program for Districts 15, 18 and 19

Copy of correspondence dated June 17, 1997 addressed to Bill Butler, Planning was before Community Council advising of the Beaver Bank Community Awareness Association's appointment to the Area Advisory Committee for the Plan Review Program for Districts 15, 18 and 19.

MOVED by Councillors Barnet and Mitchell that David Barrett be appointed to the Area Advisory Committee for the Plan Review Program for Districts 15, 18 and 19 as the representative from the Beaver Bank Community Awareness Association. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10.4 Appointment of an Area Advisory Committee for the Comprehensive Transportation Study for Sackville

A Staff Report dated June 20, 1997 was before Community Council.

MOVED by Councillors Barnet and Mitchell that the interested persons listed on Appendix B of the Staff Report dated June 20, 1997 be appointed to the Sackville Transportation Study Area Advisory Committee. Further, that another advertisement be placed in the newspaper to fill the vacant positions still outstanding.

Councillor Kelly asked if the study would be in conjunction with the Go Plan to which Councillor Harvey replied the primary job would be to analyse the Sackville Transportation Study but he felt it would be intermeshed.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10.5 Ratification of Expenditures - Landfill Funds

MOVED by Councillors Barnet and Kelly to ratify the following expenditures from the unallocated interest on the landfill funds:

1. **\$2,000 for Bedford/Sackville Meals on Wheels for Emergency Funding**
2. **\$1,000 for Fultz Corner Restoration Society to replace stolen equipment and finish landscaping. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

11. MOTIONS - None

12. ADDED ITEMS

12.1 Correspondence

Community Council agreed to receive a copy of a letter dated June 17, 1997 from MLA Bill MacDonald to the Chair of Halifax Regional School Board re proposed cutbacks in teaching staff.

12.2. Crossing Guards

A Staff Report dated June 25, 1997 re Pay for Crossing Guards was before Community Council. It was agreed to receive the report and to forward a copy to Mrs. Hoadley who had raised the issue by way of correspondence at a previous meeting.

Councillor Harvey indicated he understood there was a Tender Call for crossing guards across HRM. It was agreed that the proposal for privatization of crossing guards would be added to the agenda for the next meeting and that the appropriate staff be requested to attend the meeting and provide information.

12.3 Drainage Problems - Rankin Drive

Councillor Barnet outlined on-going drainage problems being experienced by residents on Rankin Drive where water runs off municipally-owned property. When he brought this matter up with staff shortly after amalgamation, he was led to believe that the problem would be fixed; however, the situation continued through last winter. Most recently, a site visit with John Sheppard, Manager, Environmental Services, resulted in a Memorandum from Mr. Sheppard which was not acceptable. Staff had undertaken to make repairs; however, he needed a written commitment to assure not only himself but members of the public that the problem would be looked after. He read Mr. Sheppard's letter which indicated that a policy was required to be in place to standardize the matter of drainage off HRM property onto private property. As he has been dealing with this matter far too long with an indication from staff that it was a small problem with easy solutions, it should not have taken the length of time it did and then receive indication that it would not be dealt with until a policy is in place. He asked for support from Community Council to direct staff to address the issues this summer as, in his opinion, it was HRM's responsibility to correct the problems created by either the Municipality or Department of Housing who subsequently turned the property over. The problem only gets worse over time.

Public Participation on Drainage Problems - Rankin Drive

Mr. Fancy asked if there was a policy now with regard to runoff from HRM lands. In reply, Councillor Kelly advised that policies in place at the time of amalgamation stay in place until a new policy is approved.

Mr. Fancy pointed out that his back yard has sunk 2' in five years. He was asking for help from Community Council to deal with the problem.

MOVED by Councillors Barnet and Kelly to request Regional Operations to deal with the problem prior to a policy being put in place as it was unknown when the policy would be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

At this time, Councillor Harvey requested that Councillor Kelly again take the Chair. Councillor Kelly did so.

12.4 Referendum on Supplementary Education Funding

Councillor Harvey referred to the uneven situation across HRM where \$14-16 million is raised in Halifax/Dartmouth through a separate levy to support their schools. Now that there was a Regional School Board and everyone was in the same Municipality, he believed it was an intolerable situation and should be addressed. With regard to the upcoming School Board elections in October, there was an opportunity to get some input in a formal way from the public on Supplementary Education funding.

Councillor Barnet suggested providing options to the School Board with regard to the question to be put on the ballot and explained his suggestion.

Councillor Harvey said he thought the question should be a simple one, or it could be two, one on the principle of supplementary funding and one on a range. He wanted to move to a system where everybody would be treated equal.

MOVED by Councillors Harvey and Barnet to send a letter to the Chair of the Halifax Regional School Board asking that a Referendum question which would test the proposition of Supplementary Education funding in the former County of Halifax and Bedford be placed on the ballot for the School Board Elections to establish a mandate and, should there be agreement in principle, that Community Council be involved in the formulation process.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councillor Kelly relinquished the Chair. Councillor Harvey resumed the Chair.

13. NOTICES OF MOTION - None

14. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ms. Maureen Bartlett referred to educational issues and the fact that developments keep getting approved but the school system cannot keep up with the growth. Parents needed every bit of help they could get to try to get someone to listen to their concerns re school overcrowding. She did not have a problem with an area rate for education. She gave her opinion of the School Board and felt that if an area rate was approved, the School Board could be held accountable.

Councillor Kelly said he agreed that you could not keep playing catch up with development; however, the School Board would have to have the intestinal fortitude to not support a development because of overcrowding. With regard to an area rate, before he

agreed to it, he would want to know how the money would be spent. He referred to the old Trustee approach where it was known where the money was going.

Mr. Bryce Reid advised that after seven years, the Millwood Commons has started. He asked for an update on the sidewalk extension for Millwood, which he had raised at the last meeting. In reply, the Chair advised that Regional Operations has been following up with the developer but no firm advice has been received.

Councillor Barnet advised that the developer's construction crew was in the area and he understood the sidewalk would be part of that construction effort. Mr. Reid agreed to monitor the situation and he hoped that there would be something positive by the next meeting.

Mr. Bryce Reid referred to a piece of land by Payzants which had been rezoned about a year ago. He understood it had been agreed that there would be a sum of money allotted to improve soccer fields within the Sackville community. He asked the status of those funds. It was agreed to correspond with Riverview Recreation Association after the Staff Report is obtained to find out the status.

Rev. Darryl Gray, on behalf of the community of Upper Hammonds Plains, and having made available to Community Council copies of the package on the Infrastructure Works Project, asked for support of Community Council in this regard. He pointed out that water was a basic necessity and requested that support for the project be forwarded to the appropriate government officials. He provided background information on the project, the support previously provided through Community Council as well as others and the total cost of the water project in Upper Hammonds Plains.

MOVED by Councillors Kelly and Mitchell to support the project and to advise the Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs of that support. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Mr. Tony Edwards requested that the new traffic lights on the Bedford Highway at Fish Hatchery Lane and Union Street be re-coordinated. He outlined the problems being experienced at this time with the lights. In reply, Councillor Kelly advised that the Traffic Authority is currently re-evaluating the lights.

Mr. Allan Smith stated he was against area rates. He referred to the overflow sewer tanks and asked if it was likely that leachate being hauled down from Cumberland County was ending up in the Basin. The Chair advised that if it was discharged into the sewer system during a heavy rainfall, it was possible; however, it would be quite diluted once it got there. Engineering Department has instructed that it be held in tanks awaiting more favourable conditions.

Ms. Theresa Scratch advised she supported area rates for education.

Mr. Mel Bartlett referred to compost bins and recommended that garbage should be handled on a user fee basis. People today felt that garbage was free; however, that was not the case. They could either pay for composting or pay for garbage pickup. Councillor Barnet advised that the Stakeholders Strategy contained a key element which reflected Mr. Bartlett's comments which was "reducer saves, user pays".

15. **NEXT MEETING** - Thursday, July 10, 1997
Sackville Library, 636 Sackville Drive

16. **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion from Councillor Mitchell, the meeting adjourned at 10:35 p.m.

Sandra M. Shute
Assistant Municipal Clerk