

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL MINUTES January 29, 1997

PRESENT:

Mayor Walter Fitzgerald
Councillors: Bill Dooks
Gordon R. Snow
David Hendsbee
Ron Cooper
Harry McInroy
Jack Greenough
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

STAFF MEMBERS:

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

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The Council session regularly scheduled for Tuesday, January 28, 1997, was postponed to Wednesday, January 29, 1997, due to inclement weather.

1. INVOCATION

Mayor Fitzgerald called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with an Invocation.

2. PROCLAMATIONS - None

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - January 13, 1997

MOVED by Councillors Hetherington and Sarto that the minutes of January 13, 1997 be approved as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

Council agreed to add the following items to the agenda:

- 13.1 North West Community Council - Urban/Rural Tax Issue
- 13.2 Councillor Walker - Septemberfest '96
- 13.3 Councillor Kelly - Information Item #5: Memorandum from Chief of Police Services dated January 23, 1997 re: Police Move to new Fire Station Facility - Bedford Area

At a later point in the meeting, Councillor Rankin requested the following item be added to the agenda:

- 13.4 Information Item #8: Memorandum from Commissioner of Regional Operations dated January 28, 1997 re: Cumberland Landfill Leachate

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Greenough and Councillor Dooks that the agenda be approved, as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - None

6. MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION

6.1 Acquisition - 3090 Windsor Street - Councillor Epstein

- ! Letters in opposition to the purchase of civic number 3090 Windsor Street were

circulated from the following: Mr. LeRoy O'Hearn, Rev. Raymond March, Mr. Jim Strachan, Mr. Hal Dobbelsteyne, Mr. Blair Beed and Mr. John MacDonald.

At the January 21, 1997 Council Session, Notice of Reconsideration was given by Councillors Epstein and Adams on the following Motion:

MOVED by Councillors Walker and Stone to authorize the purchase of civic number 3090 Windsor Street for the price of \$222,500 plus GST if applicable, for the purpose of realigning the Bayers Road/Young Street intersection at Windsor Street, with funds for the purchase to be drawn from the Sale of Land, Capital Reserve Account. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The motion of Reconsideration was now before Council.

Councillor Epstein requested Council to table the original motion pending a public meeting to be held in the area. Two hundred people attended a public meeting a year ago regarding this issue, and they expressed unanimous views against this development. It was agreed at that meeting, if the development took place, it would only be to the west of Connaught Avenue. Councillor Epstein stated the residents were concerned this issue was going ahead without an opportunity for input.

The vote on the Motion of Reconsideration was taken. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Councillors Epstein and Blumenthal that the original motion of January 21, 1997 regarding the purchase of civic number 3090 Windsor Street be tabled pending a public meeting to be held in the area.

Several Councillors questioned the need for a public meeting to purchase a piece of land. It was noted the issue would need to come back to Council for approval if the widening of the road was to go ahead.

In response to a question from Councillor Stone asking staff why the purchase of land is necessary, Mr. Dhillon replied the property is available to purchase now and it is the only option available if they decide to do something in that area. If not, it may have to be expropriated in the future if Council decides to proceed with the intersection. It was noted the parcel of land is available for sale only until the end of February 1997. Mr. Simpson MacLeod, Manager, Real Estate, suggested the owner could be approached to request an extension.

At this point in the meeting, Councillor Mitchell acknowledged the presence in the gallery of Mr. Ken Frallick, former County Councillor.

Some Councillors suggested the problem with this intersection was not severe and, therefore, there was no need to purchase the property at this time. Others stated if the land is available it should be purchased now, as it may not be available in the future and any plans to improve this intersection would be blocked.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7. MOTIONS OF RESCISSION - None

8. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

8.1 Heritage Incentive Grants (deferred from Jan. 21/97)

! The report dealing with Heritage Incentive Grants prepared by the Heritage Advisory Committee was deferred from the January 21, 1997 meeting pending a legal opinion.

! An independent legal opinion was received on the above matter stating, as a matter of law, Council is free to act on the recommendation of the Heritage Advisory Committee.

In response to questions from Council, Mr. Dan Norris, Regional Heritage Coordinator, made the following points:

- ▶ The Heritage Incentive Grants policy was carried over from the former City of Halifax.
- ▶ The former City of Halifax was the only municipality that had heritage grants in the past.
- ▶ The Heritage Incentive Grants policy was approved by Council by virtue of the passing of By-Law H-200, The Heritage By-Law.
- ▶ Heritage property owners can receive incentive grants three times in a five year period.
- ▶ Letters are sent to all heritage property owners informing them of the program.
- ▶ There are 375 registered heritage properties in the former City of Halifax, approximately 130 in the former City of Dartmouth, and 18 in the former County.

Several Councillors expressed concern with paying money to individuals to repair their homes just because they are heritage properties, stating taxpayers are helping to

maintain these properties.

Councillor Cunningham stated the Downtown Dartmouth Development Corporation should have been informed of the program as they were not aware of it.

It was noted funding for this program was already approved in the budget. Deputy Mayor Greenough stated because money is in the budget, it does not compel Council to spend it.

Councillor Walker stated these applications are carefully reviewed by the Heritage Advisory Committee using strict guidelines and not all applicants receive a grant.

Councillor Downey expressed concern with the problems that will arise with heritage properties if the funding is not available. He supported the Heritage Advisory Committee's recommendation and stressed the importance of maintaining heritage buildings.

Mr. Meech noted funding has been approved in the budget, the program was approved in the By-law, heritage property owners have been told the program is available; therefore, he stated Council could revisit the issue next year, but Council has already indicated the program will be available this year.

Councillor Harvey stressed the importance heritage has with respect to tourism.

Councillor Epstein stated Council has to follow through with its commitment. He noted there is an obligation placed on owners of heritage properties which restricts the use of them. Any changes to the exterior of the buildings need to be approved by the Heritage Advisory Committee before they are done.

Councillor Cooper suggested the criteria for the program needs to be reviewed and may need to be changed. One aspect that could be changed is the number of times an owner can receive a grant. Councillor Cooper suggested a more reasonable time frame may be once every five years. He also expressed concern with the amount of money that could be involved with this program, as there are many other heritage properties in HRM that have yet to be identified.

Councillor Sarto stated he would like a report on the terms of reference for this program for the next capital budget.

Councillor Hetherington expressed concern with HRM employees not being able to purchase surplus property; however, they can receive a Heritage Incentive grant. He stated he could not vote in favour of the Heritage Advisory Committee recommendations based on this.

Councillor Stone agreed with Councillor Downey in stating that the incentive grants are needed to ensure heritage buildings will be maintained.

MOVED by Councillors Stone and Walker that Council approve the Heritage Advisory Committee's recommendations for Heritage Incentive Grants as stated in the Committee's report presented to Council on January 21, 1997.

Councillor Hetherington moved the following amendment to the motion.

MOVED by Councillors Hetherington and Kelly that the motion be amended by deleting 23 James Street from the list of recommended grants. MOTION PUT AND DEFEATED.

The vote was then taken on the main motion.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9. PUBLIC HEARINGS - None

10. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS

10.1 Presentations

10.1.1 Tax Increase - Keith Colwell, MLA, Eastern Shore

! A letter dated December 23, 1996 from Mr. Keith Colwell, MLA, Eastern Shore, regarding concerns raised by residents over the proposed tax increases in the County area of the Halifax Regional Municipality, was before Council.

On behalf of Council, Councillor Hendsbee introduced and welcomed Mr. Keith Colwell, MLA, Eastern Shore, to Council.

Mr. Colwell thanked Council for the opportunity to speak with respect to the proposed tax structure and made the following points in his presentation:

- ▶ The tax structure being proposed by HRM is totally unacceptable to the people of the rural areas.
- ▶ Rural residents do not have access to the major recreational facilities as it is over a two hour drive for some.
- ▶ In the Porter's Lake area, the proposed increase is a substantial 15¢.

- ▶ There are no sidewalks or streetlights in his area. There are also many unpaved roads. The community has raised money to pay a large portion of the costs for community recreational facilities.
- ▶ He expressed concern with supplementary funding going only to Halifax and Dartmouth.
- ▶ Mr. Colwell also expressed concern with the proposed rural commercial tax rate and the effect it will have on businesses in his area.

In closing, Mr. Colwell asked Council not to penalize the rural areas with tax increases they cannot afford. He suggested a flat tax rate based on the lowest level of services available with area rates being added for services received.

In response to Mr. Colwell's presentation, the following points were made:

- ▶ The HST, implemented by the Province, will cost HRM \$6 million per year.
- ▶ HRM is still being charged \$22.9 million dollars for Social Services, regardless of the service exchange. Mr. Colwell responded the costs for Social Services to the four municipalities before amalgamation was \$37 million. The Province has also taken 195 Social Service employees off the HRM payroll.
- ▶ In response to questions posed by Councillor Blumenthal, Mr. Colwell confirmed he voted in favour of amalgamation as he believed it would streamline operations and save dollars. He also supports the HST due to the benefit for businesses which in turn can create employment.
- ▶ Councillor Cunningham stated assessments take in the differences of services received. Mr. Colwell disagreed stating assessments do not reflect services.
- ▶ It was clarified that Halifax and Dartmouth pay an area rate for the supplementary funding. Mr. Colwell stated he believed area rates for Halifax and Dartmouth were to be eliminated, to which Mayor Fitzgerald replied this is not the case and suggested this fact may need to be clarified for the public.
- ▶ Councillor Adams asked if Mr. Colwell would be willing to take back to the House the suggestion of changing the assessment process to reflect only services received. Mr. Colwell replied assessments are calculated based on the resale value of the property, and HRM is the only body that can change the rate for services received. Councillor Adams suggested Mr. Colwell, as a member of the Provincial government, is in a position to change this.

- ▶ Councillor Walker clarified the rural area does not pay for the major recreational facilities.
- ▶ The Province has given HRM responsibility for more roads which were in poor condition. Mr. Colwell responded the Province gave HRM \$3500 per kilometre for these roads.
- ▶ In response to a question from Councillor Barnet asking what the Province has done to assist with unemployment, Mr. Colwell replied 15,000 jobs have been created since 1993, and an increase in taxes for businesses will further hinder and create higher unemployment.
- ▶ Councillor Barnet stated the Province has taken away the ability of the former County area to impose area rates to supplement its educational funding.
- ▶ Deputy Mayor Greenough noted in the service exchange, had amalgamation not occurred, the former County area would have had to pay an additional 14¢ to pay for policing and road service maintenance. He stated the urban area cannot be expected to pay for services that were previously given by the Province for no charge.
- ▶ Deputy Mayor Greenough stated the Province can help the taxpayers by assuming the full cost of Social Services, giving HRM an exemption from the HST, agreeing to cost share the \$25 million of transition costs and sharing the gasoline tax revenue with HRM.
- ▶ Councillor Kelly stated the Province could assist the taxpayer by living up to its promise by bringing educational funding up to 90 percent of the cost.
- ▶ Councillor Rankin stated education is not a municipal service and is supported by a progressive tax which HRM does not have. Social Services should not be supported by a regressive tax such as property tax. He questioned the Province reducing income tax by three percent and forcing HRM to put more tax on the lower income taxpayers. Councillor Rankin stated HRM is being down loaded on the regressive tax for what the Province has stated is their services.
- ▶ Councillor Rankin stressed the importance of the need of a municipal Charter.
- ▶ With respect to the HST, Councillor Schofield stated it is important that the Province implement some phasing in so HRM can better deal with the taxes it has to impose on the residents.
- ▶ Councillor Mitchell suggested Mr. Colwell ask the Province to cut the \$22.9

million cost to HRM for Social Services in half.

- ▶ Councillor Dooks stressed the importance of addressing service exchange, and going to the public to provide them with the reasoning for the proposed tax increase to the rural areas.
- ▶ Councillor Snow expressed concern with the cuts to health care by the Provincial government.
- ▶ Mr. Colwell stated debt service charges of \$1 billion hamper the Province's ability to increase funding to areas such as health and education.
- ▶ With respect to employment created by the HST, Councillor Stone suggested net employment figures should be examined as there will be job loss as well.
- ▶ Regarding the possibility of the Province providing HRM with financial assistance with respect to the HST similar to what the Province is receiving from the Federal government, Mr. Colwell stated this is still under negotiations.

Mayor Fitzgerald and several Councillors commended Mr. Colwell for attending the meeting. Mr. Colwell thanked Council for the opportunity noting the questions and comments raised will not be forgotten.

RECESS

A ten minute recess was taken at 8:45 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 8:55 p.m.

10.1.2 Bedford Fire Station - Don McCarthy, Chair, Bedford Volunteer Fire Department

- ! A letter dated January 23, 1997 from Captain Donald F. McCarthy regarding the allotment of space for the Police Department in the new Bedford Fire Station, was before Council.

Captain Donald McCarthy addressed Council regarding the allotment of space for the Police Department in the new Bedford Fire Station. He introduced Captain Peter Dickinson who gave some background information noting there is no conflict between the police and fire departments. The concerns of the Bedford Volunteer Fire Department are as follows:

- ▶ The amount of space being allotted to the Police
- ▶ The Fire Hall is not designed for police and a dispatch centre.

- ▶ The fire service will decrease in efficiency with the police being located in the Fire Hall as response times will lengthen.
- ▶ Fund raising events will be hampered.
- ▶ Social aspect of the volunteer fire department which creates bonding will be hindered.

Mr. Paul Edmonds, Bedford Volunteer Firefighter, addressed the Fire Department's parking concerns making the following comments:

- ▶ 12-14 of the 21 available parking spaces were guaranteed for the dispatch.
- ▶ The parking facilities will be full before the volunteer firefighters are taken into consideration.
- ▶ There will be additional parking problems during shift changes and on the first Tuesday of the month.

Lieutenant Fred Lafleur addressed the social aspects of this issue making the following comments:

- ▶ The volunteers build on each others' strengths and work as a self reliant team.
- ▶ Social interaction takes place through meetings, training and community relations and is necessary to maintain the "esprit de corps" of the volunteer fire service.
- ▶ The social interaction needs between the police and fire are different.
- ▶ The volunteer firefighters want to be part of a community service environment.
- ▶ The volunteers give much to the community and often leave family plans behind to serve the community.

Capt. McCarthy stated the Bedford Volunteer Fire Department is being threatened by having no place to call their own. A hall is the essence of ownership for volunteers. He noted 70 percent of the former Town of Bedford is handled by volunteers. If a hall is not provided, the department will request an annual \$50,000 preliminary budget. The survival of the volunteer department requires funds to support its social activities. Capt. McCarthy stated there are other areas in Bedford where the police can be located.

Councillor Cooper stated the important issue is the trend or the possibility of a trend this could create if the Fire Hall is taken away from the volunteer service. The volunteers will be forced out of providing a service to the community, and Council has a responsibility to continue to support them.

Councillor Hendsbee expressed concern with the communication process between the volunteers, the Fire Service and the Police Service, regarding this issue.

MOVED by Councillors Kelly and Stone that this issue be referred back to the Fire Service for further review and recommendation taking into consideration the points raised by the volunteers.

Councillor Adams asked if it would be possible for staff to explore the option of locating the space allocated for the Police Service in the Mainland South area. Councillor Stone stated he felt the proposed location is a good one, and he hopes everyone will work together to work out the problems expressed by the volunteer fire department. However, he stated if a new report is going to be prepared examining other locations, he wants Mainland North examined as well. Mr. Meech replied the decision has already been made but if the matter is to be revisited, the issues involved would be to see if any more space can be worked out for the social side of things, and, on the other hand, it would be a request for dollars in lieu of space. These are the two issues that would be responded to in the report.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

10.1.3 Statement of Revenue & Expenditure/Statement of Capital Projects - Commissioner of Corporate Services (Ref. Information Items 2 and 3)

! Two staff reports prepared for Larry Corrigan, Commissioner of Corporate Services, regarding the Statement of Revenue and Expenditure and the Statement of Capital Projects, were before Council for information.

With the use of overheads, Mr. Corrigan reviewed the Statement of Revenue and Expenditure and the Statement of Capital Projects.

Councillor Epstein inquired if it will be possible to get updates on a monthly basis. Mr. Corrigan replied the financial statements are online and available to management at all times. He suggested providing quarterly updates might be a better alternative.

Councillor Rankin questioned the use of outside consultants. He also expressed concern with the consideration of a new accounting system.

Mr. Corrigan stated staff's plan is to present the budget to Council in March.

Mayor Fitzgerald inquired what was the total of the outstanding debt. Mr. Singer replied he did not have this information on hand but would provide it later.

With respect to the capital budget, Mr. Meech stated he did not believe any projects should be added this year as time is needed to put plans in place. In response to a question from Councillor Rankin regarding infrastructure projects, Mr. Meech replied there are not large amounts of money available, but he will put together a list.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Greenough and Councillor Hetherington that the Statement of Revenue and Expenditure and the Statement of Capital Projects be tabled. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

11. REPORTS

11.1 MAYOR

11.1.1 Advisory Committee re: Proposed Gas Pipeline

! A report from Mayor Fitzgerald recommending appointments to the Advisory Committee re: Proposed Gas Pipeline, was before Council for consideration.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Greenough and Councillor Hetherington that Councillors Kelly, Rankin, Adams, Dooks and Epstein be appointed to the Advisory Committee re: Proposed Gas Pipeline. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

11.2 MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

11.2.1 Results of Community Survey, Bedford - Councillor Kelly

! Councillor Kelly circulated copies of the Bedford Community Survey to members of Council.

Mayor Fitzgerald commended Councillor Kelly on this report. Councillor Kelly noted he paid \$1800 from his discretionary fund to cover the costs for this study. Some items brought forward in the report that are of major concern to the community are:

- ▶ levels of policing appear to have dropped
- ▶ residents do not want tax increases but are prepared to pay their fair share
- ▶ levels of service need to be maintained

- ▶ concern with the levels of service for education, recreation and snow removal.

MOVED by Councillors Kelly and Hendsbee that the Bedford Community Survey be referred to staff for review and recommendations on how to address the residents' concerns. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

11.3 BEDFORD WATERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

11.3.1 Membership - Establishment of One Advisory Committee for the North West Community Council

- ! A report prepared for Marvin Silver, Chair, Bedford Waters Advisory Committee, regarding membership and the establishment of one advisory committee for the North West Community Council zone, was before Council for consideration.

Councillor Harvey noted this issue is currently under consideration of the North West Community Council.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Greenough and Councillor Mitchell that this item be referred to the North West Community Council. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

11.4 CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

11.4.1 Halifax County Municipality Full-time Retirement Pension Plan Early Retirement Incentive Program (ERIP) for the Halifax County Rehabilitation Centre Employees (supplementary report)

- ! A supplementary report prepared for Larry Corrigan, Commissioner of Corporate Services, regarding the Halifax County Municipality Full-time Retirement Pension Plan Early Retirement Incentive Program (ERIP) for the Halifax County Rehabilitation Centre Employees, was before Council for consideration.

MOVED by Councillors McInroy and Cooper that the Early Retirement Incentive Program outlined in the Memorandum dated August 1, 1996 from the Halifax County Pension Advisory Task Force to the Interim Pension Committee of Council be adopted ONLY for members of the Halifax County Municipality Full-time Retirement Pension Plan working at the Halifax County Regional Rehabilitation Centre. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

11.4.2 Amalgamation Costs - Pension - Follow-up (supplementary report)

- ! A supplementary report prepared for Larry Corrigan, Commissioner of Corporate

Services, regarding amalgamation costs - pensions, was before Council for consideration.

Councillor Epstein inquired if a response had been received from the Superintendent of Pensions regarding this issue. Mr. Meech replied there is a written response, and he agreed to have a copy forwarded to Councillor Epstein.

MOVED by Councillors Sarto and Rankin that all experience gains and losses created by the HRM Employment Adjustment Program, flow through the respective pension plans, and that no additional contribution by the Municipality is required. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

11.4.3 Tax Sale Policy

! A report prepared for Larry Corrigan, Commissioner of Corporate Services, regarding a tax sale policy, was before Council for consideration.

MOVED by Councillor Cunningham and Deputy Mayor Greenough that the Halifax Regional Municipality implement a tax sale policy whereby staff may institute tax sale proceedings for property taxes outstanding as at the end of any fiscal year, March 31.

Some concerns were raised in discussion of the Tax Sale Policy such as:

- ▶ What were the policies in the former municipalities?
- ▶ What is the schedule for tax billing?
- ▶ A tax exemption or tax deferral policy may have a significant impact on the Tax Sale Policy.

MOVED by Councillors Hendsbee and Cooper that the Tax Sale Policy be deferred. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

11.4.4 Request for Funding - Farrell Hall

! A supplementary report prepared for Larry Corrigan, Commissioner of Corporate Services, regarding the request for funding for Farrell Hall, was before Council for consideration. The report recommended that the request for funding brought forward by Councillor Schofield on behalf of the Farrell Benevolent Society be directed to the HRM Grants Committee for consideration.

Councillor Schofield asked Council for its support in approving funding for Farrell Hall, noting the services Farrell Hall provides and its importance to the whole community.

MOVED by Councillors Schofield and Hetherington that \$20,000 be taken from the Robert Burns Drive project and turned over to the Grants Committee with the understanding that it be directed to Farrell Hall, on the condition of cost sharing with the Federal and Provincial governments, and that the necessary procedures be finalized by the Grants Committee before it comes back to Council.

Councillors Cooper and Stone expressed concern with this process of taking money from the Capital Budget.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

11.4.5 Consideration of Reduced Fares for School Charter Bus Trips

! A report prepared for George McLellan, Commissioner of Regional Operations, regarding consideration of reduced fares for school charter bus trips, was before Council for consideration.

MOVED by Councillors Rankin and Mitchell that the current rates for school charter bus trips remain in place, subject to periodic review of private sector rates for similar services. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

11.4.6 Insurance for Volunteer Fire Service

! A report prepared for Gary Greene, Commissioner of Fire Services, regarding insurance for volunteer fire service, was before Council for consideration.

MOVED by Councillors Rankin and Snow that Halifax Regional Municipality accept the proposal from Andrew E. MacDonald Insurance Services - American Home Assurance Company at an annual cost of \$56,219.00. It is recommended that this award be for one year with options to extend the contract annually for up to three years based on acceptable terms. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

11.4.7 Downtown Parking Facility - Acquisition of 1548 Hollis Street

! A report prepared for Kulvinder Dhillon, Acting Commissioner of Regional Operations, regarding the downtown parking facility - acquisition of 1548 Hollis Street, was before Council for consideration.

MOVED by Councillors Stone and Downey that Council authorize the withdrawal of funds from the Sale of Land Account, to consist of \$252,700.00 to complete the purchase of the property at 1548 Hollis Street from Constat Investments Ltd., plus whatever additional sums may be required for applicable taxes and adjustments

on closing. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12. MOTIONS

12.1 Councillor Hendsbee

Due to the lateness of the hour, Councillor Hendsbee agreed to defer his motion for one week.

12.2 Councillor Harvey

MOVED by Councillors Harvey and Epstein WHEREAS tobacco smoke produces a hazardous type of air pollution referred to as environmental tobacco smoke (ETS) commonly known as second hand smoke;

AND WHEREAS fifty of the four thousand chemicals in tobacco smoke are known carcinogens to which there is no known level of safe exposure;

AND WHEREAS the World Health Organization, Health and Welfare Canada and the US Surgeon General's Office have all confirmed that ETS causes illnesses including heart disease and lung cancer;

AND WHEREAS Labour Canada has estimated that at least 330 non smoking Canadians die each year of lung cancer from having been exposed to ETS;

AND WHEREAS an average cigarette produces twelve minutes of ETS compared to thirty seconds of inhaled smoke by the smoker;

AND WHEREAS a majority of respondents to a recent local survey in November 1996 indicated that they would be more likely to visit public places and businesses if they were 100% smoke free;

AND WHEREAS a smoke free environment should be a basic human health right;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that staff be requested to prepare a report for the consideration of this Council which will lead to legislating a Clean Air By-Law to eliminate tobacco smoke from public places. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

13. ADDED ITEMS

13.1 Urban/Rural Tax Issue - North West Community Council

- ! A report from the North West Community Council recommending that Council give active consideration that tax rates for the areas changed from rural to urban be held for a year, be subjected to the new rural rate in the interim, in order to provide for public consultation, in the interests of fair process.

MOVED by Councillors Rankin and Hetherington that the Urban/Rural Tax Issue report from North West Community Council be referred to staff.

In addition, Councillor Rankin requested that Mr. Steve Tasker, representative for Kingswood, be permitted to speak, as previously requested, before Council discusses the tax structure. Council agreed to his request.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

13.2 Septemberfest '96

Councillor Walker referred to a letter, dated January 16, 1997, received by members of Council from Quincept Productions regarding Septemberfest.

MOVED by Councillors Walker and Sarto that the letter from Quincept Productions be referred to staff for their comments. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

13.3 Information Item #5: Memorandum from Chief of Police Services dated January 23, 1997 re: Police Move to new Fire Station Facility - Bedford Area

This item was dealt with earlier in the meeting.

13.4 Information Item #8: Memorandum from Commissioner of Regional Operations dated January 28, 1997 re: Cumberland Landfill Leachate

Councillor Rankin expressed concern with leachate going into the Lakeside Treatment Plant and then into the Nine Mile River system. He requested that this item be referred to staff to come back with a hierarchy of available sites including AeroTech, Mill Cove and the Sackville Landfill. Only after these sites have reached capacity, should Lakeside be considered. Councillor Rankin requested staff to bring back an information report confirming this matter. Although this item was not on the regular agenda, Mayor Fitzgerald approved this request.

14. NOTICES OF MOTION

14.1 Councillor Cunningham

Take notice that at the meeting of Halifax Regional Council to be held on February 4, 1997, I intend to introduce the following motion:

WHEREAS, through their part-time military experiences, reservists acquire many job skills and work values -including planning, leadership, personnel management, self-discipline and loyalty -that are directly transferrable to their civilian careers;

AND WHEREAS the restructuring of the Canadian Forces has led to an increasing reliance on the Reserve Force to meet Canada's defence and peacekeeping commitments;

AND WHEREAS, to respond to the increasing demands placed on the Reserve Force, its members must be equipped and trained to a level that will permit them to become fully operational as quickly as possible, in the event of a national emergency;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that staff be asked to develop and recommend to Council a military leave policy supporting employees of Halifax Regional Municipality who are members of the Reserve Component of the Canadian Forces.

15. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED by Councillors Blumenthal and Cooper that the meeting adjourn at 11:00 p.m. **MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Vi Carmichael
Municipal Clerk