

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL MINUTES April 18, 2000

PRESENT: Mayor Walter Fitzgerald
Deputy Mayor John Cunningham
Councillors: Stephen Streach
Keith Colwell
Ron Cooper
Harry McInroy
Jack Greenough
Condo Sarto
Bruce Hetherington
Clint Schofield
Jerry Blumenthal
Graham L. Downey
Sue Uteck
Sheila Fougere
Russell Walker
Bill Stone
Graham Read
Stephen D. Adams
David Merrigan
Bob Harvey
Peter Kelly
Reg Rankin
Jack Mitchell

REGRETS: Councillors: Gordon R. Snow

STAFF MEMBERS: Mr. Ken Meech, Chief Administrative Officer
Mr. Wayne Anstey, Municipal Solicitor
Ms. Vi Carmichael, Municipal Clerk
Ms. Patti Halliday, 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 - None

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - April 11, 2000

Councillor Read requested the following changes to the minutes:

Page 5 - Item 7A - Negotiations with Sempra Atlantic for Municipal Access Agreement

Councillor Read stated he was not in favour of the motion and requested that the minutes be amended to reflect that the vote was not unanimous.

Page 11 - Item 10.1.1 Councillor Rankin - URB Decision Relative to District Boundaries

Councillor Read requested that the minutes be amended so his name is not associated with the first two bulleted statements on Page 11.

MOVED by Councillors Hetherington and Blumenthal that the minutes of April 11, 2000, be approved, as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

The following items were added to the agenda:

13.1 Councillor Harvey - Provincial Budget - Education Cuts

13.2 Councillor Fougere - Flinn Park

13.3 Councillor Blumenthal
i) Restriction of Dogs in HRM Parks
ii) Hiring of Firefighters

13.4 Councillor Hetherington - Request to move Information Item #2 (Implementation for the Halifax Harbour Solutions Project) to the Regular Council Agenda

13.5 Legal Matter - Proposed Compensation - Pipeline Easements

- 13.6 Legal Matter - Claim Settlement
- 13.7 Personnel Matter - Deadman's Island Committee
- 13.8 Personnel Matter - Downtown Parking Committee
- 13.9 Personnel Matter - Natal Day Committee
- 13.10 Cancellation of Regional Council Meeting - June 6, 2000
- 13.11 Councillor Hetherington - Proposed Amendment to the Assessment Act
- 13.12 Councillor Colwell - Twin Oaks Hospital, Musquodoboit Harbour

MOVED by Councillors Hetherington and Downey that the Order of Business, Additions and Deletions, be approved, as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

6. MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION - NONE

7. MOTIONS OF RESCISSION - NONE

8. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - NONE

9. PUBLIC HEARINGS

9.1 Second Reading by-Law T-401 Respecting the Truck Routes By-Law

- By-Law T-401 Respecting the Truck Routes By-Law passed First Reading on March 28, 2000, and was now before Council for Second Reading.
- A staff report prepared for Dan English, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, regarding the above, was previously circulated to Council on March 21, 2000.

Mr. David McCusker, Manager, Traffic and Transportation, presented the staff report, and highlighted the changes.

Responding to a question of Councillor Hetherington regarding signage, Mr. McCusker stated the proposed changes will only require a few new signs and these can be fabricated and installed within three weeks following approval of the By-Law.

In response to a question of Councillor Blumenthal regarding enforcement of the By-Law, Mr. McCusker stated enforcement of the By-Law is the responsibility of HRM Police Services and the RCMP, and it is staff's intention to advise them of the changes and impress upon them the need for enforcement. Mr. McCusker stated that, in response to requests from Council and residents, staff will also inform Police Services and the RCMP of on-going violations to assist in enforcement. Councillor Blumenthal requested that Devonshire Avenue be looked at in terms of enforcement.

Responding to a question of Councillor Schofield, Mr. McCusker stated Ilsley Avenue in Burnside Industrial Park will be going from a daytime truck route to a 24-hour truck route. When the extension of Wright Avenue, or any other roadway component, is added to the network, the appropriateness of the truck routes would be reviewed.

Councillor McInroy requested that particular attention be paid to the introduction of designated truck routes internally in Eastern Passage. The Councillor noted Hornes Road is commonly used at this point in time, but it will not be part of the designated route in the future. With respect to signage, Councillor McInroy suggested that particular attention be paid in this area.

Councillor Sarto inquired about signage designating roads that are not truck routes. In response, Mr. McCusker stated it is policy to only install permissive truck signs and not to install any no trucking signs. The permissive signs will be installed at major junction points to indicate to trucks where it is permitted for them to turn. The Councillor expressed concern with the use of Brigadoon Avenue in Dartmouth for trucks to travel from Main Street to Portland Street. In response, Mr. McCusker stated staff will continue to monitor violations and complaints for enforcement. If this is not successful, staff will reconsider its policy on installing "no trucks permitted" in particular areas with high non-compliance, but it is anticipated that the current signing policy, along with adequate enforcement, will ensure that trucks adhere to the By-Law.

Mayor Fitzgerald called three times for members of the public wishing to speak either in favour of or against the By-Law. Hearing none, the following motion was put on the floor:

MOVED by Councillors Blumenthal and Hetherington that the Public Hearing be closed. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

COUNCIL DECISION

MOVED by Councillors Hetherington and McInroy that By-Law T-401 Respecting the Truck Routes By-Law be given Second Reading. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

10. **CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELETIONS**

10.1 **Correspondence**

10.1.1 **Request for Support - Unemployment Insurance Resolution - Halifax-Dartmouth and District Labour Council C.L.C.**

- Correspondence from Cheryle Meehan, Secretary, Halifax-Dartmouth & District Labour Council, CLC, dated April 6, 2000, seeking support for an Unemployment Insurance Resolution, was before Council for its consideration.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Cunningham and Councillor Sarto that the correspondence from Cheryle Meehan, Secretary, Halifax-Dartmouth & District Labour Council, CLC, dated April 6, 2000, seeking support for an Unemployment Insurance Resolution, be received and filed. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10.1.2 **Request to Hold Plebiscite - Scott MacLean, Host, Spirit of the Times**

- Correspondence from Scott MacLean, Host, Spirit of the Times, dated April 5, 2000, regarding a request to hold a plebiscite regarding the possibility of Cape Breton forming its own province, was before Council for consideration.

MOVED by Councillors Sarto and Blumenthal that the correspondence from Scott MacLean, Host, Spirit of the Times, dated April 5, 2000, regarding a request to hold a plebiscite regarding the possibility of Cape Breton forming its own province, be received and filed. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10.2 **Petitions**

10.2.1 **Councillor Uteck - Committee of Concern**

Councillor Uteck served a petition containing 130 signatures to be added to the on-going petition to have the traffic lights removed from the corner of Connaught Avenue and Jubilee Road. The Councillor noted that this brings the total number of signatures to 3,300.

Councillor Uteck noted that these lights have now been in place for eight months, and the trial period was supposed to be for six months. The Councillor stated that the Committee of Concern earnestly hopes that, with the flood of ballots and letters that have been sent to the Mayor and Council requesting the removal of these lights, that this occurs without further delay.

10.2.2 Councillor Blumenthal - Pesticides

Councillor Blumenthal served a petition containing over 200 names of residents who oppose a ban of pest control products.

10.3 Presentations

10.3.1 Community and Health Benefits of Commuter Rail Service:

i) **Natasha Wilis**

Ms. Natasha Wilis, a Dalhousie University nursing student, made a presentation to Regional Council in support of a commuter rail service. In her presentation, Ms. Wilis made the following points:

- Commuter rail is an integral factor in shaping healthy communities.
- HRM is facing a health crisis, along with a traffic crisis.
- Last year, MacLean's Magazine stated increasing rates of illness and mortality in the region can partly be attributed to air pollution.
- Vehicle emissions are a major contributor to air pollution.
- High instances of certain diseases can be correlated to heavy commuter traffic and its emissions.
- Since geography limits the ability to build new roads on the Peninsula, it is important to think of the future implications of traffic congestion.
- Traffic calming measures only displace traffic, following it through residential areas.
- Up to 75 percent of pollutants that form smog come from automobiles, which can cause many health problems.
- MacLean's Magazine identified Halifax as a hot spot for respiratory disease.
- The incidents of children affected by asthma is significantly higher in this region than elsewhere in Canada.
- An integrated bus/rail system would significantly reduce heavy commuter traffic, thus limiting the damaging effects of vehicle emissions on the environment.

Mayor Fitzgerald thanked Ms. Wilis for her presentation.

ii) **Wayne Grosko**

Mr. Wayne Grosko made a presentation to Council in support of a commuter rail system, making the following points:

- Suburban development is growing, particularly along places that a commuter rail line would serve.
- Traffic, and resulting problems, are increasing and will continue to do so in the future.
- There is an under-utilized rail line along a heavily travelled corridor into the downtown area, which should be used for a commuter rail system, if possible.
- Diesel light rail makes it possible for moderate size cities to consider rail transit.

- As demand grows, a diesel light rail system is easily expanded, as it is a very flexible system.
- Tracks are already in place in HRM to support a diesel light rail system.
- It is feasible to extend the service into the central business district along routes that currently do not have a lot of traffic.
- Rail does not have to contend with traffic, so it is not affected by congestion.
- Rail can be charged a higher fare than bus service, as it is a premium service, and this higher fare can help cover the costs.
- HRM has an advantage as the tracks are already in place.
- There are new federal funding programs for municipalities to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Everyone, not just the users, would benefit from a commuter rail system.
- Commuter rail would reduce the need for road expansion.
- Time is of an essence to ensure that the tracks will still be available for this system.

In closing, Mr. Grosko recommended that Council support at least the first phase of the study for a commuter rail system.

Mayor Fitzgerald thanked Mr. Grosko for his presentation.

11. REPORTS

11.1 MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

11.1.1 Councillor Blumenthal - District 11 Capital Fund Request

As District 11 is no longer a member of Community Council, Councillor Blumenthal requested that Council approve the designation of \$5,000 from the District 11 Capital Fund for tree planting, to be accessed as needed.

MOVED by Councillors Blumenthal and Hetherington that Council approve the request for approval of the designation of \$5,000.00 from the District 11 Capital Fund for tree planting. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

11.2 HALIFAX REGIONAL LIBRARY BOARD

11.2.1 Mainland Common Recreation Centre/Keshen Goodman Library - Master Plan & Design Presentation (Judith Hare, Stewart Adams & Peter Bigelow)

Ms. Judith Hare, CEO, Halifax Regional Library, introduced Mr. Stewart Adams, Architect, HOK Canada, Mr. George Rogers, MacFawn & Rogers Architects Ltd., the Halifax

Regional Library Board, and members of staff who were present in the gallery. Mr. Peter Bigelow, Recreation, was also present to comment on the recreation portion of the project.

Copies of the site planning study were provided to members of Council.

Mr. Stewart Adams presented the master plan to Council, noting there will be a six week tender phase, probably starting in July 2000, and a 78 week construction period, with the opening scheduled for late 2001.

Mr. Peter Bigelow, Recreation Services, addressed Council with respect to the recreation centre portion of the project, noting that, as part of the Capital Budget, Council approved an amount to move ahead with the detailed design of the centre. Mr. Bigelow stated that within one year, the matter will be back before Council for support to construct the building.

Ms. Hare expressed thanks to Library and Recreation staff who worked together on this project. For the benefit of the viewing audience, Ms. Hare noted the following features of the new library:

- Large comfortable reading areas
- A family computer centre, as well as other computers throughout the building for adults and students.
- Large meeting rooms
- A coffee area with a fireplace and a view of the park

Ms. Hare noted that this project is being funded by the Keshen bequest, and is, therefore, a bonus for HRM.

Mayor Fitzgerald thanked the representatives for their presentation.

Councillor Stone complimented all those who worked on this project, as well as Council for approving it. The Councillor stated the public was provided a good opportunity for input on this project, and many changes were made as a result.

Responding to a question of Mayor Fitzgerald regarding the Thomas Raddell Library, Councillor Stone stated this library will be closed after the new one opens. The Board is attempting to find a fitting way to honour the Thomas Raddell name within the new facility.

Councillor Mitchell spoke in support of the project and expressed thanks to all those involved. Also speaking in support of the project, Councillor Rankin recognized the contribution of the Keshen Family.

11.3 COMMUNITY & RACE RELATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

11.3.1 Presentation of 2000-2001 Workplan and 1999-2000 Annual Report

- The Annual 2000-2001 Workplan and 1999-2000 Annual Report for the Community & Race Relations Advisory Committee, was before Council for its information.

Ms. Betty Thomas, Chair, Community & Race Relations Advisory Committee, presented the Committee's 2000-2001 Workplan and 1999-2000 Annual Report to Regional Council.

Mayor Fitzgerald thanked Ms. Thomas for her presentation and requested that she pass on Council's appreciation of the work of the Committee.

Councillor Blumenthal, a Committee member, also expressed thanks to Ms. Thomas for the presentation.

MOVED by Councillors Blumenthal and Read that Council table the Annual 2000-2001 Workplan and 1999-2000 Annual Report for the Community & Race Relations Advisory Committee. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

11.4 CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

11.4.1 Tender 00-022 Eleven (11) Model 2000 4-Door Sedan Patrol Cars (Rearwheel Drive)

- A staff report prepared for George McLellan, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer regarding the above, was before Council for its consideration.

MOVED by Councillors Sarto and Hetherington that Council authorize the award of Tender #00-022 to Wood Motors Ltd. at a cost of \$299,871.00 plus HST. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

11.4.2 Tender 00-023 Seven (7) Model 2000 4-Door Sedan Patrol Cars (Front Wheel Drive)

- A staff report prepared for George McLellan, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer regarding the above, was before Council for its consideration.

MOVED by Councillors Sarto and Hetherington that Council authorize the award of Tender #00-023 to the lowest bidder meeting specifications, Carroll Pontiac at a cost of \$174,125.00 plus HST.

Supt. Chris McNeil, HRM Police Services, responded to questions of Councillor Walker regarding the difference between this tender and the previous one (Item 11.4.1).

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

11.4.3 Tender 00-024 Four (4) Model 2000 3/4 Ton Cargo Vans

- A staff report prepared for George McLellan, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer regarding the above, was before Council for its consideration.

MOVED by Councillors Sarto and Hetherington that:

1. Police

Council authorize the award of Tender #00-024 to the lowest bidder meeting specifications, Carroll Pontiac for four (4) Cargo Vans at a cost of \$101,156.00 plus HST.

2. Fire

Council authorize the award of Tender #00-024 to the lowest bidder meeting specifications, Carroll Pontiac for two (2) Cargo Vans at a cost of \$50,578.00 plus HST. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

11.4.4 Tender 00-025 Fourteen (14) Model 2000 4-Door Sedans (Unmarked)

- A staff report prepared for George McLellan, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer regarding the above, was before Council for its consideration.

MOVED by Councillors Sarto and Hetherington that Council authorize the award of Tender #00-025 to the lowest bidder meeting specifications, Carroll Pontiac at a cost of \$254,576.00 plus HST. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

11.4.5 Tender 00-033 Three (3) Model 2000 4-Door Wagons

- A staff report prepared for George McLellan, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer regarding the above, was before Council for its consideration.

MOVED by Councillors Sarto and Hetherington that Council authorize the award of Tender #00-033 to the lowest bidder meeting specifications, Taylor Ford Lincoln Sales Ltd., at a cost of \$51,450.00 plus HST. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

11.4.6 Tender 00-212 Eastern Passage Sewage Forcemain Replacement

- A staff report prepared for Dan English, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer regarding the above, was before Council for its consideration.

MOVED by Councillors McInroy and Hetherington that:

- 1. Council authorize the transfer of funds in the amount of \$312,000.00 from Account No. Q105, Environmental Protection Reserve, to Capital Account No. CSR00804, Quigley's Corner - Pumping Station, Forcemain.**
- 2. Council award Tender No. 00-212, Eastern Passage Sewage Forcemain Replacement, Phase 2 to W. Eric Whebby Limited for materials and services listed at the unit prices quoted for a Total Tender Price of \$793,500.00 and a Total Project Cost of \$912,000.00 with funding authorized as per the Budget Implications section of the staff report dated April 11, 2000.**

Responding to questions of Councillor McInroy, Mr. Ted Tam, Manager, Design Services, stated it is staff's intention to ensure there is a least one lane of traffic open at all times during the construction. Mr. Tam noted this is only Phase 2 of the project, and it will extend from Howard Avenue to approximately the location of the Autoport. Next year, the final phase will be completed to the Quigley's Corner Pumping Station.

In response to concerns expressed by Councillor Walker, Mr. Tam stated the main cause of the over-expenditure is the increased cost of the pipe material. The other reason for the increased cost is that the project has also been extended to where staff believed would be a good location to terminate this phase. Mr. Tam stated that if this project was not completed this year, based on the current trend, it is most likely that the cost of the pipe material would continue to increase. Therefore, even with the over-expenditure, staff believes it would be in the best interest of HRM to construct this portion of the project this year.

Responding to an additional question of the Councillor, Ms. Dale MacLennan, Director, Finance, stated information regarding the balance of the Environmental Protection Reserve Account can be provided to Council.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

11.4.7 Debenture Issue

- A staff report prepared for George McLellan, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer regarding the above, was before Council for its consideration.

MOVED by Councillors Greenough and Hetherington that the Mayor and Municipal Clerk be authorized to sign the Resolution for Pre-Approval of Debenture Issuance Subject to Interest Rate confirmation, not to exceed 8%, to enable the Halifax Regional Municipality to issue a debenture in the amount of \$17,500.00. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

11.4.8 Evaluation of Animal Control Services

- A staff report prepared for Dan English, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer regarding the above, was before Council for its consideration.

Responding to questions of Councillor Kelly, Mr. Peter James, Regional Coordinator, By-Law Enforcement, made the following points:

- The current animal control contract does not cover the possibility of a cat by-law.
- If a cat by-law is implemented, that service will most likely be tendered out.
- Animal Control responds to complaints covered under D-100, The Dog By-Law.

Councillor Kelly expressed concern with the lack of enforcement of the Dog By-Law, and stated he would like to have a list of the parks monitored by staff and how many tickets were issued. The Councillor stated clear direction needs to be obtained that the By-Law will be enforced. In response, Mr. James reviewed some statistics with respect to enforcement since the By-Law was put in place, and stated that the SPC has met the contractual obligations. With respect to the tickets issued, Mr. James stated staff can provide a breakdown of the types of tickets issued. Staff is recommending approval of the continuation of the contract until it expires in two years time.

Responding to questions of Councillor Schofield, Mr. James stated the SPC does have six cat traps that it will loan out to citizens for a fee. Ms. Jackie Vanderheyden, Supervisor, Animal Control, stated there have been 80 tickets issued to date with respect to the Dog By-Law. Councillor Schofield requested that more attention with respect to enforcement of the Dog By-Law be given in the north Dartmouth area.

In reply to questions of Deputy Mayor Cunningham regarding feral cats creating a problem for a senior citizen in his District, Ms. Vanderheyden stated the first thing that should be done is to determine if there is a food source attracting the cats. The SPC does not normally get involved in this type of situation, but can investigate the matter if necessary. The Deputy Mayor stated he would follow up on this with the SPC.

With respect to the education program, Deputy Mayor Cunningham stated he believes it is working well and people are becoming more responsible with their pets.

(Mayor Fitzgerald left the meeting at 7:30 p.m. and Deputy Mayor Cunningham assumed the Chair.)

Councillor Walker stated he believes the contract should only be renewed for one year and that the new Council can make the decision with respect to the second year. Mr. James noted that the original contract was awarded for three years, and the matter is now before Council for an update, as requested by Council when the contract was originally awarded.

Councillor Adams spoke in support of the recommendation, but expressed concern with complainants having to provide their names and testify in court. The Councillor inquired if Animal Control staff witnessed the incident, would it be sufficient. Ms. Vanderheyden stated staff could speak to the dog owner, but if the problem persisted, a statement would be required from more than one neighbour.

Responding to a question of Councillor Read, Mr. James stated a difficulty with enforcement is either having witnessed the event or having statements to that effect. Mr. James stated 100 hours of preventative patrols per month have been contracted, and Councillors receive information each month in terms of where these hours are spent.

In response to a question of Councillor Blumenthal, Ms. Vanderhayden stated staff regularly check the parks and she can provide the Councillor with information regarding the times the parks are checked. Councillor Blumenthal stated he would like to have the reports provided to Councillors broken down by District.

With respect to prosecution, Mr. Wayne Anstey, Municipal Solicitor, stated people are not convicted on hearsay evidence of people who do not have personal knowledge of the incident. There needs to be people who are willing to step forward and go to court in order to have successful prosecutions.

Responding to a question of Councillor Stone, Ms. Vanderheyden stated there are seven officers who patrol the parks and any problem areas. Councillor Stone requested that the Mainland Linear Parkway be checked regularly for Dog By-Law violations. Ms. Vanderheyden stated the phone number for Animal Control is 468-9219.

MOVED by Councillors Greenough and Uteck that Council continue the animal control contract with the SPC for the duration of the contract until May 2002.

Councillor Mitchell spoke in support of the motion, and expressed thanks to staff for dealing with a recent incident on the Prospect Road.

Also speaking in support of the motion, Councillor Colwell suggested a toll free number should be put in place for Animal Control so all residents of HRM can utilize it without cost. Mr. James agreed to examine the Councillor's suggestion.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12. MOTIONS

12.1 Councillor Adams

"To allow supplementary funding dollars to follow children to a school in an area where supplementary funding is not collected."

- A memorandum from Councillor Adams dated April 18, 2000, regarding the above matter, was circulated to Council.

As per Administrative Order Number One, the above motion required a two-thirds majority vote of Council, before it could be placed on the floor.

Following a brief discussion of the matter, Deputy Mayor Cunningham called for the vote for those in favour of adding this item to the agenda.

MOTION DEFEATED.

13. ADDED ITEMS

13.1 Councillor Harvey - Provincial Budget - Education Cuts

Councillor Harvey expressed concern with the impact on education across the Province as a result of the proposed provincial budget. The Councillor stated there is inequity across the Province in terms of per student funding. Councillor Harvey reviewed some of the detrimental effects the proposed cuts will have on the education system with respect to loss of programs and staff positions and increased classroom sizes.

Councillor Harvey suggested Council should consider allocating all, or a significant portion, of the potential \$1.2 million surplus towards education. The Councillor requested that staff be directed to take this suggestion into consideration in the forthcoming report regarding possible uses of this surplus.

Council agreed to the request.

Speaking in support of the request, Councillor Uteck stated the Provincial Government is responsible for the debt, not the children. The Councillor noted the current schools are not large enough to accommodate the size of classes being proposed. Councillor Uteck urged the residents of HRM to continue to fight for what is right in this regard.

Councillor Colwell expressed concern with the layoff of teaching positions throughout HRM and the effect this will have on the remainder of the school year and in the future.

Councillor Cooper suggested the consideration of using of the surplus for education should be voted on now, rather than waiting for a staff report.

Councillor Sarto stated the Province of Nova Scotia is the second lowest province in Canada in terms of educational funding.

Also speaking in support of the request, Councillor Blumenthal stated education is very important for the future of children and the Municipality should express its displeasure to the Province of how it is being handled.

Closing the discussion, Councillor Harvey stated the Municipality needs to show some leadership in this issue and pressure the Province to rethink the proposed budget.

13.2 Councillor Fougere - Flinn Park

Councillor Fougere reported on an incident that occurred this weekend when a number of "no dogs allowed" signs were posted around Flinn Park and a number of other parks, and expressed thanks to Parks staff for being so quick to respond in this matter. The Councillor noted that, in the case of Flinn Park, the signs were meant to apply to the ball diamond and the playground, but they did not specifically state this. Councillor Fougere requested that such signs be very specific so there is no question as to their intent. Councillor Fougere also noted that the Dog By-Law allows dogs to be off leash in municipal parks which are sports or athletic fields between November 1 and May 1, from 6 a.m. - 10 a.m. only, provided the area is not otherwise posted or in use. The Councillor stated these areas have to be examined to ensure they are signed appropriately.

As a result of the problems at Flinn Park, Councillor Fougere stated she would like Council to endorse a public consultation process, with Parks and Recreation staff and the community surrounding Flinn Park, so the variety of uses of this park can be examined. Council agreed with the request.

13.3 Councillor Blumenthal

i) Restriction of Dogs in HRM Parks

Councillor Blumenthal reported that he received numerous phone calls over the weekend regarding the posting of signs restricting dogs in HRM Parks. The Councillor stated he would like to see signs posted in HRM parks that indicate the times of the year when sports fields are not in use and can be used for dogs.

ii) Hiring of Firefighters

Councillor Blumenthal expressed concern with recruitment of firefighters. The Councillor stated there are residents of Halifax and Dartmouth who have submitted applications to become firefighters, and the new recruitment requirement of firefighting experience through volunteer work is discriminatory against them. Councillor Blumenthal stated it is very difficult for these citizens to obtain this volunteer experience because of the long travel time to the areas where the volunteers are utilized.

Councillor Blumenthal requested a staff report to determine why this requirement was initiated at this time, and what will happen to the citizens of Halifax and Dartmouth who have already submitted applications. The Councillor also expressed concern with the requirement of graduation from a recognized firefighting training institution, which costs approximately \$15,000.

Council agreed to the request for a staff report.

13.4 Councillor Hetherington - Request to move Information Item #2 (Implementation for the Halifax Harbour Solutions Project) to the Regular Council Agenda

- An Information Report prepared for K. R. Meech, Chief Administrative Officer, regarding the above, was before Council for its information.

Council briefly discussed the information report, and Mr. Ken Meech, Chief Administrative Officer, advised Council that the RFP will not be going out by the end of April, as indicated in the report, as there is still some work to be done, and staff is still developing and defining the process for the shadow bid.

13.5 Legal Matter - Proposed Compensation - Pipeline Easements

- This matter was discussed during the In Camera Session held prior to the Regular Session and was now before Council for ratification.

MOVED by Councillors Schofield and Greenough that Halifax Regional Council approve the compensation package of \$299,497.00 offered by Maritimes and Northeast Pipeline outlined in the April 4, 2000 staff report for the necessary

easements and working room areas for construction of the Halifax lateral natural gas transmission pipeline, and authorize the Mayor and Municipal Clerk to execute easement options and temporary working room contracts with Maritimes and Northeast Pipeline Limited on behalf of the Halifax Regional Municipality. **MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

13.6 Legal Matter - Claim Settlement

- This matter was discussed during the In Camera Session held prior to the Regular Session and was now before Council for ratification.

MOVED by Councillors Stone and Walker that Halifax Regional Council approve the settlement of the legal action brought by the Plaintiff, Michael Fabre, in the total amount of \$15,000.00 all inclusive for non-pecuniary damages, pre-judgment interest, legal costs and disbursements. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

13.7 Personnel Matter - Deadman's Island Committee

- This matter was discussed during the In Camera Session held prior to the Regular Session and was now before Council for ratification.

MOVED by Councillors Blumenthal and Hetherington that a Committee be established to advise and assist the Halifax Regional Municipality in the development of Deadman's Island as an international, national, provincial and municipal historic site; further, that the following persons be appointed to serve on the Committee - Guy MacLean, Chair, Councillor Graham Read, David Flemming, Wayne Adams, Michelle Raymond, Derm Dunphy and Jack Hartnet. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

13.8 Personnel Matter - Downtown Parking Committee

- This matter was discussed during the In Camera Session held prior to the Regular Session and was now before Council for ratification.

MOVED by Councillors Greenough and Mitchell that a Committee be established to advise and assist the Halifax Regional Municipality develop a strategy and process for increased parking within the Central Business District; and, further that the following persons be appointed to serve on this Committee: Councillor Sue Uteck, Kate Carmichael, Michael Novac, Ben McCrea, Wayne Myers, Grant Morash and Fred Were. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

13.9 Personnel Matter - Natal Day Committee

- This matter was discussed during the In Camera Session held prior to the Regular Session and was now before Council for ratification.

MOVED by Councillors Greenough and Hetherington that Councillor Uteck be removed from the Natal Day Committee and that Councillor Schofield be the only Councillor representative on the Committee.

13.10 Cancellation of Regional Council Meeting - June 6, 2000

MOVED by Councillors Hetherington and Fougere that the June 6, 2000 Regional Council meeting be cancelled due to the FCM Conference which will be held that same week.

It was agreed that, if necessary, an additional meeting would be held on May 30, 2000.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

13.11 Councillor Hetherington - Proposed Amendment to the Assessment Act

- Correspondence from The Honourable Ray White, Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs, responding to the motion adopted by Regional Council on February 9, 1999, was circulated to Council.

Councillor Hetherington expressed concern with the proposed amendment to the Nova Scotia Assessment Act with respect to Assessment Department employees running in municipal elections, and put forth the following motion.

MOVED by Councillors Hetherington and Mitchell that Council direct the Municipal Solicitor to submit a request to be put on the agenda for the Law Amendments Committee meeting scheduled for Wednesday, April 19, 2000 at 4:45 p.m., in opposition of the proposed amendment to Section 5 of Bill 42 to amend the Assessment Act, which will prevent staff of the Assessment Department from running in municipal elections unless they take an unpaid leave of absence.
MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

13.12 Councillor Colwell - Twin Oaks Hospital, Musquodoboit Harbour

Councillor Colwell expressed concern with the serious cuts being faced by the Twin Oaks Hospital in Musquodoboit Harbour. The Councillor stated this is a community hospital and the community raises money every year to help improve the hospital. Councillor Colwell

stated the area is growing very rapidly and if this hospital is eliminated or has its services reduced, it will be very tragic for the community. The Councillor requested that staff look at the implications of downsizing of this hospital, noting there are rumours of out-patient services and beds being closed, which will result in layoffs. Councillor Colwell stressed the importance of maintaining this hospital, and requested that staff obtain, within two weeks time, detailed information regarding the situation.

Speaking in support of the request, Councillor Streach stated the hospital is located in District 1 and is very important to the well being of the community. The Councillor stated he has received a number of calls from concerned residents, and, although the matter does not fall within the mandate of the Municipality, he stated HRM needs to show some leadership in this matter.

MOVED by Councillors Colwell and Streach that the matter be referred to staff for a report. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

14. NOTICES OF MOTION

14.1 Councillor Adams - Amendments to By-Law T-108

TAKE NOTICE that at the next regular meeting of Halifax Regional Council to be held on **Tuesday, the 25th day of April 2000**, I propose to move First Reading of amendments to By-Law T-108, the Taxi and Limousine By-Law, the purpose of which are to make amendments to the Taxi Rate Schedule respecting:

- (a) rates for Station Wagons when specifically requested;
- (b) rates for luggage, parcels, and groceries; and
- (c) Special Rates Contracts

14.2 Councillor Colwell - Toll Free Number for Animal Control

TAKE NOTICE that at the regular meeting of the Halifax Regional Council to be held on **May 2, 2000**, I intend to introduce a motion to have a toll free telephone line installed by HRM for the purposes of Animal Control within all HRM to allow equal access to Animal Control Services for all residents at no cost to the individual resident.

15. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Councillors Stone and Fougere that the meeting adjourn at 8:45 p.m. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Vi Carmichael
Municipal Clerk