

**HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 28, 1996**

PRESENT: Mayor Walter Fitzgerald
Councillor Bill Dooks
Councillor Gordon Snow
Councillor David Hendsbee
Councillor Ron Cooper
Councillor Harry McInroy
Councillor Jack Greenough
Councillor Condo Sarto
Councillor Clint Schofield
Councillor John Cunningham
Councillor Jerry Blumenthal
Councillor Graham L. Downey
Councillor Larry Uteck
Councillor Howard Epstein
Councillor Russell Walker
Councillor Bill Stone
Councillor Ron Hanson
Councillor Steve Adams
Councillor Barry Barnet
Councillor Bob Harvey
Councillor Peter Kelly
Councillor Reg Rankin
Councillor Jack Mitchell

REGRETS: Councillor Bruce Hetherington
(For Health Reasons)

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Ken Meech, Chief Administrative Officer
Mr. Wayne Anstey, Solicitor
Ms. Karen F. Swim, A/Municipal Clerk
Ms. Julia Horncastle, Recording Secretary

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0	APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS	3
2.0	MOTION OF RECONSIDERATION	7
2.1	Councillor Kelly Re: MIRROR NS - Work Plan, Phase 2 (February/March 1996)	7
3.0	NATAL DAY (COUNCILLOR SCHOFIELD)	7
4.0	BOARD OF MANAGEMENT, HALIFAX COUNTY REHABILITATION CENTRE (COUNCILLOR COOPER)	7
5.0	REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (COUNCILLOR HENDSBEE).....	8
6.0	LORD'S PRAYER (COUNCILLOR DOOKS)	3
7.0	PRESENTATION: COALITION FOR COMPREHENSIVE RECYCLING	8
8.0	REPORTS	9
8.1	Commissioner of Corporate Services	9
8.1.1	Bank Signing Authority	9
8.2	Commissioner of Regional Operations	9
8.2.1	Service Levels and Standards	9
8.3	Commissioner of Community Services	10
8.3.1	Electrical Inspections	10
9.0	PROPOSED ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NUMBER ONE, RESPECTING THE PROCEDURES OF COUNCIL	12
10.0	MOTION - COUNCILLOR EPSTEIN	12
11.0	ADDED ITEMS	12
11.1	Labour Relations Board Proceedings	12
11.2	Council Support Office	13
11.3	Approach Roads - Angus L. Macdonald Bridge	14
11.4	Waste Management	5
11.5	Civic Holiday	14
11.6	Dartmouth Snow Removal Policy	16
11.7	Canada Day Committee	1
12.0	NOTICES OF MOTION	16
12.1	Councillor Barnet Re: Highway 101 Landfill	16
12.2	Councillor Mitchell Re: Route 333 Improvements	16

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. with an invocation.

1.0 APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS

It was generally agreed that "Waste Management" be added to the agenda as Item 11.4, and that Commissioner George McLellan be asked to provide Council with a brief presentation at that time.

At the request of Councillor Kelly, "Civic Holiday" was added to the agenda as Item 11.5.

Moved by Councillor Downey, seconded by Councillor Dooks that the agenda, as amended, be approved. **Motion carried.**

6.0 LORD'S PRAYER (COUNCILLOR DOOKS)

This matter had last been discussed during a meeting of Halifax Regional Council held on January 15, 1996. At that time staff had been requested to investigate the invocations currently being used in the City of Halifax, the City of Dartmouth, the Town of Bedford and at Halifax County, and to bring forward a report for Council's consideration. The item had been placed on the current agenda at the request of Councillor Bill Dooks.

MOVED by Councillor Dooks, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee that all future meetings of Halifax Regional Council be opened with the recitation of the Lord's Prayer.

Councillor Blumenthal made reference to the various faiths that are represented not only by the Councillors themselves, but also in the community at large. He therefore suggested that a moment of silent reflection at the beginning of each meeting would be more appropriate than the recitation of a prayer that is so closely associated with the Christian religion.

Councillor Stone spoke in favor of the motion, pointing out that the Lord's Prayer has been used to commence Council meetings in all four municipalities for a great number of years. While concurring with Councillor Blumenthal's suggestion, Councillor Stone suggested that the recitation of the "Our Father" might be followed by a moment of silent prayer.

Councillor Epstein spoke in opposition to the motion, noting that, in his view, the recitation of the Lord's Prayer by Council at each of its meetings is not reflective of

the plurality of the Halifax regional community and could, in fact, be viewed as offensive by many of its constituents.

Councillor Greenough made reference to Dartmouth City Council's practise of alternating a variety of prayers representative of various religious faiths. He noted, however, that while he personally preferred the more "generic" prayer with which Halifax Regional Council has been opening its meetings since early January, it might be advantageous for Council to seek advice and recommendation from the region's multi-cultural community on this matter.

Councillor Hanson suggested that an appropriate alternative might be to invite (on a rotating basis) local leaders of different faiths and beliefs to officiate at the beginning of each formal Council meeting.

After some further discussion, a recorded vote was requested with the following results:

FOR: Councillors Dooks, Hendsbee, Downey, Walker, Stone, Hanson, Kelly and Mitchell (8)

AGAINST: Mayor Fitzgerald; and Councillors Snow, Cooper, McInroy, Greenough, Sarto, Schofield, Cunningham, Blumenthal, Uteck, Epstein, Adams, Barnet, Harvey, and Rankin (15)

The motion was declared to be lost.

Stating that it was obvious from the preceding debate that the Invocation currently being used is not sufficient, **Councillor Greenough moved, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee that Council direct staff to consult with appropriate community groups as to an appropriate means by which to commence future meetings of Halifax Regional Council.**

Speaking in support of the motion, Councillor Sarto suggested that a letter be forwarded by His Worship Mayor Fitzgerald to the leaders of all local religious faiths, requesting their advice on this matter.

Councillor McInroy made reference to the suggestion put forward by Councillor Sarto and expressed concern that it would be extremely difficult for Council to attempt to contact representatives of all faiths and religions. He therefore strongly recommended that a generic prayer, such as that currently in use, be composed.

The Chairman closed the debate by speaking in support of the motion, emphasizing that, above all else, Council must take a tolerant and sensitive approach to this issue.

The motion was put and passed.

11. ADDED ITEMS

11.4 Waste Management

It was generally agreed that the above-noted matter be dealt with at this point on the meeting's agenda.

Mr. George McLellan, Commissioner of Regional Operations, provided a brief overview of a meeting held recently between HRM staff and representatives of Morrison Knudsen Corporation, the firm responsible for preparing the economic evaluation for the negotiation teams. Also present at that meeting had been a representative of Cox Downie, and senior engineers from Halifax County, Dartmouth and Halifax, as well as consultants and others who had been involved in the process.

Mr. McLellan advised that while a written report will be made available to Council, it appears evident that Morris Knudsen had conducted a thorough review, and that the MIRROR Group had been extremely forthright in providing the information requested of them. He went on to note that MIRROR's costing experience (based on the assumptions used and following an analysis of local conditions and competitive suppliers) had been deemed to be "fair."

However, Mr. McLellan advised that Morrison Knudsen had raised certain concerns in regard to the front-end processor/waste stabilization facility, particularly the technology that the MIRROR Group had selected and also the considerable investment connected with it. The point was made that "sizing" is a very important factor in these technologies as is the issue of "cost return" with regard to the FEP. In this context, it was noted that the MIRROR Implementation Plan (which was based on 1994 volumes for solid waste) calls for approximately 160,000 tons going into the FEP and roughly 120,000 tons coming out at the other end at the waste stabilization facility. The question was therefore raised as to the extent of the diversion the FEP would actually yield, a concern which staff raised with representatives of Sound Resource during their visit to Seattle later in the week.

When asked to critique the Waste Management Strategy against their own experience as leaders in the area of source separation and mixed waste streams, Sound Resource felt that the collection costs proposed by MIRROR were very reasonable. However, during these discussions, it became increasingly obvious that Sound Resource is no longer convinced that FEP/waste stabilization facilities are necessarily "the right way to go" in all cases. Mr. McLellan suggested that one of the contributing factors is that several of these facilities have failed, leaving a tremendous burden in terms of capital costs. He emphasized, however, that the

technology applied in those failed facilities was not necessarily that being proposed by the MIRROR Group.

Mr. McLellan went on to advise that Sound Resource had also raised a number of questions as to how the FEP was proposed to be operated relative to the overall waste management stream. Most importantly, however, they had raised concerns regarding the matter of cost relative to the overall cost of the system, and indicated that there appeared to be a significant difference between the Strategy and the MIRROR proposal, particularly in terms of the approach to source separation and diversion at source.

Mr. McLellan strongly recommended that, in order to fully address the concerns raised by Sound Resource, the matter should be referred to the newly-established Solid Waste/Resource Advisory Committee, particularly given the fact that the size and scoping of an FEP is the most expensive component of the Plan's total capital cost. In putting forward this recommendation, Mr. McLellan acknowledged that a further review at this point in time would have serious repercussions on the time frames originally proposed in terms of start-up dates. He emphasized, however, that Council could use this time to concentrate on the education and communication aspects of the Strategy, and also to implement regulations that will make it more vital for residents to separate their waste at source. Such an approach, he pointed out, would considerably reduce the mixed-waste stream and ultimately diminish the need for a front-end process/waste stabilization facility.

Responding to a question from Councillor Epstein, Mr. McLellan advised that a written report is expected from Sound Resource Inc. shortly and will be distributed to members of Council as soon as it becomes available.

In response to a further question from Councillor Epstein, Mr. McLellan suggested that the MIRROR Group's Work Plan should be deferred until the matter can be fully explored with the Advisory Committee.

Following a brief discussion and questioning of staff, **it was moved by Councillor Kelly, seconded by Councillor Blumenthal that** the matter be referred to the Solid Waste/Resource Advisory Committee for their consideration and for discussion with the MIRROR Group; and further, that a full report be forwarded to Council as quickly as possible. **Motion passed.**

6:55 p.m. - Councillor Dooks retires from the meeting.

2. MOTION OF RECONSIDERATION

**2.1 Councillor Kelly Re: MIRROR NS - Work
Plan , Phase 2 (February/March 1996)**

After consulting with the Director of Administrative and Legal Affairs, **it was moved by Councillor Kelly, seconded by Councillor Rankin that** the Motion of Reconsideration be deferred, pending the receipt of information from the Solid Waste/Resource Advisory Committee. **The motion to defer was put and passed.**

3. NATAL DAY (COUNCILLOR SCHOFIELD)

This matter had been deferred from the last regular meeting of Halifax Regional Council held on Thursday, February 22, 1996.

Council Schofield advised that over the last several weeks the Natal Day Committees of both Halifax and Dartmouth, as well as the organizers of the annual "Bedford Days" festivities, have been meeting as a group with the intention of submitting a joint proposal in regard to the 1996 Natal Day festivities.

It was therefore moved by Councillor Schofield, seconded by Councillor Sarto that the committees for Halifax Natal Day, Dartmouth Natal Day and "Bedford Days" be maintained until after the 1996 festivities, subsequent to which a recommendation is to be brought forward by those committees outlining the manner in which they intend to merge their efforts for future events. **The motion was put and passed.**

Mayor Fitzgerald suggested that, if there are vacancies on any of these committees, appointments should be made by the appropriate municipal councils prior to April 1, 1996.

Concurring with the Mayor's suggestion, Councillor Schofield requested that the staff advisors to each of these committees be asked to take the steps necessary to fill any existing vacancies.

**4. BOARD OF MANAGEMENT, HALIFAX COUNTY
REHABILITATION CENTRE (COUNCILLOR COOPER)**

Noting that a process has now been implemented by which the Halifax County Rehabilitation Centre will be phased out within several years' time, Councillor

Cooper emphasized the importance of having a Board of Management in place to participate in discussions now underway between the Province and the municipality. The Councillor went on to indicate that the continuance of a Board of Management for Ocean View Manor was equally essential.

Under the circumstances, therefore, Councillor Cooper gave Notice that at the next regular meeting of Halifax Regional Council (scheduled for Wednesday, March 6, 1996) he proposes to introduce a motion that would see the continuance of both the Board of the Halifax County Rehabilitation Centre and that of Ocean View Manor.

The Councillor also asked that a staff report on this matter be submitted in this regard.

5. REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (COUNCILLOR HENDSBEE)

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Snow that the Regional Development Agency be invited to make a presentation regarding its work plan, its budget and request for funding, if at all possible during the next regular meeting of Halifax Regional Council scheduled for Wednesday, March 6, 1996. **The motion was put and passed.**

6. LORD'S PRAYER (COUNCILLOR DOOKS)

This matter had been addressed at an earlier point in the meeting's agenda.

7. PRESENTATION: COALITION FOR COMPREHENSIVE RECYCLING

Mr. Bill Hutton of the Coalition for Comprehensive Recycling made a brief presentation to Council, outlining his group's opposition to the "deposit" legislation currently proposed by the Province of Nova Scotia (**NOTE:** A copy of Mr. Hutton's remarks in point form was submitted to the Clerk and forms part of the official record of this meeting).

Councillor Cunningham commended Mr. Hutton on his presentation, emphasizing that, in his view, the objectives of the proposed legislation are "clearly at odds" with what HRM is attempting to achieve through its own recycling efforts. **It was therefore moved by Councillor Cunningham, seconded by Councillor**

Blumenthal that Halifax Regional Council go on record as being opposed to the proposed legislation; and further, that a letter be forwarded on Council's behalf by Mayor Fitzgerald to the Minister of the Environment emphasizing this objection.

Following a brief discussion, **the motion was put and passed with unanimous consent.**

8.0 REPORTS

8.1 Commissioner of Corporate Services

8.1.1 Bank Signing Authority

A report dated February 23, 1996 and entitled "Bank Signing Authority" was submitted by Mr. Larry Corrigan, Commissioner of Corporate Services.

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Mitchell that:

- (1) Halifax Regional Municipality require two officers to sign each cheque issued by the Municipality, one being an elected official and one being an appointed official;
- (2) the political signing officers be the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor; with the appointed officials being the Commissioner of Corporate Services, the Director of Finance, and the Manager of Treasury; and that
- (3) Council authorize the use of mechanical or electronic means of signing cheques.

The motion was put and passed.

8.2 Commissioner of Regional Operations

8.2.1 Service Levels and Standards

An Information Report dated February 19, 1996 and entitled "Service Levels and Standards" was submitted by Mr. George McLellan, Commissioner of Regional Operations.

MOVED by Councillor Barnet, seconded by Councillor Sarto that the

Information Report dated February 19, 1996 be tabled.

Mr. Doug Quinn, Director of Operations, responded to questions from various members of Council.

The motion to table was put and passed.

8.3 Commissioner of Community Services

8.3.1 Electrical Inspections

A report dated February 21, 1996 and entitled "Electrical Inspections" was submitted by Mr. Dan English, Commissioner of Community Services. Also submitted was a report dated February 21, 1996 and entitled "Electrical Inspectors" from Mr. Wayne Anstey, Q.C., Director of Administrative and Legal Services.

Mr. Ken Richardson, Supervisor of the Electrical Division (City of Halifax), addressed Council in opposition to the proposal that after April 1, 1996 all electrical and inspections services will be provided by Nova Scotia Power. In his remarks, Mr. Richardson noted that the City of Halifax has a long and active record in this field, having been (in 1880) the first Canadian municipality to establish lighting standards. He also made reference to an Electrical Wiring Ordinance approved by Halifax City Council in 1920, seven years before the Canadian Electrical Code was introduced.

Mr. Richardson emphasized that members of the City's electrical division are extremely concerned about the possible decrease in service levels to area residents, should the responsibility for permits and inspections be assumed by Nova Scotia Power. He went on to point out that, as long as this service is provided on an in-house basis, the Region can offer an integrated type of "one-stop shopping" to contractors and to members of the public, who are also looking for building/development permits, plumbing permits, etc.

Mr. Richardson suggested that, if the electrical division were retained by the Halifax Regional Municipality and its services extended to the Region, it is estimated that 6500 permits (generating approximately \$450,000-\$500,000) could be issued on an annual basis by that division.

Mr. Richardson concluded his presentation by delivering a slide presentation depicting the kinds of services performed by the electrical inspectors, and responding to questions from various members of Council.

In reference to a question from Councillor Hendsbee, Mr. Richardson advised that, in order to extend electrical inspection services to the entire

Region, staffing would have to be increased to 8 and possibly 10 inspectors.

Responding to a similar question from His Worship Mayor Fitzgerald, Mr. Richardson indicated that during the first nine months of the 1995/96 fiscal year, the City's Electrical Division generated \$182,000 (as compared to the Division's annual budget of \$176,000). He emphasized, therefore, that the Division is now and can continue to be self-supporting.

Following a brief discussion and questioning of Commissioner English, **it was moved by Councillor Epstein, seconded by Councillor Rankin that** the Halifax Regional Municipality indicate to the Province of Nova Scotia its desire to provide electrical inspection services in-house, and to explore the possibility of having existing and future staff members designated as "inspectors" under the Electrical Installation and Inspection Act.

Speaking on the motion, Councillor Epstein suggested that if the Halifax Regional Municipality were to present (through this motion) a "united front" on this issue, it is possible that the Province may re-think its stance in terms of allowing HRM to provide these services.

Concern was raised by various members of Council that a presentation had not been received from representatives of Nova Scotia Power. **It was therefore moved by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor McInroy that** the matter be deferred so as to provide an opportunity for both sides to be heard. **The motion to defer was put and defeated.**

Acknowledging these concerns, however, the Chairman called for comments from anyone present in the public gallery wishing to speak on behalf of Nova Scotia Power.

Mr. George Cottreau, General Manager (NSPI), addressed Council to provide a brief overview of the electrical inspection and permit services now being supplied by NSPI.

Following some further discussion and questioning of Messrs. Meech and English, **the motion was put and passed** with Councillor Hendsbee voting in opposition.

On another but related matter, Councillor Adams asked for information from staff as to why the position of "chief inspector" had been omitted from the organization chart for Community Services.

**9. PROPOSED ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NUMBER ONE,
RESPECTING THE PROCEDURES OF COUNCIL**

Moved by Councillor Barnet, seconded by Councillor Harvey that Proposed Administrative Order Number One, Respecting the Procedures of Council, be tabled; and further, that it continue to be included on future agendas (until March 27, 1996) for discussion purposes. Motion carried.

10. MOTION - COUNCILLOR EPSTEIN

During the Regional Council meeting held on February 22, Councillor Epstein had given Notice that he proposed to introduce a motion concerning a Request for Proposals with regard to the work outlined in the Draft Master Agreement.

In light of the motion approved earlier in the meeting under Agenda Item 11.4, "Waste Management, " and after consultation with the Director of Administrative and Legal Affairs, Councillor Epstein requested (**and it was so agreed**) that this matter be deferred until a report has been received from the Solid Waste/Resource Advisory Committee.

11. ADDED ITEMS

11.1 Labour Relations Board Proceedings

Councillor Epstein asked for information in the form of a staff report as to the proceedings now before the Labour Relations Board, including rulings to date, outstanding issues, and positions being taken by legal counsel acting on behalf of the Halifax Regional Municipality.

Concurring with Councillor Epstein's request, Councillor Cooper indicated that he would appreciate having this information distributed to members as quickly as possible for discussion purposes.

Councillor Hendsbee asked that special attention be given in the report to the status of the Home Care and Social Services workers currently employed by Halifax County. He noted that because these staff members are non-union, there is concern that they could lose their years of seniority if they are taken over by the Province. The Councillor emphasized that he would be interested in knowing if there is anything Halifax Regional Council could do to address those concerns.

11.2 Council Support Office

A report dated February 16, 1996 and entitled "Council Support Office" was submitted by Councillor Ron Cooper, Chairman, Council Support Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Cooper, seconded by Councillor Blumenthal that:

- (1) the Council Support office staff shall consist of a total of six full-time staff and provision for some part-time staff and temporary staff as needed. The full-time staff should be comprised of the Coordinator of Council Support, two research assistants, and three administrative assistants.
- (2) Councillors be provided with the communication equipment necessary to provide the most effective representation and availability to constituents. These tools shall consist of a computer with Internet access and fax machines, so that Councillors can be in continuous contact with HRM staff, constituents and all Internet users. Cell phones shall be part of the total communication package. Such devices not only provide greater access, but improve the operating efficiency of both the Councillor and the HRM.
- (3) five areas of office base be established in order that Councillors can provide accessibility to the widest possible range of constituents. These areas are downtown Halifax, downtown Dartmouth, Cole Harbour Place, Lower Sackville, and Musquodoboit Harbour. The offices in Halifax, Dartmouth, Cole Harbour Place and Sackville will be shared by a number of Councillors (between four and ten), while the Musquodoboit Harbour office will be used only by the Councillor for District 1 (the latter office is necessary due to the large geographic area of District 1 and its isolation from the urban area). All the proposed offices are to be located in existing municipal buildings.
- (4) staff be directed to formulate an equitable policy with respect to reimbursement of local travel expenses for Councillors travelling in excess of 25 km from their principal residence on municipal business. This policy is intended to compensate those Councillors required, because of the size and location of their District, to use their personal vehicle to a greater extent than those whose constituents live in a more concentrated urban environment. The policy should not, however, be limited to suburban and rural Councillors, because it is intended to apply to any Councillor called upon to attend HRM business greater than 25 km from their principal residence.
- (5) provision for Councillors to attend the annual conference of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities be included in the Council Support budget (funding for approximately 1/3 of Council to attend such meetings annually is recommended).

- (6) that the annual operating budget of Council Support be approximately \$1.45 million, which includes \$1.25 million for Council and staff salaries/fringe benefits, and approximately \$200,000 for operating expenses (this compares favorably with the current total of \$1.62 million which the municipal units currently spend on Council and Council support services).
- (7) office meetings, chaired by the Deputy Mayor, be scheduled on a monthly basis.

The motion was put and passed.

11.3 Approach Roads - Angus L. Macdonald Bridge

Councillor Downey indicated that he had received a number of calls from businessmen and residents in the area of North and Barrington Streets regarding the Bridge Commission's recently-announced proposal to construct a third lane on the Angus L. Macdonald Bridge. The Councillor therefore asked that staff report on the location and design of the proposed approach roads, and the manner in which it is anticipated they will impact on surrounding neighborhoods.

Councillor Kelly recommended that the Bridge Commission be asked to conduct a test-case scenario to determine the probable impacts of ongoing construction on traffic flows, and indicated that he would submit his proposal in writing so that it could be forwarded to the Commission for consideration.

11.4 Waste Management

This matter had been addressed at an earlier point in the meeting's agenda.

11.5 Civic Holiday

This matter had been added to the agenda at the request of Councillor Kelly who asked for staff comment on the establishment of a formal civic holiday to commemorate municipal amalgamation and the establishment of the Halifax Regional Municipality.

11.6 Dartmouth Snow Removal Policy

This matter was added to the agenda at the request of Councillor Sarto, who asked for information from the Director of Operations as to the operating costs associated with Dartmouth's policy of plowing the sidewalks and walkways.

11.7 Canada Day Committee

This matter was added to the agenda at the request of Councillor Walker, who asked for comments from staff as to whether there is an intention to establish a Canada Day Committee.

12. NOTICES OF MOTION

12.1 Councillor Barnet Re: Highway 101 Landfill

Councillor Barnet gave Notice that at the next regular meeting of Halifax Regional Council (scheduled for Wednesday, March 6, 1996) he proposes to introduce a motion with regard to the Highway 101 Landfill.

12.2 Councillor Mitchell Re: Route 333 Improvements

Councillor Mitchell gave Notice that at the next regular meeting of Halifax Regional Council (scheduled for Wednesday, March 6, 1996) he proposes to introduce a motion with regard to improvements to Route 333.

There being no further business to be discussed, **it was MOVED by Councillor Greenough, seconded by Councillor Sarto that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.**

MAYOR WALTER FITZGERALD
CHAIRMAN

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:
KAREN F. SWIM, A/MUNICIPAL CLERK