

# HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

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## HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL MINUTES OCTOBER 7, 1997

PRESENT: Mayor Walter Fitzgerald  
Councillors: Bill Dooks  
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

REGRETS: Councillor Gordon R. Snow  
Deputy Mayor Jack Greenough

STAFF MEMBERS: Mr. Ken Meech, Chief Administrative Officer  
Mr. Wayne Anstey, Municipal Solicitor  
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 the Invocation.

2. **PROCLAMATIONS**

2.1 **Menopause Awareness Month - October**

2.2 **National Science and Technology Week - October 17 - 26, 1997**

2.3 **Poverty Eradication Day - October 17, 1997**

Mayor Fitzgerald proclaimed October as Menopause Awareness Month, October 17 - 26 as National Science and Technology Week, and October 17 as Poverty Eradication Day.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** - September 30, 1997

Councillor Barnet stated that the \$9 figure stated on page 11 should read \$36.

Councillor Walker stated that the adjournment was not unanimous.

**MOVED by Councilors Blumenthal and Mitchell to adopt the minutes of September 30, 1997 as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

4. **APPROVAL OF ORDER OF BUSINESS - ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS**

The Clerk requested the following items be added to the agenda:

13.1 Boxwood Crescent - Drainage - Councillor Barnet

13.2 Street Closure - Milo Street Reserve, Dartmouth - Councillor Hetherington

9.5.1 Request to address Council - Elizabeth Pacey, N.S. representative, Heritage Canada Board of Governors.

The Clerk requested the following item be added to the Information Items Agenda:

#7 Memorandum from Commissioner of Regional Operations dated October 3, 1997 re Conclusion of Processing of Resource Recovery Fund Board Inc. Materials at MRF.

Councillor Kelly requested the following two items be deferred pending a staff report:

9.6.2 First Reading for Amendment to Halifax County By-Law 41

9.6.3 First Reading for Amendment to Halifax County By-Law 42.

Councillor Blumenthal requested "School Board Facility Rentals" be added to the Agenda for October 21 (Info Item #3).

**MOVED by Councillors Hetherington and Sarto to adopt the Order of Business, 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** - None

9. **REPORTS**

9.1 **MAYOR**

9.1.1 **Private Meetings**

Mr. Ken Meech, Chief Administrative Officer, stated that the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Solicitor, Municipal Clerk and himself would be meeting the following week to review this aspect and that a report would be tabled with Council within two weeks (October 21/97).

9.2 **MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

9.2.1 **Housing Report - N.S. Government - Councillor Rankin**

- Discussion on this matter had been deferred from the September 30, 1997 meeting of Council pending receipt of the above-noted report. A copy of same was included in the Council packages.

Councillor Rankin addressed Council noting he had concerns with the report prepared by the Interdepartmental Provincial Housing Strategy Committee. Although Halifax Regional Municipality is a funding partner to social housing (12½% share in the operating deficit), there is no representative from any municipalities nor the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities (UNSM) on the Committee struck to deal with submissions on the aforementioned report.

The Councillor further suggested that correspondence be forwarded to the Minister of

Housing and Municipal Affairs, indicating the municipality's concern, in that this process goes against the spirit of the municipal exchange.

Councillor Blumenthal suggested this matter be referred to staff prior to correspondence being forwarded to the Province. Councillor Rankin agreed, however, he did note that the municipality should request an extension, past the October 15 deadline, in order to prepare a submission on the report to the Committee.

Councillor Schofield addressed Council noting that rent for social assistance applicants is partly controlled by the Federal Government but that they are dropping out of the partnership; this is reason enough for concern on the part of municipalities. The Councillor referenced Financial Statements (1996) from the Metro Housing Authority, noting in the past that Statements were always submitted to Council for review, but that this was now not the case. Councillor Schofield suggested this process should be reinstated for the following reasons:

- When the Halifax and Dartmouth Housing Authorities amalgamated, it was anticipated that \$1 million would be saved; further, \$400,000 was realized in additional revenue and administration costs decreased by \$450,000. Approximately \$1 million was spent on modernization. Concern was raised that as a funding partner, the municipality should be aware of how this \$1 million was spent.
- \$35,000 was allocated to the Housing Authority by the municipality for recreational purposes. The Councillor enquired as to specifically where the funds were spent.
- A UNSM Committee (to which he has been appointed) has been struck to review the downsizing of housing authorities across the Province (there are now eighteen and the numbers are going down to approximately 9).
- The Federal Government is freezing its subsidy at the 1995/96 level (\$12 million per year). With only two partners left, the Councillor suggested that pressure will be on municipalities to increase their share.

Councillor Schofield suggested the municipality dialogue with the Department of Housing and Municipal Affairs over the next few years to ensure the municipality is treated fairly. Further, the Councillor suggested there may be consideration being given to **not** charging municipalities the 12½%. Should this occur, the municipality will be the loser due to the fact there are 4500 subsidized units within the municipality out of a total of 12,000 in the entire Province.

In conclusion, Councillor Schofield reiterated his suggestion that the Financial Statements be brought before Council for review and that the municipality advise the Province that it wants to be involved with further negotiations for any changes.

Councillor Hendsbee suggested there were other policies which the municipality could review internally such as planning and development issues. The Councillor suggested there are opportunities for discussion on "granny flats" or "in-law suites" and that there are currently zoning laws which restrict same. Councillor Hendsbee suggested these aspects should be reviewed and that perhaps, with the cooperation of the Department of the Environment, flexibility could be instilled in their environmental health regulations for septic fields.

Mayor Fitzgerald advised that the staff report will address these issues.

### **9.3 NORTH WEST COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

#### **9.3.1 Amendments to former Halifax Co. Subdivision By-Law and MPS for Beaver Bank, Hammonds Plains and Upper Sackville**

- A memorandum prepared for Councillor Harvey, Chair, North West Community Council, on the above-noted, was before Council.

**MOVED by Councillors Hanson and Rankin that the public hearing to consider proposed amendments to the former Halifax County Subdivision By-Law, and MPS for Beaver Bank, Hammonds Plains and Upper Sackville be scheduled for November 18, 1997. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **9.4 HARBOUR EAST COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

#### **9.4.1 Capital Projects - Allocation of Funds to Community Councils**

- A memorandum prepared for Councillor Hetherington, Chair, Harbour East Community Council, on the above-noted, was before Council.

The Harbour East Community Council was recommending that Halifax Regional Council hold a full and open debate on the process of the allotment of capital funds to Community Councils and that the deadline for submissions on Capital Projects, by Community Councils, be extended to the first Regional Council meeting in January, 1998, after the Capital and Operating Budgets have been tabled.

Councillor Hetherington addressed Council noting he has been advised by staff that the Operating Budget will be tabled January 20, 1998, therefore, the Councillor was recommending that the submission date for Community Council Capital Projects be changed to follow the January 20, 1998 meeting date.

**MOVED by Councillors Hetherington and Cooper that Halifax Regional Council hold a full and open debate on the process of the allotment of capital funds to Community Councils and that the deadline for submissions on Capital Projects, by Community Councils be extended subsequent to January 20, 1998 (tabling of the Operating Budget).**

Councillor Stone, for the record, stated that the Chebucto Community Council also supports this proposal.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

## **9.5            REGIONAL HERITAGE ADVISORY BOARD**

### **9.5.1        Heritage Incentive Grant Program**

- A memorandum prepared for Turney Manzer, Chair, Heritage Advisory Committee, on the above-noted, was before Council.

With the permission of Council, Ms. Elizabeth Pacey, N.S. representative, Heritage Canada Board of Governors, addressed Council on the above-noted. Ms. Pacey commenced her presentation by noting, for the record, that although she owns an historic building, she would not be applying for an incentive grant, should it be reinstated. Council was advised that these types of grants are a clear statement of support for restoration, renovation and repair of historic buildings. Further, they are labour intensive as jobs are created.

Councillor Barnet expressed concern regarding the reinstatement of this program, noting this could negatively impact on other programs.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Schofield as to the relationship between tourism and heritage, Ms. Pacey advised that studies indicate a high number of tourists visiting heritage buildings.

Mayor Fitzgerald advised this matter would be referred to staff.

**MOVED by Councillors Downey and Sarto that the matter of reinstating the Heritage Incentive Grant Program (during the 1998/99 Operating Budget deliberations) be referred to staff for a report. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**9.6            CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

**9.6.1            First Reading By-Law P-303 - Amendment to By-Law P-408 "City of Dartmouth Employees' Retirement Pension Plan"  
Motion - Deputy Mayor Greenough - Move First Reading**

- A memorandum prepared for Mr. Larry Corrigan, Commissioner, Corporate Services, on the above-noted, was before Council.

**MOVED by Councillors Hetherington and Blumenthal that First Reading be given to By-Law P-303 which provides that the "Rule of 80" (minimum age 50) will have an effective date of July 1, 1997, in conjunction with the Workforce Adjustment Program currently being offered by Halifax Regional Municipality. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**9.6.2            First Reading for Amendment to Halifax County By-Law 41 Respecting Gravel Pits and Excavations**

This matter had been deferred at the commencement of the meeting, pending a staff report.

**9.6.3            First Reading for Amendment to Halifax County Municipality By-Law 42 Respecting Blasting and Dangerous Materials  
Motion - Councillor Kelly - Move First Reading**

This matter had been deferred at the commencement of the meeting, pending a staff report.

**9.6.4            Amendment to MPS for Dartmouth - 6 Admiral Street**

A memorandum prepared for Mr. Dan English, Commissioner, Community Services, on the above-noted, was before Council.

**MOVED by Councillors Hetherington and Sarto that staff initiate a process to amend the Municipal Planning Strategy for Dartmouth for the purpose of enabling the consideration of a multiple unit dwelling designed specifically for senior citizens at 6 Admiral Street. Further, it is recommended that public participation be undertaken in accordance with the Public Participation Resolution adopted by Regional Council on February 25, 1997. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**9.6.5            Debenture Issue**

A memorandum from Mr. Larry Corrigan, Commissioner, Corporate Services, on the above-noted, was before Council.

**MOVED by Councillors Rankin and Mitchell that the Mayor and Municipal Clerk be authorized to sign the Issuing Resolution between Halifax Regional Municipality and the Nova Scotia Municipal Finance Corporation to enable Halifax Regional Municipality to issue a debenture in the amount of \$14,000,000. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**10.            PUBLIC HEARINGS - NONE**

**11.            CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS - NONE**

**12.            MOTIONS**

**12.1          Third Reading - By-Law S-200 Respecting Smoking**

- Second Reading of By-Law S-200 was given on September 30, 1997. The by-law was before Council for Third Reading.

**MOVED by Councillors Harvey and Hetherington to give Third Reading to amended By-Law Number S-200 Respecting Smoking.**

Councillor Adams referenced Section 3(1)(f) and requested that “excluding taxis” be inserted.

A motion to amend the Main Motion was put on the floor.

**MOVED by Councillors Adams and Hetherington to insert “excluding taxis” in Section 3(1)(f). MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**MOVED by Councillors Harvey and Adams to exempt food courts from this by-law. MOTION DEFEATED.**

A vote on the amended Main Motion was put on the floor. The amended Motion now reads:

**MOVED by Councillors Harvey and Hetherington to give Third Reading to By-Law Number S-200 Respecting Smoking, with one amendment, that being to insert “excluding taxis” in Section 3(1)(f). MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**13. ADDED ITEMS**

**13.1 Boxwood Crescent - Drainage - Councillor Barnet**

Councillor Barnet requested a staff report on the drainage situation on Boxwood Crescent.

**MOVED by Councillors Barnet and Adams that a staff report be prepared on the drainage situation on Boxwood Crescent. Particularly, that the report address how staff will work with the developer and property owners to develop a reasonable solution to the drainage problems in this area. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**13.2 Street Closure - Milo Street Reserve, Dartmouth - Councillor Hetherington**

Councillor Hetherington requested this matter be dealt with through a public hearing process, at the Regional Council level, **at the earliest possible time**, to which Council agreed.

**13.3 Paper Mill Lake Water Sampling (Info Item #4)**

Councillor Kelly enquired as to which staff person will evaluate the base line and overall analysis for the above-noted lake. It was agreed that staff would provide this information to the Councillor.

**14. NOTICES OF MOTION**

**14.1 Councillor Stone**

Councillor Stone gave Notice that during the October 28, 1997 meeting of Halifax Regional Municipality, he intends to introduce a by-law for First Reading, establishing a system of charges for new street improvements.

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOVED by Councillors Blumenthal and Adams to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 p.m. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Jane Nauss  
ASSISTANT MUNICIPAL CLERK

