

HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES
MAY 20, 1997

PRESENT: Mayor Walter Fitzgerald
Deputy Mayor Jack Greenough
Councillors Bill Dooks
Gordon R. Snow
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
Robert Harvey
Peter Kelly
Reg Rankin
Jack Mitchell

REGRETS: Councillor: David Hendsbee

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

Mayor Fitzgerald called the meeting to order at 1:45 p.m.

1. **PERSONNEL MATTERS - 1997/98 OPERATING BUDGET**

Mr. Ken Meech, Chief Administrative Officer, addressed Council noting that the Commissioners would provide an overview as to changes to various services to balance the 1997/98 Operating Budget which would be tabled during the Regional Council Session later this evening.

FIRE SERVICES

Chief Gary Greene and Deputy Commissioner of Operations, Mike Eddy, addressed Council on changes to the Fire Services Operating Budget for the year 1997/98 and responded to various questions from Council on topics such as possible closure of the Lady Hammond Road Fire Station, and emergency response times.

MOVED by Councillor Hetherington and Deputy Mayor Greenough to defer questioning of staff pending all presentations. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

POLICE SERVICES

Chief Vince MacDonald addressed Council referencing proposed service and staff reductions, noting this was a two year proposition.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Library

Judith Hare, Chief Executive Officer, Halifax Regional Library, addressed Council referencing the fact that the Library would have to absorb \$705,810 to achieve its target. Ms. Hare reviewed the various reductions to achieve this figure such as closing the Woodlawn Branch Library, which in itself, would save \$129,304.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Mr. Dan English, Commissioner, Community Services, distributed adjustments to the 1997/98 Operating Budget (totalling a reduction of \$1,356,000) such as a reduction in staff of fifteen, closure of the Crichton Centre, area rate the Sackville Sports Stadium, reduction in consulting services, and closure of the Dartmouth Museum Building.

CORPORATE SERVICES

Mr. Larry Corrigan, Commissioner, Corporate Services, and Mr. Wayne Anstey, Municipal Solicitor, addressed Council noting that Corporate Services assumed 4% of the overall budget for the municipality. Subsequent to the original 1997/98 Operating Budget for Community Services, a reduction was required and it was anticipated this target would be reached through the elimination of twelve positions across Finance,

Administration and Legal, Information Services, and Human Resources.

Deputy Mayor Greenough assumed the Chair.

REGIONAL OPERATIONS

Mr. George McLellan, Commissioner, Regional Operations, reviewed the Organizational Chart and referencing the fact that Real Estate and Facilities had been restructured.

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Mr. Meech addressed Council noting that the various departments included as part of the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer were Communications, Business Parks, EMO, Tourism, and Priority and Policy.

Mr. Meech reviewed proposed adjustments to the Department. He also noted that a staff person will be seconded to the Millennium Committee to act as the Committee's project manager.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Councillor Hetherington and Deputy Mayor Greenough to adjourn the meeting at 3:45 p.m. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Vi Carmichael
MUNICIPAL CLERK