

NORTH WEST COMMUNITY COUNCIL

ANNUAL MEETING

MINUTES

NOVEMBER 13, 1997

THOSE PRESENT: Councillor Harvey, Chairman
Councillor Barnet
Councillor Kelly
Deputy Mayor Rankin

ALSO PRESENT: Bill Campbell, A/General Manager, Community Planning
Grace Ho, Planner
Ted Tam, Manager, Engineering and Transportation Services
Sandra Shute, Assistant Municipal Clerk

Regrets: Councillor Mitchell

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1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. with an Invocation in the Charles Fenerty Room, Sackville Library, 636 Sackville Drive.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

2.1 **MOVED by Councillor Barnet and Deputy Mayor Rankin to approve the Minutes of meeting held on October 9, 1997 as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

2.2 **MOVED by Councillor Barnet and Deputy Mayor Rankin to approve the Minutes of meeting held on October 23, 1997 as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

Additions: Clarification of Civic Addresses - Glendale Drive/Duke Street/Capt. John Gorham Boulevard - Councillor Barnet
Bedford Administrative Offices - Councillor Kelly

Deferral: Item 10.3 - Street and Subdivision Concerns - Department of Transportation - Councillor Mitchell

MOVED by Councillor Barnet and Deputy Mayor Rankin to approve the Order of Business as amended. 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**

A letter dated October 29, 1997 from Darrell Dixon, Vice-President, Armoyan Group was before Community Council requesting assistance in directing the Recreation and Leisure

Services Department to include the installation of Playground Apparatus for Glengarry Estates, Timberlea and Peruz Court, Bedford in their schedule for early 1998.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Rankin and Councillor Kelly to refer the letter to Jim Naugler, Regional Coordinator, Recreation Facilities, Community Services with the request for a status report. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10. **REPORTS**

10.1 **Annual Report**

The Chairman presented the First Annual Report and commented on the function of Community Council as a cohesive unit over the past year.

Deputy Mayor Rankin expressed appreciation of the fact that Councillor Harvey, as the first Chairman, had ensured that Community Council got off to an excellent start.

Councillor Kelly requested that the section regarding the interest of residents who lived in the former County of Halifax be reworded to provide clarification as far as the former Town of Bedford is concerned.

MOVED by Councillor Kelly and Deputy Mayor Rankin to receive the First Annual Report as amended and to express appreciation to Councillor Harvey as the first Chairman of North West Community Council. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10.2 **Sackville Cross Road Paving Renewal - Local Improvement Charges**

A Staff Report dated October 29, 1997 on the above subject was before Community Council.

Councillor Harvey advised he could support the recommendation because there was never a petition and it was the renewal of infrastructure heavily used by both vehicles and pedestrians alike.

MOVED by Councillors Barnet and Kelly to approve the levying of an area rate for the entire District 20 to recover the Local Improvement Charges for the replacement of the existing asphalt sidewalk and curb on the south side of Sackville Cross Road between Sackville Drive and Old Sackville Road with concrete sidewalk and curb. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10.3 **Street and Subdivision Concerns - Department of Transportation**

Deferred until Councillor Mitchell is in attendance.

10.4 **Case 7559 - Application for Rezoning - 2649 Prospect Road**

This application had been before Regional Council; however, Councillor Mitchell had requested that it be referred back to Community Council for the setting of a Public Hearing date and Regional Council had agreed.

Deputy Mayor Rankin, on behalf of Councillor Mitchell, provided reasons why Community Council should agree to hold a Public Hearing at the first opportunity.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Rankin and Councillor Barnet that a Public Hearing be held on the first available date with regard to the application for rezoning of 2649 Prospect Road in White's Lake. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10.5 **Report from Planning Advisory Committee**

Two pieces of correspondence dated November 7, 1997 were before Community Council from the Chair, Anne Marie Kelly along with a report dated November 10, 1997 with attachments.

10.5.1 **Representation from Bedford on Planning Advisory Committee**

PAC was requesting that new appointments for Bedford be made now rather than waiting for a report from staff and a subsequent decision by Community Council.

Councillor Kelly said he understood the Staff Report would be available in the next week to ten days for Regional Council. He asked that Community Council acknowledge PAC's request but advise that the community has requested that no action be taken until the Staff Report is available.

MOVED by Councillors Kelly and Barnet that no appointments be made until after receipt of the Staff Report.

The Chair asked Councillor Kelly how he wished PAC to deal with Bedford matters before it or that would come before it. In reply, Councillor Kelly advised he wished PAC to proceed as they have been doing, for the time being, because when the issue comes to Community Council, he would be in attendance and would be able to put forward any Bedford views required at that time.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10.5.2 **Paper Mill Lake Area Advisory Committee**

PAC was requesting clarification with regard to whether or not the above committee was a true Area Advisory Committee or had a different function.

Councillor Kelly agreed that the committee was not an Area Advisory Committee. He referred to Policy R-14 of the Town of Bedford Municipal Planning Strategy 1996 and quoted from same.

MOVED by Councillors Kelly and Barnet that the Committee be renamed the Paper Mill Lake Public Participation Committee. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10.5.3 **Request to Amend Terms of Reference for Area Advisory Committee for Planning Districts 15, 18 & 19**

PAC was requesting that Betty Stacey, who was no longer a member of PAC but had been a member of the Area Advisory Committee in her capacity as a member of PAC, have her term of appointment on the Area Advisory Committee extended to December 31, 1997. The reasons for this were outlined in the letter.

Deputy Mayor Rankin recommended that the composition of the Area Advisory Committee be changed so that the PAC members would be reduced from three to two and that the members representing the community at large be increased by one so that Ms. Stacey could continue serving on the Committee. He understood the time line for the review was the end of December, 1997.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Rankin and Councillor Barnet to continue Betty Stacey's appointment on the Area Advisory Committee until the end of December, 1997 as a member at large and, therefore, that the Terms of Reference be adjusted accordingly to allow for one less member from PAC and one more member from the community at large. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

10.5.4 **Area Advisory Committee for Planning Districts 15, 18 & 19 - Request from Peter McInroy to Disband the Committee**

The recommendation from PAC contained in the report was that the request by Peter McInroy in his letter dated October 3, 1997, on behalf of Vernon Kynock Trucking Ltd., to disband the Area Advisory Committee be rejected.

Deputy Mayor Rankin said the mandate was to continue the Committee until the end of December, 1997. The letter from Mr. McInroy could be referred to staff and incorporated in the report that will be forthcoming in the context of the mandate given to the Committee. As per the last motion with regard to Ms. Stacey, there was an intention to continue the Committee until the end of December.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Rankin and Councillor Barnet to accept the recommendation of Planning Advisory Committee - that the Area Advisory Committee for Planning Districts 15, 18 & 19 Plan Review not be disbanded.

Councillor Barnet added that he was disappointed that the request came forward at all. The Committee has been bogged down with one or two issues that have taken a substantial amount of time and there are many other things that have to be addressed relating to the Plan, other than the issues of interest to Mr. McInroy. He did not think it would be appropriate to disband; there were a number of items that had very little community opposition - housekeeping items - that needed to be addressed that have been overshadowed. In his opinion, the letter from Mr. McInroy was inappropriate and he had responded personally to Mr. McInroy after receiving a copy of it. He noted that Mr. McInroy's letter had been addressed to the wrong body; Mr. McInroy requested that Planning Advisory Committee disband the Committee whereas North West Community Council had begun the process and would be in a position to disband, if they so wished.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The Chair asked if members of Community Council had an interest in referring Mr. McInroy's letter to the Ethics Committee of the Bar Association for comment.

Councillor Barnet said he did particularly when it seemed letters like this are written to create some element of fear.

MOVED by Councillors Barnet and Kelly to write a letter to the Ethics Committee of the Bar Association concerning Mr. McInroy.

Deputy Mayor Rankin suggested that if a complaint was being lodged, then the whole file should be forwarded.

The Chair explained he did not mean a complaint but to elicit a response as to whether or not this letter was the type of letter the Bar Society would assume one of its members would write.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED 3-1.

10.6 New Area Rates

A communication from Bruce Fisher, Budget Coordinator was before Community Council regarding whether or not Community Council wished to propose new area rates for 1998/99.

Councillor Barnett suggested that Community Council should meet and invite Mr. Fisher with the city view computer in place to address issues relating to boundaries and where area rates should be charged. He was specifically referring to the sidewalk area rate and transit. Councillor Kelly added there was a different standard re setbacks in different former municipalities and he supported debate on this topic.

The Chair pointed out that Mr. Fisher was specifically referring to new area rates. In reply, Councillor Kelly said that new rates could be a continuation of the old rates and, in order to have full debate and discussion, it would be necessary to review what is the intent of staff in its continuance.

Councillor Harvey advised he has been collecting information on the feasibility of applying a school supplementary funding rate for District 20 for curriculum/classroom purposes in the specific schools in District 20 to be worked out similar to the old school area rate where the school itself produced the list of required materials.

Councillor Kelly asked who would approve the requests. In reply, Councillor Harvey said he hoped it would come through a process between the schools and himself, with the School Board having an administrative role only.

Councillor Kelly asked if the intent should be across the North West Community Council area rather than just District 20. In reply, Councillor Harvey stated he would be delighted to have the rest of Community Council's support but was investigating the feasibility of one District, to see if it could be done. At this point, however, it was in the information gathering stage.

Councillor Barnett said this was not unlike what he proposed at Regional Council over a year ago when he tried to restore Trustee rates. He knew there was a strong desire in particular schools in his area to achieve the same level of funding as in the past.

It was agreed to arrange a Committee of the Whole meeting as soon as possible.

11. **MOTIONS** - None

12. **ADDED ITEMS**

12.1 **Clarification of Civic Addresses - Glendale Drive/Duke Street/Captain John Gorham Boulevard**

Councillor Barnett advised that he has received a number of requests for clarification relating to civic addresses for Glendale Drive/Duke Street and the new Captain John Gorham Boulevard. He asked for support from Community Council in writing a letter to the Traffic Authority requesting that they clearly and concisely point out what the addresses

are and will be as he understood that the addresses on Glendale Drive and Duke Street would remain and the section in the middle was Captain John Gorham Boulevard. He wanted clarification, before businesses started changing their letterhead and address.

The Chair advised he has also had some inquiries. He had been in touch with Tony O'Carroll, Data Coordinator, Planning Operations and he intended to meet with Mr. O'Carroll and Ron Lowerison on Monday. The meeting could certainly be expanded to include the three Councillors involved.

It was agreed that the Clerk would communicate with staff as to the meeting time and location and advise the Councillors involved accordingly.

12.2 Bedford Administrative Offices

Councillor Kelly read a motion he was proposing to go to Regional Council with regard to maintaining some of HRM's Administrative Offices in Bedford.

MOVED by Councillor Kelly to forward the motion as proposed to Regional Council.

Deputy Mayor Rankin stated he would be prepared to second the motion but would be more comfortable if Councillor Kelly would remove the words, "with HRM's current contingent of present staff" from the Resolution. From a management point of view, this would allow some flexibility with levels of staff but the motion would commit to the continuance of Storefront and Development Services operations in Bedford.

Councillor Kelly agreed to the amendment.

SECONDED by Deputy Mayor Rankin as amended.

Councillor Barnet pointed out that a Staff Report would be coming to Regional Council shortly on this issue and he felt uneasy supporting the motion until the Staff Report was available.

Deputy Mayor Rankin said he appreciated Councillor Barnet's comments but he could also appreciate Councillor Kelly's. If it was from a business approach point of view, then staff could say shut down the operation; however, Councillor Kelly brought up in the preamble the politics prior to amalgamation and what was promised to the people, not by staff. There was, therefore, the question of whether or not there was a moral or other obligation. He was certainly prepared to support the motion based not on an efficiency approach but on the political commitments made by the people selling amalgamation.

Councillor Kelly stated there were promises made not only to Bedford but to all former municipalities but, in the process, the politicians of the time clearly stated through public

discussions that a certain degree of level of service would be retained. To him, presence is an integral part of the service one receives. The community understood it could not have what it did have - but to go from 15,000 sq. ft. to close the offices as of December 31, 1997, there would be no further presence in the former Town of Bedford and this was totally unacceptable. He referred to the First Annual Report, the portion relating to Community Council working as a cohesive unit and working towards improvement. By closing the office in Bedford, it would decrease the improvement capability. He was asking to go from 15,000 sq. ft. to approximately 4,000 sq. ft. and pointed out there was paid space until October, 1998 once the Police moves into the new Fire Hall. He was asking for equal consideration, and to achieve that, there was a need to show presence. Once it was gone, it would be gone for good. He added there were other options to maintain the presence but his request was for the intent that the space be retained.

Councillor Barnet reiterated his concern that the Staff Report was not available and advised he could not support the motion until it was.

Councillor Kelly advised he met with staff who made it very clear that the purpose of movement was for consolidation into HRM-owned space; however, there was HRM space available with the former Town. Out of respect, he was asking that some retention of staffing remain in the community which would represent service levels - permitting, payments and By-law enforcement.

Deputy Mayor Rankin said he did not hear Councillor Barnet arguing against the sentiments expressed by Councillor Kelly or himself. Politicians would have to address what were the commitments going into amalgamation, what was told to the residents and who has the obligation to follow up. Politicians were accountable regardless of what staff had to say. The proposal now was to go from 15,000 sq. ft. to 4,000 sq. ft. - \$50-55,000 for a year.

Councillor Harvey said that if there was a reduction from 15,000 sq. ft. to approximately 4,000 sq. ft., then it was heading in the direction of amalgamation; however, it was sensible to put the brakes on at that point in the interests of the former Town of Bedford.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED 3-1.

The motion passed reads:

WHEREAS the former Municipalities of Halifax, Dartmouth, Halifax County and Bedford were brought into Amalgamation as Equal Partners;

AND WHEREAS it was the understanding that all partners would continue to receive the promised continued level of service;

AND WHEREAS Bedford has had Administrative Offices in its Community since 1979;

AND WHEREAS HRM has already relocated Bedford's former Planning Dept., Engineering Dept., Tax Resource Dept., Human Resources Dept. and General Administration out of the community of Bedford;

AND WHEREAS it is Bedford's desire to continue to maintain some of HRM's Administrative Offices within its Community;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the North West Community Council go on record as supporting the request to secure and retain the remaining Storefront and Development Service operations in Bedford **AND FURTHERMORE** to forward the said motion to Halifax Regional Municipality Council.

13. **NOTICES OF MOTION** - None

14. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mr. Walter Regan, Sackville Rivers Association raised the following points:

- C He asked if it was possible to gate a service road at McCabe Lake as a camp had been vandalized and garbage was being dumped illegally on the service road. In reply, Councillor Barnet advised that Department of Transportation had indicated it was a public road and could not be gated. With regard to illegal dumping, he raised the concern at Solid Waste/Resource Advisory Committee a number of times and also with the Minister of Environment relative to solid waste bans from landfills. Staff was working towards a plan to resolve these issues and would be swearing in two By-law Enforcement Officers to deal specifically with illegal dumping. He requested, through Solid Waste Division, that funding be identified to clean up sites as there could be bigger problems in the next few years.
- C He asked the status of the Tree By-law. In reply, Councillor Barnet advised that he had met with staff and they were working towards solutions that could utilize some existing By-laws, such as the Topsoil By-law.
- C He asked for an update on Second Lake Provincial Park. In reply, the Chair advised he thought there might be further information available in the next month or so. It was still being actively pursued.
- C He asked for clarification regarding the swap of land between HRM and a developer on Stokil Drive. In reply, Councillor Barnet advised there was a Public Hearing being held on November 18 re the closure of a small strip of road right of way. If approved, the result would solve an existing drainage problem.

- C He asked the status of obtaining Sackville River signs on the bridge crossings. There was no recent information.

Ms. Joyce Evans, a member of the Area Advisory Committee for the Plan Review for Districts 15, 18 & 19 expressed appreciation for Community Council's comments regarding Peter McInroy's letter. She expressed concern regarding her input at meetings because she was apprehensive.

Ms. Theresa Scratch advised she also appreciated Community Council's support for the Area Advisory Committee and provided further information in this regard.

Mr. Mike Gray asked if there was a map of Second Lake available showing the current ownership by private individuals, entities or the Crown around the lake. The Clerk was requested to check.

Mr. Wayne MacPhee raised the following points:

- C He asked the status of his request for information regarding an Auditor General. He went on to supply information he had obtained regarding the provincial Auditor General's department and with Deputy Mayor Rankin's previous estimate regarding the cost of an Auditor General for HRM as compared to the provincial department, particularly with regard to space and support staff. The Clerk advised that following the last meeting, contact had been made with the Commissioner of Corporate Services. There has been no meeting date set for the Audit Committee.
- C He referred to the Mayor's salary, which was more than for the Mayor of Calgary and outlined concerns. Deputy Mayor Rankin pointed out that salaries for HRM Councillors and the Mayor were set by an independent panel. He felt the process was adequate for the public.

Ms. Maureen Bartlett raised the following points:

- C In her opinion, Councillors were not paid enough.
- C She thanked Councillor Harvey for investigating the possibility of area rates for schools.
- C She asked the status of the First Lake Village project. In reply, Councillor Harvey advised, as the District Councillor, he had written to both the Ministers of Health and Municipal Affairs and Housing asking for a status report. He had just received a response from the Minister of Housing. He read the response.

Ms. Theresa Scratch asked if the letter referred to "final approval". Councillor Harvey re-read that portion of the letter and advised he felt it was the concept, not approval as it was Department of Housing. Once a response from the Minister of Health is received, there should be a better picture of the status of the proposal.

15. **NEXT MEETING** - 7:00 p.m. Thursday, November 27, 1997
Sunnyside Mall, Bedford

16. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

Councillor Harvey relinquished the Chair to the Clerk.

The Clerk called for nominations for Chairman.

MOVED by Councillor Kelly and Deputy Mayor Rankin to nominate Councillor Barnet.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Rankin and Councillor Kelly that the nominations cease.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Councillor Barnet was declared Chairman.

17. **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion from Councillor Harvey, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Sandra M. Shute
Assistant Municipal Clerk