

# **HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY**

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## **HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL MINUTES February 8, 2000**

**PRESENT:**

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

**REGRETS:**

Councillors: Graham L. Downey  
Stephen D. Adams

**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.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Later in the meeting, Mayor Fitzgerald acknowledged the presence in the gallery of Councillor Vince Hall, Cape Breton Regional Municipality.

**2. PROCLAMATIONS**

**2.1 Braille Day in Canada**

Mayor Fitzgerald proclaimed February 9, 2000 to be Braille Day in Canada.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - January 18, 2000**

**MOVED by Councillors Hetherington and Blumenthal that the minutes of January 18, 2000 be approved, as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

With regards to the Council session of of February 1, 2000, Councillor Streach stated some of his comments with respect to the "No Scent Policy" motion regarding special interest groups may have insulted some residents. The Councillor apologized for those comments as it was not his intention to offend anyone, and requested that they not be recorded in the minutes of February 1, 2000.

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

The following items were added to the agenda:

- 13.1 Councillor Snow - High Cost of Home Heating Oil
- 13.2 Councillor Rankin:
- i) Hammonds Plains Road Improvements
  - ii) Infrastructure Programs
  - iii) Significant Price Increase on Diesel Fuel
- 13.3 Councillor Sarto - 611 Portland Street

13.4 Councillor Kelly - Fish Hatchery Pumping Station

13.5 Property Matter - 945 Tower Road, Tower Road School

13.6 Property Matter - Deadman's Island and Ravine

Mayor Fitzgerald requested that Item 11.5.5 Third Quarter 1999/2000 Financial Report be moved up on the agenda to precede Item 10.2 Petitions.

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

5. **BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - None**

6. **MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION - None**

7. **MOTIONS OF RESCISSION - None**

8. **CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS**

8.1 **Sign Encroachment - 1119 Bedford Highway (deferred Jan. 25)**

- A supplementary staff report prepared for Kulvinder Dhillon, Director, Public Works and Transportation, regarding the above, was before Council for consideration.

Councillor Kelly thanked staff for the supplementary report, stating that it provided responses to his questions regarding this matter.

**MOVED by Councillor Kelly and Deputy Mayor Cunningham that Council approve the application to replace an encroaching sign for Benjamin Moore by Design Paint & Paper at 1119 Bedford Highway. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

9. **PUBLIC HEARING**

9.1 **Street Closure SC20 - Parcel "B" - 263 Waverley Road**

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

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

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

**COUNCIL DECISION**

**MOVED by Councillors Greenough and Schofield that Council authorize the Mayor and Municipal Clerk to enter into an Agreement of Purchase and Sale whereby Parcel "B" (as shown on Attachment "1" of the staff report dated January 27, 2000), measuring approximately 1087 square feet, subject to verification by site survey, be conveyed to the Port Wallis Congregation of the United Church of Canada, for the sum of \$1.50 per square foot, plus all applicable taxes and adjustments on closing, on condition that all additional costs, including legal fees and survey costs, be borne by the congregation. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

At a later point in the meeting, Councillor Greenough served a Notice of Motion to approve Administrative Order SC-20, concerning the Closure of a Portion of Waverley Road, as shown on Attachment "1" as Parcel "B", in the staff report dated January 27, 2000 (see Page 19).

**10. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS**

**10.1 Correspondence**

**10.1.1 Mr. Herman Pye - Pesticide By-Law**

- Correspondence from Mr. Herman Pye, regarding the Pesticide By-Law, was before Council for its consideration.

**MOVED by Councillors Sarto and Blumenthal that the correspondence from Mr. Herman Pye, regarding the Pesticide By-Law, be received and filed.**

Councillor Mitchell noted that Mr. Pye would be out of town for three weeks, but would like an opportunity to address Council regarding this matter when it comes before Council. The Councillor requested that Council defer the upcoming staff report regarding the Pesticide By-Law for three weeks. Council agreed to the request.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**11.5.5 Third Quarter 1999/2000 Financial Report**

- An Information Report prepared for Dale MacLennan, Director, Financial Services, was before Council for its consideration.
- Copies of the presentation to Council regarding the Third Quarter Financial Report were circulated to Council.

Ms. Dale MacLennan, Director, Financial Services, with the assistance of Dawn MacKay, Manager of Accounting, presented the Third Quarter Financial Report to Regional Council, noting an operating surplus of \$3.65 million is now being projected.

In her presentation, Ms. MacLennan requested that Council consider the future format of these reports, and decide if Council would like to have a presentation accompany the report, or would it prefer just to have it come forward as an Information Report.

Ms. MacLennan noted a Third Quarter Economic Forecast will be coming forward to Council within two weeks. Ms. MacLennan stated that, in the future, these two reports will come together.

Following the presentation, Ms. MacLennan responded to questions of Councillors Kelly, Walker, Blumenthal, Schofield, Sarto, Merrigan, Greenough, Hetherington, Stone, and Colwell, making the following points:

- The 1998-99 deficit is now projected to be \$9.7 million.
- Y2K expenditures for fiscal year 1999-00 are projected to be \$2.7 million.
- Projections of property taxes to March 31 include all projected assessment appeals that are expected to be received.
- Following completion of discussions between the Library Board and staff, a report will come forward to Council with respect to the Library loan. The loan was related to the installation of a new computer system. Ms. MacLennan suggested further questions regarding this matter be deferred until the report comes forward to Council and members of the Library Board are present to respond to questions.
- The Province of Nova Scotia Department of Housing and Municipal Affairs requires that municipalities provide an allowance to offset any possible uncollectible property tax amounts on the Balance Sheet. The provision for a valuation allowance relates to the amount staff believes will be the increase in that amount on the Balance Sheet this year.
- The bulk of the Municipality's debt is debenture debt.
- Debt charges are also paid on behalf of other organizations, such as the Halifax Regional Water Commission, and the Province of Nova Scotia for some schools that used to be owned by the Municipality. These amounts will be recovered from those organizations, thus reducing the debt charges.
- With respect the calculation of the valuation allowance, HRM is able to use the most beneficial methodology available, which is much more experience based and places more emphasis on collections related to business occupancy tax.
- \$600,000 of the \$37 million is interest on short-term debt, the remainder is on long-term debt.
- The intent for including the Library loan in the report was to make Council aware that there are decisions pending that may have an impact on the surplus.

Ms. MacLennan agreed to provide additional information regarding the following:

- A breakdown of the \$380,304 over-expenditure in Emergency 911 Communication (as requested by Councillor Kelly).
- Whether or not all the bills for Solid Waste Services for the last quarter have been received (as requested by Councillor Walker).
- A full report on Y2K funding when all the costs have been tabulated (as requested by Councillor Schofield).
- The turnaround time for the Municipality to pay back taxes paid by homeowners who are successful in their assessment appeals (as requested by Councillor Sarto).
- The year-to-date amount of debt charges yet to be recovered (as requested by Councillor Merrigan).
- An updated version, as of the last quarter, of the breakdown of the debt (as requested by Councillor Colwell).

With respect to the format of the report, Councillor Kelly spoke in support of a presentation accompanying the report. The Councillor stated he would prefer to have the reports every two months rather than quarterly.

Deputy Mayor Cunningham and Councillors Sarto, Greenough, Hetherington, Harvey, and Stone spoke in support of the quarterly reporting format and a staff presentation.

Councillor Hetherington stated there will automatically be a tax increase if the rate remains the same as last year, due to the increased assessments. The Councillor suggested Council should look at reducing the tax rate by the same percentage as the average assessment increase.

With respect to the Library loan, Councillor Harvey questioned why this was included on the front page of the report currently before Council, when the appropriate people are not present to respond to questions. The Councillor stated this matter should be discussed by Council after receipt of a further staff report dealing only with this issue.

Councillor Stone also expressed concern with the way the Library loan matter has been presented in this report, and cautioned Council to wait until it receives all the information before making a decision on this matter.

Councillor Merrigan suggested that, in future reports, debt charges should be broken down to show what monies are owed to the Municipality. Ms. MacLennan stated that the next report will show gross costs and recoveries for the 12 month period.

Councillor Uteck quoted from a letter dated February 2, 2000 from the Halifax Chamber of Commerce to Council, regarding increased assessments and the effect on tax revenue.

With respect to any potential surplus, Councillor Sarto stated it should be returned to the taxpayers.

Mayor Fitzgerald thanked staff for the report.

**10.2 Petitions**

**10.2.1 Councillor Uteck - Traffic Lights at Connaught and Jubilee**

Councillor Uteck submitted an additional 75 names to the on-going petition, opposing the traffic lights at Connaught and Jubilee, bringing the total to 3,100.

**10.3 Presentations**

**10.3.1 Mr. Victor Carvalho & Mr. Edmundo Diniz - Portuguese Society of Nova Scotia - Historical Monuments in the City**

- Correspondence from Mr. Jack Leitao, President, Portuguese Society of Nova Scotia, dated January 26, 2000, regarding historical monuments, was before Council for its consideration.
- A document entitled "The European Discovery of America" by Samuel Eliot Morison from the Library of Edmund Diniz, New Bedford, MA, was circulated to Council for its information.

Councillor Harvey introduced Mr. Victor Carvalho and Mr. Edmundo Diniz, Portuguese Society of Nova Scotia.

Mr. Carvalho and Mr. Diniz made a presentation to Council regarding the history of the Portuguese in Nova Scotia in the early 1500s, with Council's consideration of the placement of a commemorative monument in the downtown Halifax waterfront area, from the Town of New Bedford, Massachusetts, at no cost to HRM,.

On behalf of the Halifax Regional Municipality, Mayor Fitzgerald presented Mr. Edmundo Diniz with a small token of appreciation to the Town of New Bedford, Massachusetts.

**MOVED by Councillors Hetherington and Blumenthal that Council refer the matter to staff to find a way to accommodate the request for the summer of 2000.**

Councillor Harvey noted there is a monument policy which will be coming to Council in the near future, and this request will be fit in well with that policy. The Councillor acknowledged the presence in the gallery of several members of the Portuguese Society of Nova Scotia, and expressed appreciation to them for a recent event that both he and Councillor Hetherington attended.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**10.3.2 Mr. Hugh Pullen, Peninsula South Community Association - Future Use and Ownership of the Tower Road School**

- Correspondence from Mr. Hugh Pullen, President, Peninsula South Community Association, dated January 20, 2000, regarding the future use and ownership of the Tower Road School, was before Council for its consideration.
- A copy of Mr. Pullen's presentation and a petition containing over 500 signatures from District 13 (Northwest Arm -South End) supporting the concept of a self-sustaining Community Centre.

Mr. Hugh Pullen, Peninsula South Community Association, made a presentation to Council with respect to the future use and ownership of the Tower Road School. A copy of his presentation was submitted for the record. Mr. Pullen also submitted a petition containing over 500 signatures from District 13 supporting the concept of a self-sustaining Community Centre.

Mr. Tom Rath, Director, Corporate Real Estate Services, responded to questions of Councillor Uteck. The Councillor requested a staff report with respect to any rentals of the Tower Road School that took place over the last two years.

## 11. REPORTS

### 11.1 MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

#### 11.1.1 Deputy Mayor Cunningham - Use of HRM Coat of Arms

Deputy Mayor Cunningham noted that 26 delegates from HRM will be travelling to Campeche, Mexico, at the end of February. The Deputy Mayor requested that Council grant permission for the use of the HRM Coat of Arms on materials for this mission.

**MOVED by Deputy Mayor Cunningham and Councillor Greenough that Council grant permission to allow the HRM Coat of Arms to be used on materials for the upcoming Campeche, Mexico, mission. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

As Councillor Colwell was not currently in the Chamber at this time, it was agreed to deal with Item 11.1.3 next on the agenda, and to deal with Item 11.1.2 upon the Councillor's return.

#### 11.1.2 Councillor Colwell

This item was addressed later in the meeting (see Page 14).

#### 11.1.3 Councillor Stone

##### i) Extension of Parkland Drive to Kearney Lake Road - HRM Property

Councillor Stone requested a staff report regarding the extension of Parkland Drive to Kearney Lake Road.

The Councillor stated he has been attempting over the last 3-4 months to investigate putting together a parcel of land to build this road extension, the purpose of which is to connect the Glenbourne Subdivision and Clayton Park West, and to build a new road between Kearney Lake Road and Lacewood. The Councillor stated this would spread out the traffic patterns in the area, which is becoming congested. Councillor Stone noted the various municipal departments (Real Estate, Planning Services, Engineering) need to come together to accomplish this extension. Therefore, Councillor Stone requested that a staff report be brought back to Council with respect to this issue. Council agreed to the request for a staff report.

**ii) Extension of Langbrae Drive in Clayton Park West - Owned by a Private Developer**

Councillor Stone requested a staff report regarding the extension of Langbrae Drive in Clayton Park West.

Councillor Stone stated Langbrae Drive is a roadway that extends from Parkland Drive to Dunbrack Street. However, in the middle, there is a parcel of woodland that is needed to connect Langbrae Drive. Councillor Stone stated there is a new Clayton Park West School on Langbrae Drive, and this connection is needed to provide students with a more direct access to the school. The land in question is owned by a private developer, and Councillor Stone requested that staff investigate to determine if the developer is prepared to build this roadway in the near future, as the school is scheduled to open in September 2000. If this is not possible, then Councillor Stone inquired if staff could initiate the building of this roadway, or some access through to connect to the school from Dunbrack Street, and bill the developer when it is done.

Council agreed to the request for a staff report.

**11.2 AD HOC COMMITTEE ON RURAL ISSUES AND DISTRICT 1 BOUNDARIES**

- A report from the Ad Hoc Committee on Rural Issues and District 1 Boundaries was before Council for its consideration.

Councillor Mitchell expressed thanks to staff and members of the Ad Hoc Committee on Rural Issues and District 1 Boundaries for its work on this report. Councillor Streach also thanked staff and the Committee, as well as former Councillor Bill Dooks and former Deputy Mayor Larry Uteck. Councillor Streach stated he was very pleased with the outcome and that he agrees wholeheartedly with the report.

**MOVED by Councillors Streach and Mitchell that:**

- 1. District 1 remain as established within the Halifax Regional Municipality.**
- 2. Rural issues be addressed through Community Council and/or the Program and Service Review Committee.**
- 3. That the Mayor, Chief Administrative Officer, and representatives from staff and Council meet with the Minister of Transportation to address service levels and conditions of streets and roads within HRM that are maintained by the Province. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**11.3 REGIONAL TAXI AND LIMOUSINE COMMITTEE**

**11.3.1 Taxi Rates (First Reading By-Law T-109 Respecting the Halifax Regional Municipality Taxi and Limousine By-Law)**

- A report from the Regional Taxi and Limousine Committee, regarding taxi rates, was before Council for its consideration.

**MOVED by Councillors Cooper (on behalf of Councillor Adams) and Rankin that Council give First Reading to By-Law T-109, attached as Schedule "A" to the Regional Taxi and Limousine Committee report dated February 1, 2000.**

Councillor Kelly requested that additional background information be provided at Second Reading, regarding how the Committee determined the figures in the Taxi Rate Schedule.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**11.4 REGIONAL HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**11.4.1 Heritage Case 00004 - Smith Street Fire**

- A report from the Regional Heritage Advisory Committee, regarding the above, was before Council for its consideration.

**MOVED by Councillors Harvey and Sarto that Regional Council approve the restoration of 5232, 5238, 5240, 5242, 5244-46, and 5250 Smith Street, as proposed in the staff report to the Heritage Advisory Committee dated February 2, 2000.**

Responding to a question of Councillor Blumenthal, it was noted that the property owners are responsible for the restoration costs.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

11.5 CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

**11.5.1 Tender 99-106, Mid-Life Refit, Halifax III**

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

**MOVED by Councillors Hetherington and Greenough that:**

- 1. Halifax Regional Council authorize the award of Tender 99-106 to Dartmouth Marine Slips at a cost of \$684,947.99 plus applicable taxes.**
- 2. Halifax Regional Council authorize the transfer of funds in the amount of \$7,981.35 from Account No. CRESPOOL, the Capital Reserve Pool to Account No. CVR 00461, Halifax III (Mid-Life Refit). MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**11.5.2 Parking Tickets During Storms**

- An Information Report prepared for David P. McKinnon, Chief of Police, dated February 1, 2000, regarding the above, was before Council.

Police Chief David McKinnon responded to further questions of Councillor Walker regarding parking tickets during storms.

Councillor Walker stated he would like to see an information package be put together by representatives from Corporate Communications, Traffic, Engineering, Regional Operations, and Police, as suggested in the February 1<sup>st</sup> Information Report, so the general public will be better informed as to what occurs during a snowstorm. It was agreed that such an information package will be brought to Council for review before being released to the public.

**11.5.3 Snow Clearing Around Fire Hydrants**

- An Information Report prepared for Carl D. Yates, General Manager, Halifax Regional Water Commission, regarding the above, was before Council.

Councillor Walker stated that he is still concerned with the time frame to clear all fire hydrants, The Councilor requested that the Halifax Regional Water Commission review its policy for snow clearing around fire hydrants, stating the time frame to clear all hydrants should be no longer than four days.

**11.5.4 Beaver Bank Sewer and Water - Future Phases**

- An Information Report prepared for Kulvinder Dhillon, Director, Transportation and Public Works, regarding the above, was before Council.

Councillor Merrigan expressed concerns with the sewer and water problems experienced by residents of Beaver Bank. In response, Mr. Kulvinder Dhillon, Director, Public Works and Transportation, stated a staff report will be coming forward to Council in the next week or two providing information regarding the charges for Phase III of the project. Mr. Dhillon stated an additional staff report can be forwarded to Council in three weeks, detailing the costs for additional phases of the project along the Beaver Bank Road.

Discussion followed regarding the possibility of an infrastructure program, and several Councillors raised projects that they would like to have considered if such a program does come forward from the Federal Government. Councillor Stone requested that staff examine providing sewer and water for the area of Prince's Lodge, Councillor Greenough asked that staff look at an area at the end of the Waverley Road for sewer service, and Councillor Snow noted that District 2 has very little sewer and water services.

#### **11.5.5 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 1999/2000 Financial Report**

This item was addressed earlier in the meeting (see Page 5).

#### **11.5.6 Project 00110: Lawrencetown Community and Regional Development Plan**

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

**MOVED by Councillors Colwell and Cooper that Regional Council approve the amendments to the Municipal Planning Strategy for Lawrencetown outlined in the attachments to the staff report dated February 2, 2000, in order to re-instate properties which were removed from the MPS in 1990 by then Minister of Municipal Affairs pursuant to a Public Participation program (Marine Drive Valley and Canal Community Council) as per Council's resolution of February 25, 1997. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

It was agreed to deal with Item 11.1.2 at this point in the meeting.

#### **11.1.2 Councillor Colwell**

##### **i) Green Bin Collection**

Councillor Colwell raised concerns regarding green bin collection and requested that staff examine the possibility of weekly pick-up during the summer months. It was noted that this matter had been previously addressed by Council before Councillor Colwell's election to Council, and a copy of the September 14, 1999 staff report was provided to the Councillor.

ii) Household Hazardous Waste

Councillor Colwell requested that Council direct staff to investigate the possibility of Enviro Depots throughout HRM accepting household hazardous waste. Councillor Rankin noted that the Department of the Environment is considering such an application for use of these depots, and suggested Council should write a letter to the Province urging them to give favourable consideration to this enhanced use of the depots. It was agreed to refer this suggestion to staff for a report for the next meeting of Council.

Councillor Hetherington also requested that staff examine the problem of waste being dumped along Baker Drive in Dartmouth. Councillor Sarto requested a staff report with respect to discussions with paint retailers regarding the disposal of residential paint, which was raised previously by Council.

12. MOTIONS

12.1 Councillor Cooper

**MOVED by Councillors Cooper and Walker that Council amend Administrative Order Number One or as appropriate to set the time of In Camera Sessions of Regional Council from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

Councillor Hetherington questioned the need for a specific start time of In Camera meetings, and suggested there should only be an end time of 4:30 p.m. Deputy Mayor Cunningham agreed, noting some In Camera meetings can be very short.

In response to these comments, the Mover and Secunder of the Motion agreed to amend it to read as follows:

**MOVED by Councillors Cooper and Walker that Council amend Administrative Order Number One to set the end time of In Camera Sessions of Regional Council at 4:30 p.m.**

Councillor Read stated that he would prefer to have a start time specified.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

13. ADDED ITEMS

13.1 Councillor Snow - High Cost of Home Heating Oil

Councillor Snow expressed concerns regarding the high cost of home heating oil, and suggested that a letter should be sent to the Premier regarding escalating home heating

costs. The Councillor stated this is a very serious situation and immediate assistance has to be set up, for not just residents on Social Assistance, but for other residents such as seniors, small apartment owners, etc. Councillor Snow stated that other problems can arise from the lack of home heating, such as illness and accidents. Therefore, the Councillor requested that a strong letter be sent to the Premier requesting immediate action in this matter.

Mayor Fitzgerald spoke in support of sending such a letter.

**MOVED by Councillors Snow and Mitchell that a letter be sent to the Premier of Nova Scotia requesting that immediate help be set up for all residents affected by the high cost of home heating oil.**

Councillor Mitchell spoke in support of the letter stating the proposed rebate should be offered to all affected residents.

Councillor Cooper suggested Council should ask the Province to return to regulated heating oil and gas prices, such as is the case in Prince Edward Island. It was noted that the current price of home heating oil in Nova Scotia is 52¢ per litre compared to 42¢ per litre in Prince Edward Island, noting the oil is produced in Dartmouth.

It was agreed that the motion should be amended to include Councillor Cooper's suggestion regarding price regulation. The amended motion now read as follows:

**MOVED by Councillors Snow and Mitchell that a letter be sent to the Premier of Nova Scotia requesting that immediate help be set up for all residents affected by the high cost of home heating oil, and that the Province consider returning to regulated home heating oil and gas prices, as is the case in Prince Edward Island.**

Councillor Colwell stated many families are barely making ends meet now, and this significant increase in home heating oil puts financial pressure on these families throughout the whole year. The Councillor stated the Province has only stated so far that they will assist people on Social Assistance, but there are other people in the economy, who are working and paying taxes, that are suffering from this additional expenditure, and Council needs to encourage the Province to do what it can to help them.

Councillor Stone spoke in support of price regulation, stating the time is right for the Province to re-examine its position on this.

Councillor Schofield noted Council had previously requested that a letter be sent to the Province requesting that it reintroduce regulation of gasoline. The Councillor requested that a copy of this letter be provided to him.

Councillor Read noted that the price of diesel oil has also increased dramatically, and the costs to produce same are considerably less than gasoline, yet the price is higher. With respect to home heating oil, the Councillor stated that there are considerable discrepancies in what people pay for home heating oil, noting some people belonging to various organizations receive discounts. Councillor Read questioned why the oil companies can provide discounts to some citizens and not other, and suggested this matter should also be addressed.

Councillor Harvey noted the Province is facing a \$1/2 million deficit, while the HRM is looking at a \$3-4 million surplus. The Councillor suggested if Council is really concerned about this matter, it should use the surplus to provide the Municipality's own rebate, as this is something it can control.

Closing the debate, Councillor Blumenthal stated that Halifax Homeowners receive an oil discount and membership to this group is open to all residents of HRM.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**13.2 Councillor Rankin:**

**i) Hammonds Plains Road Improvements**

Councillor Rankin requested a staff report in the context of the Capital Budget process for the provision of a storage lane for Kingswood to Kearney Lake to siphon off some of the traffic on this already stressed road.

**MOVED by Councillors Rankin and Uteck that this matter be referred to staff for a report. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**ii) Infrastructure Programs**

Councillor Rankin requested a staff report regarding a process for Councillors to submit potential infrastructure projects to be followed by discussion as to how these projects can be prioritized.

Council agreed to the request for a staff report.

**iii) Significant Price Increase on Diesel Fuel**

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Councillor Rankin declared a Conflict of Interest regarding this matter as he is an Irving Oil franchise owner.

Councillor Mitchell requested a staff report regarding the significant price increase of diesel fuel and the impact it has on the contractors who are hauling salt and collecting compost. Mayor Fitzgerald requested that the report also address private contractors who plow HRM roads. Councillor Mitchell noted this also affects Stock Transportation who provide school bus service for the Municipality.

Council agreed to the request for a staff report.

**13.3 Councillor Sarto - 611 Portland Street**

With the use of photos, Councillor Sarto illustrated the property at 611 Portland Street, which was constructed in 1950 and served well for the former County of Halifax, and was taken over in 1961 by the former City of Dartmouth, and is currently owned by HRM and used for salt storage. The Councillor noted that the building is boarded up and has deteriorated below the minimum safety by-laws, and is also becoming a target for graffiti.

Councillor Sarto reported that the residents living behind the property have complained about the unsightly building and suggested staff should look at the possibility of demolishing it. It was agreed that this matter be referred to staff for a report.

**13.4 Councillor Kelly - Fish Hatchery Pumping Station**

Councillor Kelly requested a staff report regarding the recent fire at the fish hatchery pumping station which caused \$350,00 - \$500,000 damage. The Councillor noted the station has been on temporary operation mode for two months and there are concerns with respect to odour problems. Councillor Kelly requested that the staff report detail when the station will be brought back to an automatic mode of operation and how the odour problem can be addressed.

Council agreed to the request for a staff report.

**13.5 Property Matter - 945 Tower Road, Tower Road School**

- 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 Council authorize the Mayor and Municipal Clerk to enter into an Agreement of Purchase and Sale with the Halifax Grammar School for the purchase of 945 Tower Road, Tower Road School, based on the key terms and conditions outlined in the January 31, 2000 staff report.**

Councillor Uteck spoke in support of the proposal.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**13.6 Property Matter - Deadman's Island and Ravine**

- 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 Read and Greenough that Council authorize the Mayor and Municipal Clerk to enter into an Agreement of Purchase and Sale with PCR Developments Limited for the acquisition of Lot 22, Pinehaven Drive (Deadman's Island) and Parcel 'A' (additional parkland) as indicated on the plan of subdivision, based on the terms and conditions set out in the February 8, 2000 staff report. **MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

In response to a question of Councillor Kelly, it was noted that the two In Camera reports regarding Items 13.5 and 13.6 are now public documents.

**14. NOTICES OF MOTION**

**14.1 Councillor Greenough - Closure of a portion of Waverley Road**

**TAKE NOTICE** that at the next regular Regional Council meeting, to be held on Tuesday, February 15, 2000, I propose to introduce for adoption by Council as a policy pursuant to Section 315 of the Municipal Government Act Administrative Order SC-20. The purpose of which is to effect closure of a portion of Waverley Road.

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOVED** by Councillors Blumenthal and Hetherington that the meeting adjourn at 9:00 p.m. **MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Vi Carmichael  
Municipal Clerk

