

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES MARCH 6, 2001

PRESENT:

Mayor Peter J. Kelly
Deputy Mayor Jerry Blumenthal
Councillors: Steve Streach
Gary Hines
Keith Colwell
Ron Cooper
Harry McInroy
Brian Warshick
Jim Smith
John Cunningham
Dawn Sloane
Sue Uteck
Sheila Fougere
Russell Walker
Diana Whalen
Linda Mosher
Brad Johns
Robert Harvey
Len Goucher
Reg Rankin

REGRETS:

Councillors: Condo Sarto
Bruce Hetherington
Stephen D. Adams
Gary Meade

STAFF:

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	CONTINUATION OF 2001/2002 OPERATING BUDGET DELIBERATIONS	
1.1	Finance	03
1.2	Fiscal	03
1.3	General Government	04
1.4	Halifax Regional Library	05
1.5	Human Resources	06
1.6	Information Services	06
1.7	Metro Transit	06
1.8	Parks & Recreation	06
1.9	Waste Resources	04
2.	ADJOURNMENT	06

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

1. CONTINUATION OF 2001/2002 OPERATING BUDGET DELIBERATIONS

1.1 Finance

Ms. Dale MacLennan, Director of Finance, advised \$50,000 is included for Field Service Representatives. She noted there a one time temporary FSR support for the transition period to desk top ordering. She advised there is a very large insurance and risk management activity within HRM and there is a proposed ongoing modification that would require consulting funds and an additional staff person. The preauthorized payment system is in place but requires some support to ensure that it is maintained and appropriately supported. She noted that the investment income and the preauthorized payment revenues are in fiscal services. She advised \$15,520 is budgeted for the installation of additional parking meters which is offset in fiscal services.

1.2 Fiscal Services

Mr. George McLellan, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, advised mandatory education cost is \$1.4 million over last years budget. He advised \$3.9 million is being paid as interest on reserves as per the multi year financial strategy and \$2.4 million operating surplus has been brought across in anticipation of results from this current fiscal year. He noted there is \$100,000 additional for non profit tax exemption under grants.

Councillor Walker requested a copy of the amount in each of the reserves to the end of March 2001.

Ms. MacLennan, advised that the current proposed budget does not include any recommendation for any increased funding for the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia. She noted there was a \$50,000 request for five years.

MOVED by Councillor Warshick, seconded by Councillor Sloane that \$50,000 for the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia be placed in the "Parking Lot" for consideration for this year.

Without a vote being taken on the motion, the following motion was placed.

MOVED by Councillor Harvey, seconded by Councillor Whalen, that the allocation of \$50,000 for this year for the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia be referred to the Grants Committee. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

1.3 General Government

Mr. Ken Meech, Chief Administrative Officer, advised there is an allocation of \$20,000 for the implementation of the employee survey. There is also \$10,000 allocated to develop a visual identity program for HRM. There is \$30,000 in the budget for the community development initiatives. He advised the amounts to the Greater Halifax Partnership and the Regional Development Agency have been reinstated back to what they were in 1996.

Councillor Walker requested information on the breakdown of the amounts for projects related to North Preston, North Dartmouth and other community development projects.

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Deputy Mayor Blumenthal, that \$200,000 listed under item E121, page 98, for the Greater Halifax Partnership, be placed in the “Parking Lot”. MOTION DEFEATED.

In response to Councillor Colwell, Mayor Kelly advised he would invite the RDA to speak at a future Council session.

Councillor Colwell referenced page 98 and requested information be provided on the increase in the CAO and Mayor’s Support budgets.

MOVED by Councillor Colwell, seconded by Councillor Warshick, that \$13,000 be placed in the “Parking Lot” for the Councillor’s Support Budget. MOTION DEFEATED.

Referencing Fiscal Services, Councillor Uteck placed the following motion:

MOVED by Councillor Uteck, seconded by Councillor Fougere, that consideration be given to removing completely from the Fiscal Services Budget item M361, page 87, Councillors Discretionary in the amount of \$69,000. MOTION DEFEATED.

1.9 Waste Resources

Mr. Ken Meech, Chief Administrative Officer, advised the key focus is to enhance the diversion of waste. He advised \$350,000 was added to the expenditures to offset potential increases in the natural growth in the waste system for the coming year. There is a payment back to the sale of land account. There is an increase in the tipping fees from \$110 to \$115 dollars which will increase the revenues by \$380,000. There is a composting fee increase proposed which would increase the revenues by approximately \$129,000.

Councillor Walker requested a breakdown on the costs for the compost plants.

MOVED by Councillor Warshick, seconded by Councillor Sloane, that \$1.1 million be placed in the “Parking Lot” for summer collection of green bins.

Without a vote being taken on the motion, the following motion was placed.

MOVED by Councillor Harvey, seconded by Councillor Rankin, that the issue of summer collection be referred to the Solid Waste Advisory Committee for a response by Thursday, March 8, 2001. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Councillor Uteck requested that it be noted that there was no projected increase in growth in HRM reflected in the solid waste contract.

Councillor Uteck expressed concern that there is not enough door to door education for those areas of the Municipality which have a high turn around in residency.

Councillor Walker queried why the green cart service had increased to \$43,000.

Councillor Sloane requested a staff report on the cost of providing for two amnesty days, one in the spring and one in the fall.

Councillor Rankin requested a staff report on what the remaining capacity of the front end processor is.

Councillor Whalen requested a breakdown of professional fees and contract fees for each plant.

Councillor Uteck requested a report on as to how the money was disbursed as compensation for the Sackville Landfill area.

1.4 Halifax Regional Library

Mr. Dan English, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, advised the total net budget has increased by approximately \$1.3 million which includes two new libraries. There are additional funds for the Tantallon Library. There is an additional \$100,000 for collections and staff at the Keshen Goodman Library and \$100,000 for collections overall.

MOVED by Councillor Uteck, seconded by Councillor Sloane, that \$70,000 be placed in the “Parking Lot” for a needs assessment for the Spring Garden Road Library. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

In response to Councillor Smith, Ms. Hare advised she would provide information on locations

where libraries are in community centres and what the arrangements are.

MOVED by Councillor Johns, seconded by Councillor Cooper, that \$500,000 be placed in the "Parking Lot" for upgrading of the library computer systems. MOTION DEFEATED.

1.5 Human Resources

This item was carried over to March 7, 2001.

1.6 Information Services

This item was carried over to March 7, 2001.

1.7 Metro Transit

This item was carried over to March 7, 2001.

1.8 Parks & Recreation

This item was carried over to March 7, 2001.

1.9 Waste Resources

This item was discussed earlier in the meeting. (See page 4)

2. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Goucher, that the meeting be adjourned at 4:30 p.m. and the Regular Regional Council Session start at 4:30 p.m. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Julia Horncastle
Assistant Municipal Clerk

