

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL MINUTES May 27, 1997

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

REGRETS: Councillor Condo Sarto

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

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1. **INVOCATION**

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

Mayor Fitzgerald congratulated Councillor Uteck on his appointment as St. Mary's University Athletic Director. Council and staff responded with a round of applause.

As it had been publicly advertised that an overview of the 1997/98 Operating Budget would take place at 6:00 p.m., it had been agreed that the presentation take place at the commencement of the Meeting.

OVERVIEW 1997/98 OPERATING BUDGET

Mr. Ken Meech, Chief Administrative Officer, provided brief comments on the 1997/98 Operating Budget to date, making particular note of the fact that the municipality is facing a \$26 million shortfall due mainly to factors out of staff's control (reduction in commercial assessment equating to an \$11 million loss in tax revenue to the municipality; an additional \$12 million for solid waste; and, first payment towards transition costs of \$4.1 million).

Options for Council include a tax rate increase of 9.4%; adjust services and/or service delivery; or, a combination of the aforementioned.

It is staff's intention to develop a strategy by which to control municipal costs at a sustainable level. In order to accomplish this goal, a financially-driven plan to establish targets over the next two to three year period will take place.

In closing, Mr. Meech thanked staff for their cooperation during this stressful time.

Mr. Larry Corrigan, Commissioner, Corporate Services, provided a 1997/98 Operating Budget Overview, and through the use of overheads reviewed the following:

- 1996/97 Operating Results (unaudited)
- History of Operating Deficit
- History of Total Operating Budget (gross)
- Summary of Major Items - budget deficit of \$26.3 million
- 1997/98 Proposed Net Operating Budget Summary
- Non-discretionary Costs
- Importance of Property Tax Revenue
- Residential and Commercial Assessment Adjustments
- Distribution of Changes in Business Assessment
- Tax Structure Reform
- Residential Tax Rate Changes

In closing, Mr. Corrigan summarized his presentation by noting the following:

- 1996/97 (unaudited) financial results - budget variance (0.2%);
- 1997/98 budget driven by - \$12 million additional solid waste costs; \$11 million commercial tax loss and \$4 million payment for amalgamation costs;
- staff prepared a scenario to balance the budget - service delivery adjustments and an overall tax increase, and a Committee of Council established to examine the staff proposal;
- much of the budget is non-discretionary;
- Provincial/Municipal fiscal stability is vital;
- final tax bill will vary greatly due to reassessment, new structure and budget.

Further, staff require direction from Council in order to prepare a multi-year plan.

Mr. Corrigan introduced Deputy Mayor Greenough, Chairman of the Council Committee to examine staff's budget proposal. Deputy Mayor Greenough advised that the Committee will be prepared to submit a report to Council on June 11, 1997.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Greenough and Councillor Hetherington to review the Committee's proposal on Wednesday, June 11, 1997 - 10:00 a.m. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

2. PROCLAMATIONS

2.1 North American Occupational Safety and Health Week

Mayor Fitzgerald proclaimed the week of June 2 - 8, 1997 as North American Occupational Safety and Health Week.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - None

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

At this point in the meeting, following a discussion on the format of Regional Council agendas. It was agreed that the Clerk would meet with the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Municipal Solicitor, to review aspects of the Administrative Order which pertain to Council agendas. Councillor Cooper referenced the length of Council agendas and requested staff to consider presenting an agenda giving consideration to the appropriate time required in Council to address all of the individual items.

- Councillor Epstein requested items 8.1, 9.4.3 and 12.2 - all dealing with the Macdonald Bridge Ramps - be discussed simultaneously.
- Councillor Blumenthal withdrew his Motion under 12.2.

The Clerk listed the following requests for additions to the agenda:

- 8.1 Request to address Halifax Regional Council - Anne West, St. George's Church re Macdonald Bridge Approaches and Ramps
- 13.1 Staff request to move Information Item #3 - Annual Report for Activities of the Business Park Office for the Fiscal Year 1996/97
- 13.2 Councillor Rankin - Paving of Provincial Roads
- 13.3 Information Report - Infrastructure Program - Bedford Waterfront Development
- 13.4 Councillor Stone - Panhandling
- 13.5 Deputy Mayor Greenough - Resolution re Federal Candidates
- Requests from Stephen Oickle and Rob Cuthbert, candidates for the Reform Party of Canada

MOVED by Councillors Downey and Schofield to deny Mr. Stephen Oickle and Mr. Rob Cuthbert, candidates for the Reform Party, their request to address Council. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Another Motion to adopt the Order of Business was put on the floor.

MOVED by Councillors Downey and Hetherington that the Order of Business and Additions and Deletions be approved, as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. **BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES** - None

6. **MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION** - None

7. **MOTIONS OF RESCISSION** - None

8. **CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS**

8.1 **Macdonald Bridge Approaches and Ramps**

Council agreed to address Items 8.1, 9.4.3 and 12.2 together.

The following issues were discussed referencing the above item:

- (a) At the May 20, 1997 meeting of Regional Council, **a vote on the following Motion of Councillor Blumenthal was deferred**, pending a report from staff on the matter:

“MOVED by Councillors Blumenthal and Hendsbee to rescind those parts of the Motions of April 1, 1997 and April 29, 1997 respecting the Macdonald Bridge approaches that approved the south ramp Option “H3” and in substitution therefore, direct staff to carry out all reasonable investigations of the north ramp option, including necessary land acquisitions and to bring back to Regional Council a comprehensive report on the issues involved before a final decision is made on the location of the ramps.”

Councillor Blumenthal, with Council’s agreement, withdrew his Motion of Rescission.

- (b) Council agreed to hear a presentation from Ms. Anne West on the proposal to relocate the dwelling at 5220 North Street to Brunswick Street. Ms. West noted there were positive possibilities to relocating 5220 North Street to Brunswick Street and that she would like to discuss same with those individuals involved.

Mr. Ken Meech, Chief Administrative Officer, advised that staff would examine this proposal and prepare a report.

- (c) A supplementary report (9.4.3) prepared for Mr. George McLellan, Commissioner, Regional Operations, on the above, was before Council. Circulated with this item was a letter from Mr. L. Doane, Chair, Halifax-Dartmouth Bridge Commission.

MOVED by Councillors Downey and Uteck that Council direct staff to proceed with the design and construction work for the ramps and other requirements to allow for a third lane on the Macdonald Bridge as outlined previously, including the south side ramp option “H3” to be built ready for the opening of the third lane on the bridge in 1999.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Uteck as to whether Council required direction on the proposal to relocate 5220 North Street to Brunswick Street, Mr. Ken Meech reiterated his earlier comment that staff will examine the proposal and provide a recommendation to Council.

For the record, Councillor Epstein stated he could not support the Motion regarding the south side ramp. This was a big expense for a little return. Further, Council should remember that Brunswick Street is a heritage area.

Councillors Hetherington, Hendsbee, and Harvey stated they did not support the Motion.

To clarify the matter, Deputy Mayor Greenough stated that the north side ramp would cost approximately \$9 million to build and that the south side ramp would be more economical at half the cost. The Deputy Mayor further reminded Council that the Halifax-Dartmouth Bridge Commission will fund construction of a ramp in the vicinity of \$5.3 million.

Following a brief discussion and the fact that Councillor Blumenthal had withdrawn his Motion of Rescission, it was unanimously agreed that a Motion was not required.

Councillor Hendsbee suggested that the Federal Government be contacted directly after the June 2 election, regarding the DND land in question.

8.2 Motion re Playing Fields

- Councillor Cooper's Motion (12.3) as noted below, had been deferred from the May 20, 1997 Regional Council Meeting pending a staff report. Circulated with this item was an Information Report from Regional Operations identified as item #5 in the Information Package.

MOVED by Councillors McInroy and Hendsbee that Regional Operations take actions necessary to ensure playing fields for minor sports are open as soon as possible.

Mr. Stephen King, Manager, Parks & Natural Services, stated that an Information Report on the matter of Athletic Field Opening Dates had been provided to Council as part of the Information Package.

Councillor Cooper requested staff to consider prioritizing their level of service so that the fields will be open on time.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

9. REPORTS

9.1 HARBOUR EAST COMMUNITY COUNCIL

9.1.1 Cole Harbour Road

! A memorandum prepared for Councillor Hetherington, Chair, Harbour East

Community Council, pertaining to the above, was before Council.

**MOVED by Councillors McInroy and Cooper that the name “Cole Harbour Road” not change for that section of road between Caldwell Road and Ross Road.
MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

9.2 SABLE GAS PIPE LINE REVIEW COMMITTEE

9.2.1 Sable Gas Review Panel Presentation

! A memorandum prepared for Councillor Adams, Chair, Sable Gas Committee, on the above, was before Council.

Attached to the memorandum was a final argument which the Committee wished to present to the Joint Public Review Panel.

Councillor Adams noted there are a number of issues which are to be addressed when the presentation (access to gas, maximum benefits, pricing mechanism impact on Cape Breton and time line) is presented.

MOVED by Councillors Adams and Epstein that Council endorse the final argument attached to the report dated May 21,1997 and that the argument be presented to the Joint Public Review Panel.

In speaking to the Motion, Councillor Kelly suggested that a Commission be established to monitor the distribution of gas and that the document reflect the fact that should it be to the benefit of the tax payer, that such a Commission be established.

Councillor Epstein stated the Sable Gas Review Committee should continue to exist. Subsequent to deliberations of the Panel, a recommendation will be made to both the Provincial and Federal governments. They in turn will make a decision. If the project does go ahead, the Committee should become active again, to follow closely the placement of the facilities, determining if they can be taxed; also, the Committee can determine if it wishes to become involved in the distribution of gas in Nova Scotia. This latter aspect (distribution) is not before the Panel at the moment; therefore, Councillor Epstein suggested that perhaps Councillor Kelly’s comments on the establishment of a Commission to deal with distribution of gas (to be regulated by the Province) could be discussed at a later date, through an amendment to the HRM Act.

Councillor Kelly reiterated his suggestion that Council state it would like to explore the opportunity to establish a Commission. Further, that when the opportunity arises, for Council to prepare another presentation, and seek whatever it can to obtain benefits for the tax payer.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

9.3 GRANT COMMITTEE

9.4.2 Supplementary Staff Report - Municipal Grant Program and Tax Exemptions

9.3.1 Supplementary Committee Report - Grant Committee Review of Proposed Municipal Grant Program and Tax Exemptions

It was the consensus of Council to discuss 9.4.2 and 9.3.1 simultaneously.

9.4.2 Review of Proposed Municipal Grant Program and Tax Exemptions

! A supplementary staff report (9.4.2) prepared for Ms. Betty MacDonald, Acting Commissioner, Priority and Policy, on the above, was before Council.

Staff was recommending:

- (1) that Council approve the Terms of Reference for the Grant Committee proposed by the Grant Committee in their report to Council on March 25, 1997;
- (2) that Council approve a Residential Tax Deferral Program for homeowners who request assistance and who have less than \$20,000 annual household income;
- (3) that Council approve a Municipal Grant and Tax Exemption program for Non-Profit Organizations proposed by the Grants Committee in their report to Council on March 25, 1997. These programs provide for selection criteria, evaluation and periodic review. Ordinance T-200 will be amended, as proposed in the March 25th Report, resulting in the repeal of the City of Dartmouth Ordinance T-403 and the County of Halifax By-Law 51 respecting partial and full tax exemptions;
- (4) that Council consider a budget of \$900,000 for exemptions and concessions to non-profit organizations;
- (5) that Council consider a reduction of 3 - 5 percent in the budget for grants to non-profit organizations.

! A supplementary Committee report (9.3.1) prepared for Councillor Hendsbee on the above, was before Council.

The Grant Committee was recommending:

That Council approve Recommendations 1, 2, 4 and 5 as noted in the staff recommendation above; further, that Council approve Option 4, on page 4 of the staff report, which offers a program of deferral and partial exemption, the choice to be made by the participant.

A lengthy discussion ensued as to why the Grant Committee and staff had each prepared a report and recommendations on the Proposed Grant Program and Tax Exemptions. As a result of a directive of Council to staff for a report on the matter,

Council was expecting a report from staff only this evening. Subsequently, should any input or comment be required from the Grant Committee, then Council could request same.

MOVED by Councillors Dooks and Blumenthal to defer discussions on this matter for one week pending further discussions between staff and the Grants Committee to clarify their differing recommendations. MOTION DEFEATED.

It was the consensus of Council to vote on each staff recommendation individually.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Greenough and Councillor Hetherington that Regional Council approve the Terms of Reference for the Grant Committee proposed by the Grant Committee in their report to Council on March 25, 1997. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Councillors Cunningham and Hetherington that Regional Council approve a Residential Tax Deferral Program for homeowners who request assistance and who have less than \$20,000 annual household income. MOTION DEFEATED.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Greenough and Councillor Cooper that Regional Council approve a Municipal Grant and Tax Exemption Program for Non-Profit Organizations proposed by the Grants Committee in their report to Council on March 25, 1997. These programs provide for selection criteria, evaluation and periodic review. Ordinance T-200 will be amended, as proposed in the March 25th Report, resulting the repeal of the City of Dartmouth Ordinance T403 and the County of Halifax By-Law 51 respecting partial and full tax exemptions. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Councillors Schofield and Cooper that Regional Council consider a budget of \$900,000 for exemptions and concessions to non-profit organizations. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Councillors Stone and Cooper to defer Regional Council considering a reduction of 3 - 5 percent in the budget for grants to non-profit organizations. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Councillors Walker and Hendsbee that Regional Council approve the Grant Committee's recommended program of deferral and partial exemption, choice to be made by the participant. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Following a ten minute recess, the meeting resumed at 9:55 p.m.

Report)

! At its May 20, 1997 meeting, Council referred the Grant Committee Report back to the Committee for further clarification. A revised Preliminary Grant Recommendation report was now before Council.

MOVED by Councillors Hendsbee and Walker that Council approve the revised preliminary Grant Committee recommendations as attached to the May 26, 1997 Committee Report.

Another Motion was put on the floor.

MOVED by Councillors Barnet and Adams that this matter be deferred. MOTION DEFEATED.

In speaking to the Main Motion, Councillor Barnet stated he could not support this Motion, as this was a Social Service issue and that the Province should be granting these monies, not the municipality.

Councillors Stone and Schofield suggested that Council should determine future guidelines. Each organization requesting grants should be advised that although they may receive a grant this year, this does not confirm that funds will be available in the future. This would result in a gradual overall reduction in the grant program.

A vote on the Main Motion took place.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.4 CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

9.4.1 Overview 1997/98 Operating Budget

This was discussed at the commencement of the meeting on page 4.

9.4.2 Municipal Grant Program and Tax Exemptions

This was previously addressed on page 10.

9.4.3 Macdonald Bridge Approach Study

This was previously addressed on page 6.

9.4.4 Sidewalk Cafe Policy

! A memorandum prepared for Mr. George McLellan, Commissioner, Regional Operations and Mr. Dan English, Commissioner, Community Services, on the above, was before Council. Circulated to Council was a copy of correspondence from Sonco Property Development and Services Company Inc.

MOVED by Councillors Downey and Uteck that Council adopt the policy attached to the staff report dated May 21, 1997 for the temporary uses of municipal street right-of-ways for the purpose of establishing sidewalk cafes adjacent to food and beverage establishments, under Section 137 of the HRM Act;

Further, that Council give Notice of Motion for June 17, 1997 to amend Section 6(2)(a) of the former City of Halifax Ordinance Number 173 Respecting Granville Mall to read: *“For Class A licences, \$2.50 per square foot of space occupied per season.”*

Further, that Council give Notice of Motion for June 17, 1997 to amend Section 23A(4) of Former City of Dartmouth By-Law S-1401 to read: *“The fee for a permit pursuant to Subsection (1) shall be a rental charge of \$0.75 per square foot of space occupied per season.”*

The Notice of Motion referenced in the above-noted Motion is indicated on page 20.

In addressing the Motion, Mr. Austin French, Superintendent, Real Estate Services, noted this recommendation is before Council now as a policy statement. Should there be any problems, same will be brought to Council’s attention. Further, he noted this policy only applies to streets and properties that abut sidewalks.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.4.5 Tender 97-212 - Walker Connector - New Sidewalk

! A memorandum prepared for Mr. George McLellan, Commissioner, Regional Operations, on the above, was before Council.

MOVED by Councillors Harvey and Barnet that Council award Tender No. 97-212 for a Tender Price of \$98,733.25 and a total project cost of \$113,542.00 to Dexter Construction Company Ltd.; further

that Council authorize funding in the amount of \$90,000.00 from Capital Account No. 97437, Walker Connector Road; further

that Council authorize a transfer of unused funds in the amount of \$23,542.00 from Capital Account No. 97423, Metropolitan Avenue - Sidewalk, to Capital Account No. 97437, Walker Connector Road. MOTION PUT AND PASSED

UNANIMOUSLY.

Councillor Harvey stated he intended to return to Council at a later date with a recommendation for an area rate to recover the above-noted betterment charges.

9.4.6 Tender 97-214 - McGee Drive - New Sidewalk and Paving Renewal

! A memorandum prepared for Mr. George McLellan, Commissioner, Regional Operations, on the above, was before Council.

MOVED by Councillors Harvey and Barnet that Tender 97-214, McGee Drive, New Sidewalk and Paving Renewal, be awarded to Dexter Construction Company Limited, for materials and services listed at the unit prices quoted for a total tender price of \$132,859.50 and a total project cost of \$152,788.43; further

that Council authorize funding from Capital Account No. 97419, McGee Drive, New Sidewalk, Glendale to Chandler - \$50,000, Capital Account No. 97420, McGee drive, New Sidewalk, Glendale to Dickie - \$20,000 and Capital Account No. 95491, McGee Drive, Paving Renewal, Glendale to Chandler - \$115,000.00. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councillor Harvey stated he intended to return to Council at a later date with a recommendation for an area rate to recover the above-noted betterment charges.

10. PUBLIC HEARING

10.1 Amendments to the MPS and LUB for Planning Districts 14 and 17 (Shubenacadie Lakes) to allow for the development of Bed and Breakfast Establishments in the Residential Designation

Mayor Fitzgerald called three times for comments from the public. There were none.

MOVED by Councillors Hetherington and Snow to close the public hearing. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Another Motion was put on the floor.

MOVED by Councillors Snow and Hetherington to approve amendments to the Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-Law for Planning Districts 14 and 17 (Shubenacadie Lakes) to allow for the development of Bed and Breakfast Establishments in the Residential Designation. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

11. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS

11.1 **Correspondence**

11.1.1 **Letter from Edmund Morris, Chair, the Halifax Foundation - Clocks in City Hall Tower**

- Correspondence from Mr. Edmund Morris, Chair, the Halifax Foundation, had been distributed to Council, noting that the Board of Directors has authorized funds for the supply and installation of four clock mechanisms and faces for City Hall. It was suggested this work coincide with the restabilization of the tower.

Mayor Fitzgerald thanked Mr. Morris and the Halifax Foundation for their offer and contribution to the community.

Councillor Harvey suggested the Foundation be approached to consider extending their funding to cover the costs of restabilizing the tower.

MOVED by Councillors Hetherington and Downey to accept the offer from the Halifax Foundation for the supply and installation of four clock mechanisms and faces for City Hall; further that the Foundation be approached to consider funding be extended to cover the costs of the tower restabilization. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

11.2 **Petitions**

11.2.1 **Deputy Mayor Greenough**

Deputy Mayor Greenough presented three petitions to the Clerk on the following:

- (a) Dartmouth Day Care Centre - objecting to proposed budget cuts and closure of Crichton Avenue Community Centre
- (b) Dartmouth Players Society - objecting to proposed closure of Crichton Avenue Community Centre
- (c) Proposed closure of Woodlawn Library.

11.2.2 **Councillor Uteck**

Councillor Uteck presented two petitions to the Clerk on the following:

- (a) Proposed Subdivision of Lands - Southwood Drive - Zoning and Subdivision of CN Property (information petition)
- (b) Sacred Heart School - Request for By-Law restricting use of pesticides.

11.2.3 **Councillor Walker**

Councillor Walker presented one petition to the Clerk on the following:

- (a) Decline of transit services on Routes 2 and 4.

12. MOTIONS

12.1 Third Reading - Plumbing By-Law P-400

! A supplementary report prepared by Mr. Dan English, Commissioner, Community Services, which had been discussed during the May 20, 1997 Council Session, had been re-distributed to Council. At that session, Council gave Second Reading to Plumbing By-Law P-400. The matter was now before Council for Third Reading.

Conflict of Interest

Councillor Adams declared a Conflict of Interest and removed himself from discussions due to the fact he is part owner in a plumbing company.

Councillor Dooks declared a Conflict of Interest and removed himself from discussion due to the fact he is in the construction business and works closely with the plumbing industry.

Deputy Mayor Greenough declared a Conflict of Interest and removed himself from discussion due to the fact his brother has a plumbing company.

Second Reading had been given to By-Law P-400 on May 20, 1997. The By-Law was now before Council for Third Reading.

MOVED by Councillors Rankin and Hetherington that Council approve Third Reading of By-law P-400, for all areas of the former Halifax County Municipality and the Town of Bedford, and further, to direct staff to prepare further amendments to the Plumbing By-law P-400 to allow for the licensing of plumbers for consideration after amendments to “An Act to Incorporate the Halifax Regional Municipality” have been approved by the province. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councillors Adams and Dooks, and Deputy Mayor Greenough resumed their places at the meeting.

12.2 Councillor Blumenthal

This matter had been previously addressed on page 7.

12.3 Councillor Cooper

This matter had been previously addressed on page 8.

13. ADDED ITEMS

13.1 Information Item #3 - Annual Report for Activities of the Business Park Office for the Fiscal Year 1996/97

- An Information Report prepared for Mr. Tom Rath, Manager, Business Parks, on the above, was before Council.

Mr. Rath addressed Council referencing attachments to the staff report (a) Summary of Lot Sale Transactions; (b) detailed listing of the individual Lot Sale Transactions Closed and Lots under Purchase and Sale Agreements; (c) Six Lease Agreements that account of \$30,550 in annual rental payments; (d) Summary of Major Projects and Activities for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1997.

In closing Mr. Rath advised that copies of the promotional marketing document could be made available to Council.

13.2 Councillor Rankin - Paving of Provincial Roads

- A memorandum prepared for Councillor Rankin on the above-noted was before Council.
- A copy of correspondence from Mr. David Wood, on the above-noted, was also before Council.

Councillor Rankin expressed concern with the response Mr. Wood had received from the Province to his request to have Halfway Lake Drive paved and the possibility of incorporating this project with the repaving of Pockwood Road. The Department of Transportation and Public Works had advised Mr. Wood that requests of this nature should be initiated through Halifax Regional Municipality to be included in the Aid to Towns and Municipalities list of paving priorities, for this year only. Further, Mr. Wood was advised to contact his Councillor to have this request resubmitted to the Department of Housing and Municipal Affairs.

MOVED by Councillors Rankin and Hetherington that correspondence be forwarded to the Department of Transportation and Public Works, and the Department of Housing and Municipal Affairs advising of Council's concern with the apparent bad faith on the part of the Province as it pertains to paving of provincially owned roads outside of the urban core area. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mr. Ken Meech, Chief Administrative Officer, advised that over and above the Motion of Council, staff will follow up on this issue. Clarification is required on the Province's role and responsibility outside of the core area. Mr. Meech suggested there was something

missing in the Department of Transportation and Public Works Agreement.

13.3 Infrastructure Program - Bedford Waterfront Development

An Information Report on this matter was distributed to Council. Councillor Kelly addressed Council noting this project was time sensitive. The overall magnitude of the project could positively affect taxes, jobs, docking fees, and commercial development, thereby bringing in substantial dollars to the municipality.

MOVED by Councillors Kelly and Hendsbee to approve \$400,000 in municipal financing for the Bedford Waterfront Development project.

No vote was taken on the Motion.

Another Motion was put on the floor.

MOVED by Councillors Rankin and Blumenthal to defer further discussion - for two weeks - on a municipal contribution to the Bedford Waterfront Development project pending a response from the Province on the final infrastructure program priorities list. Further, that a follow-up be made with the Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs and the MPs and MLAs involved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

13.4 Councillor Stone - Panhandling

Councillor Stone requested a report from staff as to a process to address the problem of panhandling. The Councillor expressed concern as to the negative effects panhandling has on the tourism industry.

13.5 Deputy Mayor Greenough - Federal Candidates

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Greenough and Councillor Hetherington:

WHEREAS there are a number of issues outstanding which are important for the future economic well-being of the Halifax Regional Municipality, with which the Federal Government has an important role to play, namely;

- a) the privatization of the Halifax International Airport
- b) the privatization of the Halifax Port Corporation
- c) the future utilization of the Shearwater Naval Air Station, and
- d) the Bayers Blood Fractionation Plant.

AND WHEREAS it is the opinion of the Halifax Regional Council that the local federal candidates have not focused on or satisfactorily addressed these issues during the course of the campaign;

AND WHEREAS it is important that the electorate be aware of the position of the candidates and their parties in respect of these important issues;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Halifax Regional Council request that prior to Friday, May 30, 1997, each of the federal candidates offering for seats within the Halifax Regional Municipality publicly state the position of the candidate and his or her party in respect of each of these important economic issues. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

14. NOTICES OF MOTION

14.1 Councillor Downey (reference 9.4.4)

TAKE NOTICE that at the meeting of Halifax Regional Council to be held on June 17, 1997, I intend to introduce a motion to:

- (a) amend Section 6(2) (a) of the former City of Halifax Ordinance Number 173 Respecting Granville Mall to read:

“For Class A licenses, \$2.50 per square foot of space occupied per season.” and

- (b) amend Section 23A(4) of the former City of Dartmouth By-Law S-1401 to read:

“The fee for a permit pursuant to Subsection (1) shall be a rental charge of \$0.75 per square foot of space occupied per season.”

15. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Councillors Blumenthal and Dooks to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 p.m. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Vi Carmichael
MUNICIPAL CLERK