

HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
MINUTES  
JANUARY 9, 2001

PRESENT: Mayor Peter J. Kelly  
Deputy Mayor Jerry Blumenthal  
Councillors: Steve Streach  
Gary Hines  
Keith Colwell  
Ron Cooper  
Harry McInroy  
Brian Warshick  
Condo Sarto  
Bruce Hetherington  
Jim Smith  
John Cunningham  
Dawn Sloane  
Sue Uteck  
Russell Walker  
Diana Whalen  
Stephen Adams  
Robert Harvey  
Len Goucher  
Reg Rankin  
Gary Meade

ABSENT  
WITH REGRETS: Councillors: Sheila Fougere  
Linda Mosher  
Brad Johns

STAFF: Mr. Ken Meech, Chief Administrative Officer  
Mr. Wayne Anstey, Municipal Solicitor  
Ms. Vi Carmichael, Municipal Clerk  
Ms. Julia Horncastle, Assistant Municipal Clerk

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

1. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - December 5 & 12, 2000**

**MOVED by Deputy Mayor Blumenthal, seconded by Councillor Hetherington, that the minutes of December 5 & 12, 2000 be approved, as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

**MOVED by Councillor Hetherington, seconded by Deputy Mayor Blumenthal, that the Order of Business be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. **CANADA-NS INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM**

- A report, entitled Federal Infrastructure Program, prepared for Mr. K. R. Meech, Chief Administrative Officer, dated January 9, 2001, on the above noted, was before Council.

Mr. Bruce Fisher, Senior Financial Consultant, advised that for the first two years of the infrastructure program, HRM will be receiving \$8.5 million but, in order to leverage those funds, HRM will have to spend up to \$4.3 million. The Federal program has been divided into two priority levels, Priority A is water, sewer and solid waste projects and Priority B is transportation, culture, recreation, tourism and telecommunications. He advised staff created two priority lists as well as a list of non municipal projects which are for non-profit and other associations. He noted, under the guidelines, HRM would have to sign the application form for the non-profit projects even if no municipal money is being committed. He noted there are a number of Water Commission projects included on the Criteria A section.

Mr. Meech referenced projects that have been submitted to HRM by other organizations noting, before these projects could be considered, Council would have to indicate it is willing to endorse the projects. He stated that if these are submitted, and one of them is approved, the monies that would have been available for other municipal projects will be allocated to that project leaving less dollars for HRM projects.

**MOVED by Councillor Hines, seconded by Councillor Streach that Miller Lake Drive (\$175,000) and the Loop Project in Fall River Village be referred to staff for consideration under the water projects. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Councillor Hetherington referencing the non municipal projects noted they are not funded by

the municipality which places a burden on an organization to raise funds to meet the one-third capital expense. The Councillor stated HRM support of community groups means less of a burden on a community in the long run noting, if HRM endorses these projects there is no cost to HRM.

**MOVED by Councillor Hetherington, seconded by Councillor Goucher, that non-municipal projects be left on the list and recommended as good projects for the infrastructure program.**

Councillor Rankin cautioned Council noting, the priorities set by FCM are to clean up water and sewer systems and to address environmental concerns. The Councillor noted there are many municipal projects on the list that may be put at risk with this motion. He stated Council, first and foremost, should bring forward the HRM priorities.

Councillor Cunningham stated that Greenvale School improvements, the Downtown Dartmouth Corporation project and Alderney Landing would be to the benefit of HRM. The Councillor suggested the list be examined to determine whether some of the non municipal projects should be moved onto the HRM list.

In response to Councillor Warshick, Mr. Fisher confirmed there is an allocation of funds to the HRM region which can be drawn on from both municipality and the non profits with HRM having to sign off on the non profits. He noted that if those non profits should happen to get a portion of the money, there is less available to HRM.

Councillor Hetherington stated community organizations are part of HRM and they should be supported.

**MOTION DEFEATED.**

Councillor Goucher referenced the Bedford Youth Facility stating the \$50,000 should be taken out as it will be funded through the organization itself. It should not be included as a debt for the HRM share.

**MOVED by Councillor Goucher, seconded by Councillor Streach, that the Bedford Recreation Complex be referred to staff for consideration for a total cost of \$2 million at no cost of HRM. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Councillor Cooper advised Cole Harbour High School has indicated they would be considering making an application under Criteria B for communications in the establishment of a radio station for the eastern area of Dartmouth through the school. The Councillor placed the following motion.

**MOVED by Councillor Cooper, seconded by Councillor Warshick, that Cole Harbour High School project be referred to staff pending receipt of the application.**

Mayor Kelly noted the previous motion had indicated that HRM was not supporting any community groups; therefore, this motion could not be accepted.

Councillor Cooper noted that no order of priority has been placed on the water projects and, if the Harbour Solutions project is approved, it may tie up all the funds for the next five years. The Councillor stated he did not feel that the Harbour Clean Up should take precedence over people receiving clean drinking water.

Mr. Meech stated that, in his opinion, Harbour Solutions should continue to be shown as number one priority.

Councillor Cooper stated with the infrastructure funds being available the opportunity is now there to address some of the water concerns and, if the Harbour Clean up absorbs all these funds, other projects will not receive funding and problems will continue. He stated the water projects are not big projects but they involve health issues.

**MOVED by Councillor Cooper, seconded by Councillor McInroy, that the water projects be listed in order of priority with Halifax Harbour Solutions as #1, Little Salmon River as #2, Maplewood Water as #3, Beaver Bank Servicing as #4, with the rest of the projects ranking down from there.**

Councillor Walker stated the projects should not be mixed and water projects should be listed separately from 1-4, sewers from 1-12 and Criteria B be from 1-18.

Mr. Meech noted these lists have been put together with the knowledge that the \$4.6 million that the municipality has been receiving as capital grant money from the province has been eliminated.

Councillor Cooper stated that, if there are two lists, there should be an explanatory note stating there is no distinction between the lists and the items have no specific priority. The Councillor suggested this would enable all items to have the same opportunity to be chosen.

**MOTION DEFEATED.**

Councillor Hetherington stated that the two lists would go forward with two headings - Criteria A - sewer projects from 1-12 and water projects from 1-4. Projects under Criteria B would be listed as presented, from 1-18.

**MOVED by Councillor Hetherington, seconded by Councillor Smith that there would be two categories under Criteria A - Sewer Projects (Items 1-12) and Water Projects (Items 1-4) in the order of priority listed on the staff report dated January 9, 2001. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Councillor Hetherington stated a letter could accompany the submission indicating the projects have been broken into three categories with no project taking precedence over another.

Councillor McInroy noted that a portion of Shore Road in Eastern Passage is at risk of being washed out. The Councillor noted that portion of the road contains municipal infrastructure and it would cost approximately \$200,000 to preserve and protect the existing road and existing infrastructure.

**MOVED by Councillor McInroy, seconded by Councillor Smith, that the Shore Road project be referred to staff for consideration for an approximate cost of \$200,000. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**MOVED by Councillor Cunningham, seconded by Councillor Hetherington, that the Alderney Landing project and the Greenvale School development be referred to staff for consideration. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**MOVED by Councillor Colwell, seconded by Councillor Sloane that the North Preston Community Centre be moved to #1 on Criteria B list.**

Councillor Hetherington stated the Shearwater Connector opens up three thousand acres in the core that can be developed almost immediately as the lands are within the serviceable boundary for sewer and water. The Councillor urged Council not to change the priority listing.

Councillor Colwell stated North Preston is part of the urban core but they do not have any facilities in the area. The Councillor stated that if the development ability is there things such as the Shearwater Connector will come. The Councillor advised there is need in North Preston and he would not like to see a road put ahead of the needs of the people. The Councillor urged Council to support the North Preston requirement which will provide a facility to house a medical office as well as an RCMP community office.

Councillor Whalen noted this list is only a starting point and it goes to other levels of government who may change the listing.

In response to Councillor Smith, Mr. Kulvinder Dhillon, Director of Engineering and Transportation Services, advised that the listing was based on specific criteria such as what

was the benefit of these projects to HRM, what is the cost to HRM and what are the future costs to HRM. He stated there is a problem with traffic on Portland Street; therefore, the connector has to be looked at in the near future.

**MOTION DEFEATED.**

**MOVED by Councillor Hetherington, seconded by Councillor Smith, that projects under Criteria B (Items 1-18) be approved as listed in order of priority. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**4. PESTICIDE IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE - STEPHEN KING (ORAL)**

Mr. Stephen King, Manager - Senior Advisor, Parks and Natural Areas, updated Council on the Pesticide By-Law Implementation noting the following:

- there is a project management plan in place and the roll out is on target;
- some of the first ads will show the HRM logo but eventually they will fall under the overall environmental sustainable umbrella;
- this by-law impacts approximately 40% of the entire provincial population;
- there is a very comprehensive data system that interfaces all the geographic records with all the property id records, assessment accounts etc; which the GIS and IS staff have put that together;
- the property registry system is ready to go and the ad will be placed next week advising people they can begin registering their properties;
- the forms are available at all business centres throughout HRM;
- meetings are ongoing with industry, environment representatives and other stakeholders regarding training, education and roll out;
- there is a social marketing approach to this and staff is spreading the word on sustainable landscaping, sign up sheets, commitment sheets, as well as working with the garden clubs, etc;
- there is a overall corporate communications plan which includes a series of ads which will basically give people information that it is a phased-in approach and they can now register their properties;
- there will be brochures, fact sheets and promotional booths, etc set up at various locations;
- staff is working with a number of groups on partnerships and public workshops.;
- the budget is in the business plan process at the present time and a request has been forwarded to the province on cost shared funding;
- it does have an impact on a very large segment of the population and is something that was provincial jurisdiction prior to becoming municipal;
- the roll out is on target and part of the whole program is public awareness.

In response to Councillor Warshick, Mr. King advised the communications plan has been broken down into a series of newspaper ads, mailouts as well as the possibility of radio ads.

Councillor Warshick requested a copy of the advertising plan and budget be circulated to the members of Council.

**5. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOVED by Deputy Mayor Blumenthal, seconded by Councillor Sloane, that the meeting be adjourned at 3:50 p.m. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**Vi Carmichael  
Municipal Clerk**