

# HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

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## HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE MINUTES April 16, 1997

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

ABSENT: Mayor Walter Fitzgerald (Regrets)  
Bruce Hetherington (Regrets)  
Stephen Adams

STAFF MEMBERS: Mr. Ken Meech, Chief Administrative Officer  
Mr. Wayne Anstey, Municipal Solicitor  
Mr. George McLellan, Commissioner, Regional Operations  
Mr. Kulvinder Dhillon, Director, Engineering Services  
Mr. Doug Quinn, Director, Works and Natural Services  
Mr. Brian Smith, Director, Transportation  
Ms. Patti Halliday, Assistant Municipal Clerk

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Deputy Mayor Greenough called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

**1. REGIONAL OPERATIONS CAPITAL BUDGET DISCUSSIONS**  
**(cont'd from April 14, 1997)**

With respect to Roads and Streets, Councillor Rankin requested that staff prepare a priority list of roads and streets, based on the possibility of an additional \$.5 million being added to the paving program, for Council's consideration at a future date.

Councillor Barnet stated he has a number of recommendations he would like to bring forward, however, he suggested Council should review the budget document first.

**MOVED by Councillors Barnet and Blumenthal that any recommendations be deferred to the end of the budget discussions.**

Councillor Stone stated he would like to see input from Councillors regarding priority projects.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**SEWERS (GENERAL)**

Regarding Page D115, Sackville River - Trunk Sewer Access, Councillor Kelly suggested if the bridge is going across the river, and access can be gained through a hole in the bridge, this may create some cost saving. Mr. Dhillon replied staff will look at the most economical design when the project is implemented.

Regarding Page D125, Councillor Kelly asked if this will help solve problems near the Lebanese Church. Mr. Dhillon replied it will not, but this area will be examined in future years as the Water Commission may be renewing the water main in that area.

Regarding Page D122, Councillor Cunningham inquired if there is any possibility of doing some curbing or repair work to Hyland Road while implementing the sewer project. Also, with respect to the sewer system itself, Councillor Cunningham noted there is a private sewer line close to where the new sewer line is being built, and he asked if staff could examine tying this in with the municipal sewer system. Mr. Dhillon replied he will look into this and report back.

In response to a question from Councillor Rankin, Mr. Meech replied it is the intention that eventually all costs associated with sanitary sewer and treatment will be incorporated in the waste water charge.

Regarding Page D114, Councillor Barnet asked if it is possible to install a "Closed Bridge" sign where the existing culverts have already caved in. Mr. Dhillon replied this will be taken under consideration as well as considering the future capacity of the

system in the design.

With respect to Priority Item #33, Page 13, Councillor Kelly noted there was \$100,000 allocated to this project last year, but the document only indicates \$23,000. Mr. Dhillon replied there was \$100,000 allocated for the design and the start of construction subject to Council's approval of funds. The \$20,000 shown in the document is for the hiring of a consultant to prepare the detailed design and the tender documents. Councillor Kelly asked if the remaining \$73,000 would do anything to start this project. Mr. Dhillon replied about \$200,000-\$250,000 would be required to do a reasonable phase of this project. This project will be considered for 1998-99 and onward.

(Councillor Epstein arrived at this point in the meeting.)

Councillor Cooper stated he would like to see the entire flooding problem in Cole Harbour reviewed to determine how commitments previously made by Council are going to be met. Mr. Dhillon replied a letter has been sent to the Province requesting some assistance with resolving this problem. The Province is currently reviewing the request. Mr. Meech added it may be necessary to consider contributions from the property owners as well. Mr. Dhillon detailed some of the work already commenced that will be completed this year noting there will be approximately \$100,000 - \$150,000 left in the account to deal with small problems. However, there is not enough money to do any large projects due to constraints this year. Councillor Cooper replied this is not acceptable as Council indicated projects to be done that are not included in the budget.

Mr. Meech stated staff could go back and revisit this issue to see if available money should be spent in a different area. Mr. McLellan agreed there was general support for doing something in this area when it was before Council previously, and, since that time, some work has been done. He stated staff can look at this in terms of overall priorities to see if there is any more funding that can be committed to this project, and will report back to Council.

(Councillors Mitchell and Harvey arrived at this point in the meeting.)

Councillor Schofield noted project D130, North Street Outfall Consolidation, is located in Dartmouth Central and not Albro Lake Harbourview as indicated. He requested that this be amended.

Councillor McInroy asked that Carlisle Drive be examined in conjunction with Councillor Cooper's concerns regarding flooding expressed earlier to which Mr. McLellan replied it would be.

Regarding D119, Councillor Snow noted Waverley Road is not in District 2.

Councillor Hendsbee stated he hopes there will be an opportunity to evaluate the North Preston sanitary sewer system in the operating budget.

Councillor Blumenthal noted D123 is in District 14 and not Halifax North End.

**SEWERS - OTHER**

In response to questions from Councillor Kelly regarding Project D131, Mr. Dhillon replied there is an immediate need to do work on the pumping station because of overflow into the Sackville River. Mr. Dhillon agreed with Councillor Kelly that the pipe runs full during infiltration, and he noted there is a separate project to address this to be dealt with in future years.

**SIDEWALKS, CURBS & GUTTERS (NEW SIDEWALKS & RENEWALS)**

Mr. Dhillon noted a correction regarding Item D148, Page 14. It should read Circassion Dr. - Flying Cloud Drive rather than Circassion Dr. - Cole Harbour Rd. Councillor McInroy noted this project is referred to a second time as Priority Item #11, Page 15 and suggested staff may want to clarify this.

Councillor Hendsbee referred to Project D146 which is 61 meters in length, noting 850-900 meters of sidewalk in total will be required to provide pedestrian safety. He suggested some sections of the North Preston main road may be addressed during the operating budget.

Councillor Schofield referred to Project D156, Sidewalk Renewals, noting this was not included in his list of priorities, and he questioned why this project was chosen. Mr. Dhillon replied this sidewalk is 74 percent defective and due to the limitation of funds, this was the only one that could be included. Councillor Schofield stated he would like to reserve the option of possibly replacing this project with one of his priority projects.

Councillor Rankin noted the approximate \$.5 million for sidewalks will increase the budget in terms of maintenance costs. He stated paving for streets would create opportunities to reduce the budget in terms of maintenance costs.

Councillor Blumenthal noted Priority #24, Page 15, is in District 15 and not in Halifax North End. Councillor Blumenthal requested the following sidewalks be examined: Livingstone Place (no gutters left), Albert Street from Richmond to Hanover, and Devonshire Avenue.

Councillor Harvey noted Item #78, Page 16, should only include curb and gutter, not sidewalk, which may reduce the cost. Mr. Dhillon agreed to clarify this and report back.

Councillor Dooks inquired about obtaining an overhead crosswalk sign for a very busy intersection in the community of Upper Musquodoboit. Mr. McLellan stated staff will pass this request on to the Nova Scotia Department of Transportation, as it is out of the core area, and report back.

Councillor Cooper inquired how projects are being judged with respect to school safety. Mr. Dhillon replied, when next year's budget is prepared, staff will have to look more

closely at factors such as the number of children travelling to school, whether or not there are buses, as well as the collector roads to the main recreation areas. A list of various projects around these categories will be provided next year for Council's consideration.

Councillor Stone suggested cost-sharing should be considered for sidewalk renewals.

Councillor Schofield requested staff examine the possibility of a sidewalk for True North Drive due to the number of children that use it travelling back and forth to school. Mr. Dhillon stated staff will review this.

Councillor Hanson requested Item 179, Murdoch Avenue, be re-examined as he has been told it is 80 percent deficient. Mr. Dhillon agreed to review this.

### **Angus L. Macdonald Bridge**

- A memo from George McLellan, Commissioner of Regional Operations, regarding the Angus L. Macdonald Bridge - Deck Reconstruction and Third Lane Project, was circulated to members of Council.

Mr. McLellan stated this is an information item to update Council on the discussions held regarding this project as there is a press release being issued today. Mr. McLellan stated staff will be preparing a report that will be forwarded to Council in the near future.

### **SOLID WASTE**

Mr. McLellan noted there were two solid waste items missing from the budget document which Mr. Bauld described. The first item under Materials Recovery Facility - Equipment, is \$100,000 for 1997/98, and \$2,000,000 for 1998/99, for the refitting of two conveyor lines and baler floor, blade, plates and hydraulics. The second item under Materials Recovery Facility, is \$30,000 for 1997/98, for replacement of a Hysler H50 forklift required for the loading of bales of recycled materials for transportation to markets.

Councillor Rankin spoke about the importance of the Hwy #103 interchange stating it was a requirement in place before Site A. He stated the \$150,000 approved last year in the budget was not spent, and it is recycled in traffic improvements this year.

Councillor Epstein stated Council is missing an essential piece of information which is information about the proposed contract with the private partner, MIRROR. He suggested Council seriously consider not putting the \$11 million in the Capital Budget this year to start construction of a front end processor and an RDF. Mr. Bauld stated, at next week's SWRAC meeting, there will be a presentation which will include the total

system costs, capital costs and an in camera discussion of the contract. Councillor Epstein stated he will be raising this with the SWRAC.

Councillor Barnet expressed concern with deferring this project and stated it is time to move forward.

### **TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENTS**

Councillor Blumenthal noted Priority #18 is in his District and not Windmill/Albro Lake as stated. He questioned spending \$220,000 for redesigning the intersection when all he requested was a left hand turn signal. Mr. Brian Smith replied it is his understanding that due to the volume of traffic, it was not as simple as allowing a left turn lane. However, he agreed to confirm this information for Councillor Blumenthal.

Councillor Walker inquired about Priority Item #2 and asked if he could be provided with a list of the seven locations. Mr. Smith agreed to provide this.

Councillor Hanson inquired about Priority Item #17, Connect Winchester Avenue - Shoreham Drive, and asked why the boulders could not be removed and the road permitted to go through. Mr. Smith replied he will get back to Councillor Hanson regarding this issue.

Councillor Cooper noted Priority Item #13 is in Cole Harbour North - Cherrybrook and not Downtown Halifax as indicated.

Councillor Hendsbee inquired if there will be any paving of Little Salmon River Road this year as it is in very rough condition, and he asked if the Province will be cost sharing this. Mr. Smith replied he will check with Mr. Dhillon and report back.

With respect to D174, Councillor Sarto inquired if something could be done, before the lights are installed next year, to improve safety. Mr. Smith agreed to check into this.

Councillor Mitchell noted Priority Item #15 is in Dartmouth and not in Timberlea.

Councillor Uteck noted a concern with the crosswalk between Robie Street and Tower Road on Inglis Street stating it is extremely dangerous. He requested that staff take into consideration the width of a street as well as the actual number of lanes. Mr. McLellan stated staff will consider this.

In response to questions from Councillor Uteck regarding traffic calming, Mr. Smith stated it is his understanding the money allocated is to move ahead to the next project. There were funds allocated in last year's budget for Bayview. Mr. Smith stated the next area to be done will most likely be Armcrest.

Councillor Rankin referenced Item #6, Timberlea Traffic Study Recommendations, noting Council had previously requested a report on this. Mr. McLellan replied a report



has been drafted and will be coming to Council in the near future.

Councillor Stone inquired about Item #19, Park and Ride Facility - Kearney Lake Road, and questioned the purpose of the \$40,000. Mr. Smith replied this is to clear a piece of land for a parking area. Councillor Stone requested a staff report on what sites are being considered and the status of this project.

Councillor Stone also referred to Item #22, Intersection Improvement - Lincoln Cross/Lacewood, and requested staff look at temporary measures, such as a white line to allow left and right hand movements out of Lincoln Cross onto Lacewood, to solve this problem.

Councillor McInroy noted the \$30,000 for D176 should be under consulting rather than contractors/contracting. He also noted Forrest Hills Parkway is now called Forrest Hills Drive.

### TRANSPORTATION VEHICLES

Mr. Smith noted that some of the figures were changed in the budget process, and the backup text does not necessarily match. With respect to transit bus replacement, Mr. Smith noted the text on Page D180 refers to ten buses, when in fact, only five buses are being purchased due to previous funding from the Province being reallocated to infrastructure works.

In response to a question from Councillor Barnet, Mr. Smith stated there will be a report coming to Council regarding the Access-a-Bus service.

Responding to concerns expressed by Councillor Barnet regarding the bi-annual refit of the ferries, Mr. McLellan stated staff will come back with a report on what regulatory obligations there are with respect to the ferries.

As there were no further speakers, this ended the discussion of the Regional Operations section of the Capital Budget.

It was agreed the next Capital Budget meetings will be held on Wednesday April 23, 1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m., and Thursday, April 24, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**MOVED by Councillors Stone and Mitchell that the meeting adjourn at 4:35 p.m.  
MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Assistant Municipal Clerk