

# HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

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## HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES JANUARY 23, 2001

PRESENT: Mayor Peter J. Kelly  
Deputy Mayor Jerry Blumenthal  
Councillors: Steve Streach  
Gary Hines  
Keith Colwell  
Ron Cooper (2:30 p.m.)  
Brian Warshick  
Condo Sarto  
Bruce Hetherington  
Jim Smith (2:00 p.m.)  
John Cunningham  
Dawn Sloane  
Sue Uteck (2:30 p.m.)  
Sheila Fougere  
Russell Walker  
Diana Whalen  
Linda Mosher  
Brad Johns  
Robert Harvey  
Len Goucher  
Reg Rankin  
Gary Meade

ABSENT  
WITH REGRETS: Councillors: Harry McInroy  
Stephen Adams

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 1:30 p.m.

**1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - January 9, 2001**

Councillor Rankin referenced page 4, paragraph 3 of the minutes and advised the organization referred to was FCM rather than UNSM.

**MOVED by Councillor Hetherington, seconded by Councillor Cunningham, that the minutes of January 9, 2001 be approved, as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

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

**3. PRESENTATION - WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION - MR. FRED WERE**

- A report entitled "Briefing Material" was circulated to Council
- A copy of the slide presentation was provided to the Clerk

Mr.

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Mr Thompstoe

- The Mission  
To serve as guardians of Greater Halifax Harbour and to develop properties, coordinate, plan, promote and act as the provincial agent to assist other Nova Scotian waterfronts.
  
- The Values
  - Guardian of the Waterfront;
  - Public accessibility;
  - Adherence to highest standards of quality;
  - Preservation of historic elements;
  - Appropriate balance of commercial, residential and public areas;
  - Respect for the environment;
  - Teamwork and cooperation among staff and volunteers;
  - Consultation and communications with stakeholders.
  
- Recent projects completed:
  - Cost sharing to expand deep water wharf and boardwalk at South Battery;
  - Cost sharing to build public access wharf/boardwalk at Historic Properties;
  - Final Draft Concept Plan for Halifax Waterfront District;
  - Tall Ships 2000 and Visiting Ships Program;
  - Dartmouth Townhouse Development on WDCL/HRM Lands;
  - Downtown Dartmouth Plan;
  - Dartmouth Cove Plan;
  - Events, including Buskers, Natal Day, Bedford Days, Winterfest;
  - Wayfinding signs for Dartmouth and Halifax;
  - Winter Halifax/Dartmouth Ferry Service;
  - Public washrooms Halifax Ferry Terminal.
  
- Joint projects under consideration:
  - Implementation of the Halifax Concept Plan;
  - Implementation of the Dartmouth Plan;
  - Public washrooms on Halifax Waterfront;
  - Foot bridge between Purdy's Wharf and Sheraton Hotel;
  - Public Marina in Bedford;
  - Preparation of plan for Phase II, Bedford;
  - Cooperation between HRM, WDCL and Port Authority;
  - Harbour Vision initiative to help plan Harbour area;
  - Future use of Coast Guard property.

Mr. Weir advised a Waterfront Plan Review was being undertaken. There have been initiatives taken on the Dartmouth side which include having the Corporation responsible for

the plan for the Dartmouth waterfront, ensuring it is implemented by one organization. The area on the Dartmouth side runs from Woodside to the base of the Macdonald Bridge. He advised there is a fifteen year implementation plan which requires investment by HRM of \$8 million in public land and facilities noting, the Corporation will establish a \$10 million sinking fund for infrastructure replacement.

In response to a question from Councillor Hetherington as to whether there was an actual drawing or time frame in place for the Dartmouth waterfront, Mr. Were advised there had been no plan for the Corporation to be responsible for the area from Woodside to the Macdonald Bridge other than to integrate and cooperate with those responsible. They were recently asked to be responsible for implementation.

On further question, Mr. Were advised it would be approximately six months before there was anything for Council to look at noting, they have not budgeted for any major consulting work.

In response to Councillor Sloane, Mr. Were advised the sinking fund is to enable future corporations to maintain the infrastructure along the waterfronts.

Councillor Goucher suggested planning and consultation be undertaken soon because of the infrastructure requirements.

Councillor Whalen stated it is important to keep parking as part of the plan.

In response to Councillor Sarto, Mr. Were advised the Corporation currently owns land in the Dartmouth Cove area as well as warehouses in the area of Secunda Marine and the Shipyard property on Canal Street, and there is an area in behind Admiralty Place and the new townhouse development.

Mayor Kelly thanked Mr. Thompson and Mr. Were for their presentation.

#### **4. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2001/2002 PROPOSED OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGETS**

- A copy of the slide presentation on the 2001/2002 Budget Preparation was circulated to Council.

Ms. Maria Medioli, Research Associate, Financial Services, advised the role of the Program and Service Review Committee will be to focus on new programs and/or changes to programs or services resulting from the proposed budget. The committee would provide feedback to directors prior to budget presentations at Council.

Ms. Dale McLennan, Director of Financial Services, addressed Council advising, the growth

percentage from the current year to the base that will be used for next fiscal year is an increase of 5.6% which represents approximately \$694 million in increased assessment value. The total percentage growth in commercial is \$14.3 million. The average residential assessment has increased by 3.3% and inflation is estimated at 2.0%; therefore, general tax rates would be lowered by 1.3%. She advised that the base budget assumed the same level of service as last year with this year's costs.

Mr. Bob Barss, Deputy Police Chief, Chair, Peer Review Committee, advised a criteria process was developed which used certain measures to look at external as well as internal service providers. They looked at Council priorities, public benefit, legislative requirements of the service provisions and impacts on quality of life, health and safety of the employee as well as public. Corporate priorities were identified by EMT and the ability to recover costs was also examined. He advised they were able to balance the budget, to adhere to the revenue strategies, to approve the recommendation to Council of \$8 million in new initiatives reflected in the business plans of all the business units and to find \$11 million in efficiencies and changes to move forward for recommendation to Council for the coming fiscal year. He advised there will be an election, heritage and events reserve in the upcoming budget with \$6 million being identified in fiscal reductions.

Mr. McLellan, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, advised Council is looking at a debt funding of \$29 million noting, it is hoped that the Municipality will receive infrastructure monies in the amount of \$6, 615,000. The total amount of funding for the capital program is \$42,265,000. He advised some of the outstanding issues are solid waste cells, transit buses, roads and sidewalks, recreation, district capital funds, the police building and schools. The proposed operating budget is \$490 million, capital budget is \$44 million, resulting in a tax rate cut of 1.3%.

Mayor Kelly thanked staff for the presentation on this first step.

In response to Deputy Mayor Blumenthal, Mr. Bruce Fisher advised the total expenditures for 2000 was \$462 million.

Deputy Mayor Blumenthal suggested, in future, construction contracts be let in the fall or winter because there are always delays in construction due to the fact that contracts are not let until after the budget is approved.

In response to Councillor Rankin regarding the mandatory education rate, Ms. MacLennan advised staff has tried to mirror the same type of revenue assumption HRM has held for itself which is, the revenue growth will not exceed what can be rationalized by inflation and, in the case of HRM, real growth.

Councillor Rankin suggested Council strongly encourage the Province not to burden the

Municipality any more than what the percentage was last year with the sharing of the total expenditure last year reflecting the \$80 million contribution. Further, they would hold the line on the total funding and, in addition, it would be no worse than or no greater than the number of assessment accounts and HRM's ability to manage that function.

**MOVED by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Deputy Mayor Blumenthal, that:**

**Whereas, previous governments committed to an Education Funding Formula of 90% Provincial and 10% Municipal;**

**Be it therefore resolved, that the Municipal Education Funding for fiscal 2001-2002 be calculated on the basis of that formula (90% Provincial, 10% Municipal).**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED. (14 in favour, 7 against, Councillor Fougere was absent during the vote)**

**5. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOVED by Deputy Mayor Blumenthal, seconded by Councillor Meade, that the meeting be adjourned at 3:45 p.m. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Vi Carmichael  
Municipal Clerk**