

**HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL
SPECIAL SESSION
MAY 19, 1998**

PRESENT:

Mayor Walter Fitzgerald
Deputy Mayor Reg Rankin
Councillors: Bill Dooks
Gordon R. Snow
David Hendsbee
Ron Cooper
Harry McInroy
Jack Greenough
Condo Sarto
Bruce Hetherington (3:15 p.m.)
Clint Schofield
John Cunningham
Jerry Blumenthal
Graham L. Downey
Larry Uteck
Russell Walker
Bill Stone
Ron Hanson
Stephen Adams
Barry Barnet
Bob Harvey
Peter Kelly
Jack Mitchell

STAFF MEMBERS:

Mr. Ken Meech, Chief Administrative Officer
Mr. George McLellan, Commissioner, Regional Operations
Mr. Ron Singer, Director of Finance
Mr. Bruce Fisher, Budget Co-ordinator
Ms. Jane Nauss, Acting Municipal Clerk

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Mayor Fitzgerald called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m., with the Invocation.

1. CONTINUATION - 1998/99 CAPITAL BUDGET

1.1 Capital Budget

Mr. Ken Meech, Chief Administrative Officer, introduced Mr. George McLellan, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, who reviewed the process to date.

Councillor Adams took his place at the meeting (10:15 a.m.).

MOVED by Councillors Greenough and Sarto to approve the 1998/99 Capital Budget, as revised.

Councillor Kelly referenced the closed sidewalk in the vicinity of the CN overpass on the Dartmouth Road (residents are forced to walk on the road). In response, Mr. Kulvinder Dhillon, Director, Engineering and Transportation Services, advised the existing sidewalk was built by DOT and cost shared with CN. It has been determined that it would cost approximately \$20,000 to place a sidewalk inside the abutment, however, there are no funds available in this year's budget. Mr. Dhillon advised, however, that Council could add the funds required, to the budget, if so desired. Councillor Kelly expressed concern this sidewalk was 100 percent deficient and requested staff add this expense to next year's budget.

Councillor Barnet suggested that Local Improvement Charges be separated from the Capital Budget.

Councillor Hetherington referenced the Eric Spicer Building enquiring as to why Fire and Police Services could not use the facility. In response, Mr. George McLellan advised it is not staff's intent to pay for space when there is appropriate vacant space available. Further, the Woodside and Dartmouth Ferry Terminal space may be appropriate.

Councillor McInroy expressed concern with the cost of \$.25 million to undertake an environmental evaluation of a 30 year old dumpsite off Bissett Road, and enquired as to why this was in the budget. In response, Mr. Brian Smith, Director, Business Operations, advised that the Department of the Environment approached the municipality on this issue, however, a written report could be prepared on same.

Councillor Hanson referenced a memorandum he had forwarded to Members of Council and the Chief Administrative Officer regarding funds that had been approved to undertake a project in the Fenwick Road area. Approximately \$250,000 had been approved with the tender actually coming in at \$167,000. Reference was made to a retaining wall that had been patched in 1994 that is in the budget document. The

Councillor enquired if staff could look at the possibility of entrenching the estimate of the wall, in the budget document.

In response Mr. Kulvinder Dhillon confirmed that the Fenwick Storm Sewer project had been initially budgeted at \$250,000. As the tender did come in lower than anticipated, this meant there is approximately \$30,000 available if Council wished to undertake the retaining wall project. Councillor Hanson suggested the travelled way and the private properties could be in jeopardy. The Councillor suggested this matter be placed on a future Committee of the Whole agenda for discussion.

Councillor Greenough requested clarification on the increase in Capital Debt. In response, Mr. Bruce Fisher, Budget Co-ordinator, stated in December, 1997, there was a net capital budget of \$79.7 million (gross budget less all direct cost sharing). However, there were other factors involved i.e. funds were withdrawn from Reserves, Local Improvement Charges, \$4.6 million in direct funding from the provincial government, and Capital from Operating funds. When these factors are taken into account, there is no actual need to debt finance the entire \$79.7 million. The net debt financing required now is \$65 million, as opposed to \$60 million in December. Mr. Fisher advised that further information could be provided on this aspect.

New Central Library

The following Motion was put on the floor and a recorded vote took place:

MOVED by Councillors Kelly and Hetherington to amend the Main Motion by deleting the New Central Library from the Capital Budget.

Ms. Judith Hare, CEO, Regional Library Board, addressed Council noting there would be no tender call until there is a commitment from the Province. Once HRM commits, the Board will begin fundraising efforts (goal of \$3 million). Further, Ms. Hare advised there is no intention of the Board to request further funding from Council, nor to close any branch libraries.

In response to a comment from Councillor Sarto, Mr. Ken Meech advised that although the Library Board is prepared to commit to the project, Council will determine the level of funding.

Councillor Sarto suggested staff review the concept of taking the funds from the sale of the land (\$3 million), placing same in the Sale of Land Account and utilizing the accrued interest to offset operating costs.

A recorded vote on the amendment to the Main Motion took place.

MOTION DEFEATED.

Those who voted in favour of the amendment to the Motion: Councillors Dooks, Snow, Hendsbee, Cooper, Hetherington, Schofield, Adams, Barnet, Kelly. (9)

Those who voted against the amendment to the Motion: Councillors McInroy, Greenough, Sarto, Cunningham, Blumenthal, Downey, Uteck, Stone, Hanson, Harvey, Mitchell, Deputy Mayor Rankin and Mayor Fitzgerald. (13)

Councillor Walker was absent. (1)

For the record, Councillor McInroy advised the Acting Clerk, after the vote was taken, that he voted incorrectly and that he had meant to support the Motion to delete the New Central Library from the Capital Budget (*this was clarified during the June 16/98 Session of Council*). At this point in time, however, the vote could not be changed.

Discussion on the Main Motion (approval of the Capital Budget) continued. Another Motion was put on the floor.

**MOVED by Councillors McInroy and Uteck to remove the Bissett Drive Dumpsite (\$200,000) from the Capital Budget, pending receipt of a report from staff.
MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

A vote on the Main Motion, to adopt the 1998/99 Capital Budget, took place.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

RECESS

Following a recess at 12:30 p.m., the meeting resumed at 2:00 p.m. with all Members in attendance.

2. CONTINUATION - 1998/99 OPERATING BUDGET

General

Councillor Adams suggested a flat tax rate be charged, of \$25 - \$30 per household. Further, the Councillor suggested a committee be established, comprised of staff (not senior staff), who would meet to determine the direction in which the municipality is heading.

Councillor Blumenthal expressed concern with the municipal departmental telephone listings that are distributed, noting that revised changes should be dealt with through e-mail / "R" drive, as apposed to hard copies.

2.1 Supplementary Education Funding (May 12 COW recommendation)

A brief discussion ensued as to what the Provincial contribution will be for the upcoming year.

Mr. Wayne Anstey, Municipal Solicitor, reminded Council that it could only reduce the level of supplementary funding by no more than 10 percent, which equates to \$1.7 million. If the mandatory rate decreases, the supplementary funding level will remain the same.

MOVED by Councillors Greenough and Hetherington to approve the same level of mandatory funding (\$58.7 million) as last year, and to defer a decision on Supplementary Funding. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

2.3 Motion - Councillor Kelly - To Introduce a Policy with Resepect to Setbacks From Sidewalks and Bus Routes That Pertain to Charges Thereof

The following Motion had been deferred from May 12, 1998:

“To introduce a policy with respect to setbacks from sidewalks and bus routes that pertain to charges thereof.”

MOVED by Councillors Kelly and Barnet to establish a standard policy for sidewalk or transit of 1.5 kms. MOTION DEFEATED.

Deputy Mayor Rankin clarified that by rejecting the aforementioned Motion, the status quo of the suburban boundary remains as is.

MOVED by Councillors Cooper and Hendsbee to Challenge this decision of the Chair. MOTION DEFEATED.

Deputy Mayor Rankin advised that the the Rule of the Chair was sustained, and that the status quo of the suburban boundary remains as is.

2.4 FIRE PROTECTION RATE - EXEMPT OF CHURCHES, GRAVEYARDS AND NON-PROFIT GRAVEYARDS

Following brief comments made by Councillor Kelly, the following Motion was put on the floor:

MOVED by Councillors Kelly and Barnet that churches, graveyards and non-profit recreation be excluded from the Fire Protection Rate.

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

MOVED by Councillor Hensbee that an amendment be made to the Motion, to remove reference to churches.

As there was no seconder, the Motion to amend the Main Motion, was lost.

MOVED by Councillors Cooper and Hetherington that an amendment be made to the Motion, that church buildings pay the Fire Protection Charge at the residential rate. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

A vote on the Main Motion, as amended, took place.

MOVED by Councillors Kelly and Barnet, that graveyards and non-profit recreation facilities be excluded from the Fire Protection Rate. Further, that churches pay the charge at the residential rate. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

2.5 1998/99 GENERAL TAX RATE

MOVED by Councillors Uteck and Greenough to approve the resolution attached to the staff report dated May 7, 1998 on the operating budget (as amended) except for section (e) which finalizes area tax rates. The general tax rates have been increased from the 1.5 percent Committee of the Whole recommendation to 2 percent. The extra amounts are intended to cover additional salary settlements arising from collective agreements.

A recorded vote on the Motion (2 percent) took place.

MOTION DEFEATED.

Those who voted in favour of the Motion: Councillors Greenough, Downey, Uteck, Walker, Stone and Hanson.

Those who voted against the Motion: Mayor Fitzgerald, Deputy Mayor Rankin and Councillors Dooks, Snow, Hensbee, Cooper, McInroy, Sarto, Hetherington, Schofield, Cunningham, Blumenthal, Adams, Barnet, Harvey, Kelly and Mitchell.

Another Motion was put on the floor:

MOVED by Councillors Blumenthal and Schofield to approve the resolution attached to the staff report dated May 7, 1998 on the Operating Budget, reflecting a 1.5 percent increase in the General Rates of Taxation, except for section (e) which finalizes area tax rates. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

A recorded vote on the Motion took place.

Those who voted in favour of the Motion: Mayor Fitzgerald, Deputy Mayor Rankin and Councillors Greenough, Sarto, Schofield, Cunningham, Blumenthal, Downey, Uteck, Walker, Stone, Hanson, Adams, Harvey and Mitchell.

Those who voted against the Motion: Councillors Dooks, Snow, Hendsbee, Cooper, McInroy, Hetherington, Barnet and Kelly.

2.2 Request for Proposal # 98-014 - Wide Area Network Services for HRM

MOVED by Councillors Greenough and Uteck to award Tender #98-014 to Maritime Tel & Tel at a monthly cost of \$32,423.99 plus HST for a 24 month period. Funds are available in operating account #01-21411-2110. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

RECESS

MOVED by Councillors Stone and Uteck to recess to 6:00 p.m. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The meeting resumed at 6:00 p.m. with all in attendance.

3. RATIFICATION - IN CAMERA ITEMS

3.1 Land Matter - In Camera - 53/55 Ochterloney Street, Dartmouth

MOVED by Councillors Hetherington and Cunningham to ratify a decision made In Camera on "53/55 Ochterloney Street., Dartmouth." MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3.2 Personnel Issue - Appointment of Police Chief

MOVED by Councillors Stone and Mitchell to ratify a decision made In Camera, to appoint Deputy Chief Dave McKinnon, as Police Chief, effective July 1, 1998. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Those in attendance congratulated Deputy Chief McKinnon through applause.

4. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Councillors Hetherington and Cunningham to adjourn the meeting at 6:05 p.m. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Jane Nauss
ACTING MUNICIPAL CLERK