

HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MINUTES
APRIL 24, 1997

PRESENT:

Mayor Walter Fitzgerald
Deputy Mayor Jack Greenough
Councillors David Hendsbee
Ron Cooper
Harry McInroy
Condo Sarto
Clint Schofield
John Cunningham
Jerry Blumenthal
Graham L. Downey
Howard Epstein
Russell Walker
Bill Stone
Ron Hanson
Barry Barnet
Robert Harvey
Reg Rankin
Jack Mitchell

ABSENT:

Councillors: Bruce Hetherington (regrets)
Bill Dooks
Gordon Snow
Larry Uteck
Stephen Adams
Peter Kelly (regrets)

STAFF MEMBERS:

Mr. Ken Meech, Chief Administrative Officer
Mr. Dan English, Commissioner, Community Services
Chief Vince MacDonald, Police Services
Mr. Larry Corrigan, Commissioner, Corporate Services
Mr. Mike Eddy, Deputy Commissioner, Fire Services
Ms. Jane Nauss, Assistant Municipal Clerk

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

1. **1997/98 CAPITAL BUDGET**

1.1 **Community Services Con't**

Parks and Playgrounds

Mr. Dan English, Commissioner, Community Services, addressed Council noting he would clarify later on in the meeting, two issues raised during the April 23, 1997 Capital Budget meeting, namely; Metro Centre and Property Purchases out of Sale of Land Account.

Councillor Mitchell requested staff reconsider project #74 - "Stoney Beach Road Playground."

Councillor Schofield referenced the Notting Park Playground project and enquired if Mr. Doug Quinn had discussed this with Recreation and Leisure. The Councillor stated he would identify after the meeting funding required for this project, with the Director of Community Services, Recreation and Leisure.

Councillor Schofield referenced #65 - "Skateboard Facility North Dartmouth" - noting he was interested in the road being properly closed and perhaps landscaped this year.

Councillor Schofield referenced \$131,000 allocated for Marble Drive, under "Sidewalks and Curbs" noting he would like to discuss the possibility of exchanging the funds for another project.

Councillor Stone referenced #68 - "Birch Cove (Rockingham)" - noting there is a need for an access road into the Birch Cove area to permit larger trucks to use the site for fill. The Councillor suggested an allocation of \$50,000 to \$60,000 for this access road.

Councillor Cunningham enquired if benches could be placed in Sullivan's Pond.

Councillor Cunningham referenced Silver's Hill and Birch Cove and the fact that both parks abutt Lake Banook, the site of the 1997 World Canoe Championships. The area needs to be made presentable for the Championships, therefore, the Councillor enquired if there were any plans for this area, this year.

In response, Mr. Blair Blakeney advised there was funding available through Regional Operations for Silver's Hill and that he would consult with appropriate staff in this regard.

Mayor Fitzgerald suggested this project was very important.

Councillor Rankin referenced #50 - "Greenwood Heights Ballfield Lighting" noting he would like this project considered as this is a densely populated area. The Councillor requested staff examine this project as he was prepared to find \$10,000 to \$15,000 in order to get the \$50,000 required to install lighting.

Councillor Cooper enquired where "equipment storage - ball organizations in Cole Harbour" was in the Capital Budget. In response, Mr. Blakeney advised he would discuss this with Mr. Stephen King as he was not familiar with aspect.

Mr. English addressed Council referencing G8 and G9 - Metro Centre - noting that Mr. Fred McGillvray has agreed to address Council during Operating Budget deliberations. As it relates to Capital, the Metro Centre will end the current fiscal year with a surplus. Although staff budgeted for approximately \$323,000 for this past year, the funds probably will not be required, therefore, staff was recommending the elimination of G8 and G9 from the Capital Budget. At the request of Mayor Fitzgerald, however, it was decided to not eliminate G8 and G9 from the Capital Budget.

Councillor Barnet referenced G35 - "Eastern Region Vans" - suggesting that staff look at surplus equipment prior to purchasing new vans.

Councillor Cooper reiterated his concerns regarding the Metro Centre. In response, Mr. English clarified the situation and stated that the municipality is not shifting operating dollars into Capital, it is stating if there is a surplus, which the Metro Centre will have this year, then it should be used for Capital.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Stone on the balance in the Sale of Land Accounts, Mr. English advised that Finance staff were preparing a report.

Councillor Mitchell expressed concern that no students from his District obtained summer employment through the municipality. Mr. Richard Cameron advised that the Councillor's comments would be forwarded to the appropriate staff.

POLICE

Police Chief Vince MacDonald and Deputy Chief David MacKinnon represented staff.

Chief MacDonald advised the Police Services budget was down \$400,000 from last year.

Council was advised there were three projects before Council, namely; Police Vehicles, Breathalyzer Equipment, and Dispatch Radio Consoles. With respect to Personal Body Armor (\$167,000), this is not included in the Capital Budget for this year, but will have to be revisited in the future. A change in the legislation has made an impact in the area of occupational health and safety, and although it is not compulsory to wear one at this

point in time, there is a concern if an officer, not wearing armor, was injured at a scene.

In response, Councillor Cooper requested a report on the Personal Body Armor.

Councillor Stone suggested staff look at parking a police vehicle in a high traffic area, with a mannequin inside - to act as a deterrent to speeding traffic.

CORPORATE SERVICES

Mr. Larry Corrigan, Commissioner, Corporate Services; Mr. Peter Ross, Manager, Procurement; Mr. Wayne Anstey, Municipal Solicitor, and Mr. Chuck Keith, Director, Information Services, represented staff.

Mr. Corrigan provided a brief overview of the Capital Budget as it pertains to Corporate Services noting staff had initially submitted an \$8 million budget but that it was now \$4 million.

Mr. Anstey provided a brief overview of the Records Management project noting it is more than an electronic filing system. This project will eventually increase productivity and make information more readily available.

Councillor Barnet suggested that B8 - "Job Evaluation" be carried out in-house. Mr. Corrigan, in response, advised this is an extremely complex issue and must be carried out correctly by someone with expertise.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Stone on item B5 - "Management Information System" - Mr. Corrigan advised that the difficulty with the present system is that it is not integrated - it is a patchwork of systems. With respect to downtime, there could be some inconvenience when the cutover takes place, however, a parallel system will be in place at that time.

FIRE

Deputy Commissioner of Operations, Mike Eddy; Gordon Roussell, Budget Co-Ordinator; Chris Charron, Manager of Logistics, and Deputy Commissioner of Support Services, Bill Mosher represented staff.

Revisions to proposed 1997/98 Capital Budget were distributed to Council.

Mr. Charron stated that Fire Services has managed to either defer or eliminate the following five projects:

- H4 - Sheet Harbour FD: New Fire Station - Project Cost - \$145,000
- H6 - Ostrea Lake FD: wheel Chair Ramp - Project Cost - \$10,000

H7 - Harrietsfield - Sambro FD: Improve Stns - Project Cost - \$50,000

H13 - Ostrea Lake FD: Tanker Project Cost - \$150,000

H15 - Middle Musquodoboit FD: Pumper/Tanker - Project Cost \$185,000

The Committee was advised that the following projects have been revised:

F11 - Apparatus Replacement - Change - Description & Justification. Impact on Operating Budget.

F12 - Utility Vehicle Replacement - Change - Description & Justification. Impact on Operating Budget.

H18 - Meagher's Grant FD: Pumper - Change - Reduced from \$80,000 to \$15,000. To be entirely funded from operating surplus.

As a result of these changes, Fire Services is able to reduce its Capital Budget by another \$605,000. The Department's Capital Budget now totals \$3, 539,000.

The Committee was advised of other minor changes:

- Page F4 - Herring Cove Road Station 6 Repairs - Project Description & Justification - it is intended to go forward with "original roof in need of replacement - \$50,000" and "Masonry repairs required because of settling - \$20,000" in 1997/98. The other items listed below - \$8,000, \$11,000 and \$24,000 - will be deferred to 1998/99.
- Page F5 - Metropolitan Ave. Station 9 Ventilation - Project Description & Justification - the first item - \$45,000 - exhaust extraction system - that should read \$40,000. It is intended to proceed with this aspect of the project this year and defer the upgrading to the ventilation system until 1998/99.
- Page F6 - Cole Harbour Road Station 17 Upgrades - Project Description & Justification - first item - exhaust extraction system - \$58,000 - this should read \$50,000. It is intended to go forward with this in 1997/98 - the last of the items - enlargement of lockers - \$22,000 - this is to be reduced to \$20,000. It is intended to go forward with this project in 1997/98. The two items in the middle - \$42,000 and \$12,000 will be deferred to 1998/99.

Councillor Hendsbee suggested when it comes to tax structure time, it must be clearly shown that rural residents are paying for their own services, their own way. \$35,000 in insurance has to be recouped under an area rate structure. This should be going under the general tax rate or under general insurance policies.

Councillor Barnet referenced F11 - Apparatus Replacement - suggesting that \$330,000 was an expensive price.

Councillor Cooper referenced the reduction in the number of units from 53 down to 44 and enquired if this impacts on number of personnel. In response, Deputy Commissioner Eddy suggested this is a possibility.

Councillor Cooper suggested further exploration of this aspect. Further, Councillor Cooper anticipated that when Operating Budget deliberations commence, staff will be prepared to report as to where Fire Services is going with regard to personnel and the level of service to be provided.

Councillor Hendsbee enquired if it was anticipated those Fire Service vehicles to be replaced will be offered to rural fire departments, sold as surplus, or offered to other fire departments in the province. In response, Deputy Commissioner Eddy stated there are three units in service in the rural areas. With respect to a possible market for trucks, Meaghers' Grant is buying a surplus unit for \$15,000.

Councillor Hendsbee suggested these vehicles be transferred for \$1 for other areas within the Region.

2. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED by Councillor Sarto and Deputy Mayor Greenough to adjourn the meeting at 4:55 p.m. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Jane Nauss
ASSISTANT MUNICIPAL CLERK