

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL
JUNE 10, 1996

PRESENT:

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

Absent with regrets

Mayor Walter Fitzgerald

STAFF MEMBERS:

Mr. Ken Meech, Chief Administrative Officer
Mr. Wayne Anstey, Municipal Solicitor
Ms. Vi Carmichael, Municipal Clerk
Ms. Jane Nauss, Assistant Municipal Clerk

1. **HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY 1996/97 PROPOSED CAPITAL BUDGET**

Mr. Ron Singer, Director of Finance, addressed Council providing a brief update on recent discussions as they pertain to the 1996/97 Proposed Capital Budget. As of this date, a “wish list” has been created totalling \$732,000.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Epstein on the transfer of land from the municipality to ITT Sheraton, Mr. Anstey noted that the process with respect to the design of the Casino, needs to be completed prior to entering into a Development Agreement.

Lucasville Watermain Project

Councillor Hetherington provided clarification on the Lucasville Watermain Project in that this Council should honour the 1996 contract of \$1.17 million (unfunded liability approved as a capital fund by Halifax County).

MOVED by Councillors Hetherington and Hendsbee to honour the 1996 contract of \$1.17 million as approved by Halifax County.

In speaking to the Motion, Councillor Kelly sought clarification on a \$91,000 figure. Further, he enquired if there would be a one-time water hook up charge for 240 trailers. Mr. Ken Meech explained that \$91,000 was an additional contribution, however, he would provide a breakdown if requested.

No vote was taken on the Motion.

Another Motion was put on the floor.

MOVED by Councillors Kelly and Epstein to defer this matter pending further clarification by the Chief Administrative Officer.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Blumenthal, Councillor Hetherington advised he would provide a listing of water rates in Dartmouth and Halifax.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Land Acquisition - Community Services

A brief discussion ensued on "Trail - Seaview Look off" at Lady Hammond Road and that it is included in two different areas of the Budget. Council was advised by staff that both projects are actually two separate entities, namely; trail to Seaview along the track, and, Seaview Look off Park.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Kelly regarding #2 - Land Acquisition - Regional Operations - "Sundry Land Acquisition" - \$250,000, Deputy Mayor Greenough advised this was an arbitrary figure to enable Halifax Regional Municipality to purchase property, should the opportunity arise.

In response to a comment from Councillor Barnet that Council should approve \$400,000 at one time for #1 - Land Acquisition - Community Services - "Trail - Seaview Look off" rather than \$200,000 this year and \$200,000 next year, Deputy Mayor Greenough advised it was understood that \$200,000 would be budgeted for each year.

Councillor Cooper expressed concern in the manner in which the Capital Budget was compiled, particularly as it pertained to land acquisition and the order in which it was placed.

Lucasville Watermain Project (Cont'd)

Mr. Ken Meech advised he was now able to confirm that the contribution of the mobile park owner will be \$150,000.

In response, Deputy Mayor Greenough advised that the Motion to defer this matter has now been dealt with and that further discussions can now take place.

A brief discussion ensued with Mr. Ken Meech advising that Council must be cognizant of the earlier commitment made by the former Halifax County Council. Councillor Cooper enquired if it would be appropriate to have the Water Commission address Council to provide the status of projects of the four former units.

MOVED by Councillors Hendsbee and Hetherington to defer discussion on the Lucasville Road Watermain Project for one day to permit discussions with the Water Commission. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

A question arose from Council on 5% parkland dedication. In response, Mr. Ron Singer, Director of Finance, advised that generally, this falls under the auspices of the Nova Scotia Planning Act. However, he did note that land dedication usually goes to local park development. Further, with respect to a policy, staff have not taken a position as yet.

Parks and Playgrounds

Councillor Bill Dooks requested Council's concurrence to address a particular matter at this point in the meeting as he had a previous commitment and had to leave.

Utilizing a map, Councillor Dooks explained that former Districts 10, 11 and 12 now comprised District 1 of Halifax Regional Municipality. Two projects - "Eastern Shore Playgrounds" and "Oyster Pond Park" - had not been included on the list and Councillor Dooks expressed concern of a potential liability for the Region, as both areas were in a state of disrepair.

Council was advised that residents in rural areas do not have the amenities of the urban areas, therefore, they relied more on parks and playgrounds for leisure time. Consideration of including these two projects on the list was respectfully requested.

Councillor Dooks further advised that item #135 - "Eastern Shore Playgrounds" - had \$50,000 budgeted for next year, however, he felt that \$30,000 would be sufficient.

MOVED by Councillors Dooks and Snow to add #135 - "Eastern Shore Playgrounds" - \$30,000 and #171 - "Oyster Pond Park" - \$20,000 - to the Capital Budget.

In speaking to the Motion, Councillor Kelly enquired on the amount of funding budgeted for exterior work of #22 "LeBrun Centre" - under Buildings. In response, Mr. Denis Huck, Superintendent of Facilities, Central Region, advised \$50,000.

Councillor Kelly advised he would like to transfer \$50,000 from #22 - "LeBrun Centre" under Buildings to District 1 to assist with the "Eastern Shore Playgrounds" and "Oyster Pond Park" projects.

No vote was taken on the Motion.

Another Motion was put on the floor.

MOVED by Councillor Dooks and Snow to add #135 - "Eastern Shore Playgrounds" - \$30,000 (not \$50,000 as noted in the Budget) and #171 - "Oyster Pond Park" - \$20,000 - to the Capital Budget. Further, that \$50,000 be transferred from Buildings - #22 - "LeBrun Centre" (leaving \$25,000) to assist with projects #135 and #171 in District 1.

A brief discussion ensued on whether it is appropriate for the transfer of funds to take place between Districts rather than within Districts. Mr. Ken Meech advised that the current priority list was based on a certain criteria - not necessarily by District. Further,

Council should not assume that any recommended project will actually be approved.

In response, Councillor Kelly stated he was suggesting a transfer of funds in the spirit of cooperation. Further, there are legal obligations in District 1 which were more important than LeBrun Centre aesthetics. However, he did request that the \$50,000 being transferred to District 1 from 21, be put back into the LeBrun Centre Budget in year 4. He also stated he agrees that Council cannot give and take from the priority list at will.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Councillor Dooks expressed his appreciation to Council and left the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Councillor Cooper requested staff provide background information on the Salmon River water project. In response, Mr. Ken Meech advised he understood the Water Commission was currently examining how these types of projects are to be funded in the future. Councillor Hetherington, a member of the Water Commission, advised that this matter is being reviewed.

Museum and Historic Sites

Dr. Fields, Dartmouth Museum, addressed Council reviewing its history (# 3 - Museum Repairs) over the past 30 years. Council was advised this was an art museum complex comprised of an art gallery, archives, etc. Further, artists can now show their wares and community history. With respect to the \$425,000 allocated for repairs, it may not be sufficient funding, accordingly, another presentation may have to be made to Council in the future.

A brief discussion took place on whether the municipality wishes to remain in the museum business.

MOVED by Councillors Uteck and Blumenthal to postpone #3 - "Museum Repairs" - under Museum and Historic Sites - to 97/98. MOTION DEFEATED.

Councillor Epstein requested a detailed staff report on a #2 - "Battery Estates Lands" - \$1.5 million - 97/98 - under Land Acquisition - Regional Operations - as he felt these funds were extremely high.

The meeting broke at 5:15 for supper.

The meeting reconvened at approximately 6:00 p.m.

Parks and Playgrounds

Following a brief discussion, Councillor Hendsbee expressed concern that this budget process is working backwards; further, the area rate tax structure should be set first.

In response, Mr. Ken Meech advised it has been decided upon that a \$63 million Capital Budget will be worked with. Whether the budget is financed through a general or area rate is a secondary issue.

MOVED by Councillors Snow and Hendsbee to defer #87 - "Silersides Beach Project" (\$18,000) to 1997 and transfer the \$18,000 from #87 to #144 - "L.C. Skerry School Playground" - further to advance this project forward to 96/97.

Councillor Epstein requested a staff report clarifying the land ownership issue, access to the beach and whether to dispose of it.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Councillors Rankin and Mitchell to add #94 - "Morton's Lake Sport Park" - \$94,000 net - to the Capital Budget for this year. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Councillors Stone and Walker to add #101 - "Birch Cove Park - Halifax" - \$100,000 - to the wish list. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Councillors Stone and Walker to add "Basketball Pad - Remington Court Playground" - \$32,000 - to the wish list. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councillor Stone presented Mr. Bill Stevens, Manager, Client Support Services, with a copy of a report regarding this basketball pad.

MOVED by Councillors Adams and Cunningham to transfer funds from #28 - "Graves Oakley Park - Development" - \$124,000 to:

- C Under "Buildings" - #23 - "Harrietsford Recreation Centre" - for septic upgrade (this is in addition to \$25,000 allocated) - \$35,000**
- C #28 - "Graves Oakley Park Complex" - for lights and upgrading of playground equipment - \$13,000**
- C "Ketch Harbour Playground Equipment" - \$20,000**
- C "Sambro School Playground Equipment" - \$20,000**
- C "Sambro Recreation Centre" - \$35,000. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MOVED by Councillors Epstein and Walker to add "Tree Planting/Park Improvements"- \$25,000 - to the wish list. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Buildings

MOVED by Councillors Walker and Epstein to remove "Centennial Pool Improvements" - \$32,000 under "Buildings" - from the wish list. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Parks and Playgrounds

MOVED by Councillors Walker and Stone to defer for one year #32 - "Northcliffe Playground Upgrade" - \$16,000; further, add \$4,000 to "Northcliffe Pool"; and, \$6,000 to #206 - "Northcliffe Upper Courts" thereby leaving \$6,000 left over. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Councillors Walker and Stone to postpone #74 - "Clayton Park Junior High Sportfield" - \$73,000 - until 1997/98; and, transfer \$65,000 for a "Basketball Court - Clayton Park Junior High School". This frees up \$8,000. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councillor Barnet advised that #39 - "Seymour Hankey Field Extension" - did not indicate cost sharing of \$10,000 (community landfill compensation) - thereby freeing up \$11,000.

MOVED by Councillors Barnet and Adams that \$11,000 from #39 - "Seymour Hankey Field Extension" - be transferred to "Community Playground - Armcrest Subdivision." MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Councillors Mitchell and Rankin to take #49 - "Hubbards Ballfield - Phase 2" - reduce figure to \$100,000 from \$134,000 - and transfer \$25,000 to "East St. Margaret's Ballfield" and \$9,000 to "Beach - Shad Bay." MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Councillors Mitchell and Schofield to add \$20,000 to #172 - "Stoney Beach Road Playground" for 97/98. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Councillors Hanson and Adams to add to wish list #123 - "Chain Lake Park" - \$67,999 - this is a work in progress and should be added to the wish list. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mr. Nick Murray advised that staff had located funds in the amount of \$53,000 from project #86 - "Major Fill Site" to be applied to the Chain Lake Park project.

MOVED by Councillors Downey and Hanson to add #109 - "Outdoor Facility Lighting Controls" and #110 - "Redesign & Redevelopment of North and Central Common" to the wish list. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Councillors Sarto and Schofield to add #148 - \$33,000 - "Main St. Ballfield-Improve Drainage" to the wish list. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Councillors Cooper and Hendsbee to add "Rehabilitation of Old School Building as a Community Centre" - \$45,000 - to the wish list (15,000 cost shared). MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mr. Simpson MacLeod advised that #14 - under Property Development - "Cost Sharing Fencing" - should read "HRM" and not "Halifax Downtown."

Councillor Cooper requested a staff report on a policy for fencing and walkways.

MOVED by Councillors Schofield and Hendsbee to add "Retaining Wall - Beazley Field" - \$229,000 (net) to the wish list. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Councillors Blumenthal and Kelly to add #180 - "Fort Needham - Chain Link Fencing" - \$13,000 and #194 - "Fort Needham Park - Heighten Fence" - \$9,000 to the Capital Budget; further, under Land Acquisition - to postpone #1 - "Trail - Seaview Look off" at Lady Hammond Rd - \$200,000 - for one year. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Councillors Hendsbee and Epstein to add "Outdoor Facility Washrooms" in rural areas - \$20,000 - to the wish list. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Councillors Mitchell and Walker to add #179 - "West Dover Ballfield Parking" - \$15,000 - to the wish list. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councillor Walker advised that #5 - under Property Development - "Walkway Stoneybrook Court" - should read "Fairview - Clayton Park" and not "Cole Harbour North."

Councillor Snow advised that #3 - under Property Development - "Kuhn Road Development Package" - should read "Dartmouth" and not "Waverley-Dutch Settlement."

MOVED by Councillors Epstein and Mitchell to remove #9 - “Downtown Parking Area” - from the Budget.

A lengthy discussion ensued on this matter with Councillor Epstein advising this project relates to property for a parking garage in downtown Halifax. Further, Councillor Epstein felt this was an ill advised project.

Councillor Uteck disagreed with Councillor Epstein. This project has been studied and it has been determined that additional parking is required in the area.

Mr. Simpson MacLeod, Real Estate and Facilities, advised that a study had been carried out to determine potential areas for badly needed short term parking. Further, it was the intent to have a better parking location to serve the downtown core. The study did determine there was no need for a multi-storey parking location in the area.

Councillor Downey supported Councillor Uteck’s comments noting that the deal has been made and the Downtown Merchants’ Association is expecting the project. Further, Councillor Downey suggested that a presentation to Council by the BIDC be made prior to the funds being removed.

Councillor Blumenthal reminded Council that unless lot P is sold, this project will not proceed.

As a Point of Information in response to a comment made by Councillor Hendsbee, Councillor Blumenthal advised this is only an outdoor parking lot and not a garage.

Concern was expressed by Councillor Hendsbee that the purchase of the remainder of the property should not be conditional on the sale of lot P.

Councillor Adams requested a report on the shortage of short term parking.

A brief discussion ensued on whether there will or will not be a cost to the taxpayer in this regard.

No vote was taken on the Motion on the Floor.

Another Motion was placed on the Floor.

**MOVED by Councillors Kelly and Schofield to defer discussions on #9 - “Downtown Parking Area ” pending a staff report (costs to demolish, construction of parking lot, will HRM make or lose money, how much in the reserve funds, could these go into general funds and used for other purposes).
MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Roads and Streets

Councillor Barnet requested #17 - "Old Patton Road at Trunk #1" - \$155,000 - be deferred; further to add the following for asphaltting - Victory Lane, Colgrave Ave., Sherri Lane, Wesley Drive, Jamie Drive and Megan Crescent; also, to repave Fennerty Road and one half of Lakeview.

Deputy Mayor Greenough expressed caution to Council in the creation of a wish list. In response, Mr. Ken Meech suggested that the "wish list" projects be incorporated into the overall plan; subsequently, it can be viewed as to where they are located on the priority list.

MOVED by Councillors Schofield and Cunningham to add "Wyse Road" on the wish list. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Councillors Cunningham and Stone to add "Paving - Hyland Road" (\$150,000) and "Paving - Lakeside Terrace" (\$176,000) to the wish list. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee and Cooper to add #61- "Cole Harbour Road" - \$271,000; #180 - "Ross Road Rte 328" - \$90,000 and #194 - "Ross Road Rte 328" - \$19,000 to the wish list. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councillor Hendsbee requested consideration, for future Capital Programs, the construction of two short streets - extension of Johnson Road to Symonds St. in North Preston, and a separate Johnson Road, in Cherry Brook, connected to Lake Major.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Rankin, Mr. Ken Meech advised he would attempt to provide "condensed" information as it pertained to a listing of projects required based on a safety factor and dollar amounts involved.

Councillor Snow requested staff review #82 - "Lochview Road" and #124 - "Lakeview Road" as to why they are not being considered for this year's Capital Budget.

Councillor Sarto requested information as to why Dorothea Drive and Bellevista Drive were left off the list - Mr. Kulvinder Dhillon advised the information should be available by tomorrow. Councillor Sarto advised he would like to add these to the wish list after receiving the information.

MOVED by Councillors Sarto and Schofield to add #70 - "Bayswater Road Overlay Paving" - \$75,000 - to the wish list. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councillor Greenough advised that prior to leaving the meeting this evening, staff would be distributing two reports for tomorrow evening's Regular Council Session. Further, that Council would meet tomorrow at 3:00 p.m. to continue Capital Budget discussions.

MOVED by Councillors Snow and Barnet to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Vi Carmichael
Municipal Clerk