

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES MAY 1, 2001

PRESENT:

Mayor Peter Kelly
Deputy Mayor Gerry Blumenthal
Councillors: Gary Hines
Ron Cooper
Harry McInroy
Brian Warshick
Condo Sarto
Bruce Hetherington
Jim Smith
John Cunningham
Dawn Sloane
Sue Uteck
Russell Walker
Diana Whalen
Robert P. Harvey
Len Goucher
Reg Rankin
Gary G. Meade

ABSENT:

Councillors: Steve Streach
Keith Colwell (Regrets)
Sheila Fougere (Regrets)
Linda Mosher
Steve Adams (Regrets)
Brad Johns

STAFF:

Mr. Ken Meech, Chief Administrative Officer
Mr. Wayne Anstey, Municipal Solicitor
Ms. Vi Carmichael, Municipal Clerk
Ms. Sherryll Murphy, Assistant Municipal Clerk

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - MARCH 26, MARCH 27 AND APRIL 10,2001	3
2.	APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS	3
3.	COMMUNITY INTEGRATION FUND	3
4.	ADJOURNMENT	7

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m.

1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - MARCH 26, MARCH 27 AND APRIL 10, 2001

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Hetherington that the minutes of March 26, 27 and April 10, 2001, be approved as distributed.

Councillor Warshick referring to Page 5 of the March 26th minutes noted that Council has not yet received the report regarding the delay in the widening of Main Street by Lake Loon. He further noted a staff report has not been received regarding criteria for streets that should have decreased speed limits as requested by Councillor Uteck at the March 27th meeting.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

The agenda, as distributed, was approved.

3. COMMUNITY INTEGRATION FUND

- A report entitled Community Integration Fund was before the Committee of the Whole Council for consideration.

Mr. Meech addressed the Committee of the Whole indicating that Mr. Lloyd would be reviewing the Principles to Guide Use of the Fund with Council. He went on to note that although the whole concept has been around for some time, Council has not finalized the guidelines as they relate to the allocation of the funds. Mr. Meech indicated that the intent was that the fund would provide resources to help blend the treatment plants into the neighbourhood. Mr. Meech noted that staff were seeking Council's adoption of these guidelines.

Mr. Maurice Lloyd, Project Manager, Harbour Solutions Project noted that the draft environmental screening document for the Harbour Solutions Project that HRM is required to prepare as part of the environmental impact assessment was complete. He went on to note that this document has been submitted on an informal basis to the Federal Departments and that after comments have been received the document will be finalized, come before Council and be formally submitted to the Federal government. Mr. Lloyd indicated that a copy would be available to Councillors in their office.

In response to a question from Mayor Kelly, Mr. Lloyd indicated that the document was public and that mention has been made on the web site that anyone wishing to view the document

may do so at the Harbour Solutions Project offices.

Referring to the document entitled Community Integration Fund, Mr. Lloyd briefly reviewed the background to the Harbour Clean-up providing a history of attempts made to do so. He went on to note that perhaps the most difficult aspect of the harbour clean up is the siting of sewage treatment plants. Mr. Lloyd reviewed with Council some of the past unsuccessful attempts to site sewage treatment plants illustrating the 'Not in My Backyard' (NIMBY) syndrome which develops.

Mr. Lloyd went on to advise that the Harbour Solutions Stakeholders Committee has recommended the site conform to WINBY (Want it in My Neighbourhood's Backyard) approach. He went on to advise that this approach originated in Portland, Oregon and was adopted to assist in a successful siting of a sewage treatment plant. Mr. Lloyd indicated that in April of 1998 Council had adopted elements of the WINBY approach, directed the identification of sites, provided for a public information process, approved further consulting work, directed the issue of a Request for Expressions of Interest and initiated an appropriate procurement process.

Mr. Lloyd went on to briefly review the three main elements of the WINBY approach as follows:

1. Identify a number of optional sites
2. Assure the community that sewage treatment plants can be developed and operated without undesirable odor, noise and other negative characteristics
3. Provide the community an opportunity to bring forward proposals developed to support community needs such as parks, transportation improvements and other neighbourhood amenities.

Mr. Lloyd indicated that #3 addressed the real or perceived belief that siting a sewage treatment plant in a neighbourhood harms the urban fabric of that community and impacts on property values. Proposals of this nature are seen to strengthen the urban fabric of a neighbourhood.

Mr. Lloyd went on to briefly outline the steps taken since the 1998 motion of Council including the identification of sites, the establishment of Community Liaison Committees, action taken to reassure neighbourhoods that a sewage treatment plant would not result in odors and traffic, and the implementation of the integration approach — the topic for today. Mr. Lloyd advised that the Community Liaison Committee has been asked to identify specific things they would like to bring forward to Council — things that would strengthen the urban fabric of the community. Mr. Lloyd indicated that this would not involve any specific individual or private organization, but would be projects that benefit the broad community. Mr. Lloyd indicated that a sum of \$8 million has been identified as the Community Integration Fund.

Mr. Lloyd noted that Council had also considered in 1998 whether Community Integration Fund monies allocated to Herring Cove could be brought forward rather than wait for the construction of the plant 8 years down the road. Mr. Lloyd noted that the amount allocated to Herring Cove was greater than that allocated for the other areas due to the lack of infrastructure in Herring Cove. Mr. Lloyd noted that Council has approved this in principal.

Mr. Lloyd further explained that since 1998, the Herring Cove Ratepayers Association has completed a study which focuses on the need for water and sewer in the community. Mr. Lloyd indicated that this report has been submitted to Council.

Mr. Lloyd noted that the Harbour Solutions Project has been operating within the framework of the Council resolutions and trying to achieve acceptance of the treatment plant location within the involved communities. Mr. Lloyd then reviewed the General Principles to guide use of the Community Integration Fund (CIF) as found in Schedule A.

In conclusion, Mr. Lloyd requested that Council formally adopt the approach that the Harbour Solutions Project has been following to date.

Councillor Rankin referred to the Herring Cove Road situation and noted that funding from the CIF was predicated on the plant being located in Herring Cove Road. Councillor Rankin went on to suggest that there was an implication here that funding is conditional upon the requested funding from the Provincial and Federal governments being received. He noted that there should be an opportunity to recover costs and if the plant is not sited in Herring Cove, that opportunity would be lost.

Mr. Lloyd indicated that the Council had adopted the proposal in principle, but he did not believe that it was conditional.

Councillor Rankin suggested that 'in principle' indicates that there were some reservations and that one of those was contingent upon all the monies being in place. He further indicated that Council would not be considering a Community Integration Fund if there was no plant in Herring Cove.

Councillor Hetherington indicated that he agreed with Councillor Rankin that the \$5 million allocated to Herring Cove is part of the Community Integration Fund of the Harbour Solutions Project . Should the project not receive full funding, the project will not move forward and the Fund will not exist. He noted that any monies provided to Herring Cove for water and sewer would then be in the form of a grant.

Councillor Hetherington went on to congratulate the Community Liaison Committees for their work. He went on to indicate that he believed the process to be the right one and that the monies received through the Community Integration Fund should not be used for projects

outside the hosting community. In conclusion, Councillor Hetherington indicated that he would support adoption of these general principles.

Mr. Lloyd then responded to question from Councillor Cooper regarding the split of the Community Integration Fund and the reasoning behind the amount of funding to Herring Cove Road.

Councillor Cooper expressed concern that money generated by all taxpayers was being used to benefit one community. He went on to suggest that this was another case of a project benefitting one community, while other communities had to pay the full cost of services.

Note was made that one of the reasons for the proposed funding of water and sewer in Herring Cove was the need for water to run the plant.

Councillor Sloane referred to the proposed site near the homeless shelter and indicated she did not feel it an appropriate location. She went on to ask the status of the DND location.

Mr. Lloyd, in response, indicated that negotiations were ongoing and that he would report to Council regarding the specifics.

Councillor Uteck addressed the matter indicating that she believed Council had agreed that the Harbour Solutions Project would go forward with or without funding from other levels of government.

After a further debate and questioning of staff Mr. Meech clarified that the Community Integration Fund referred to today has been developed specifically for the Harbour Solutions Project.

MOVED by Councillor Mosher, seconded by Councillor Hetherington that Council adopt the General Principles - Use of the Community Integration Fund, as shown on schedule "A" attached to the report entitled Community Integration Fund.

Mr. Lloyd noted that Council would have an opportunity to review proposed projects when the Community Liaison Committees submit their recommendations.

Noting that he wanted to avoid the Integration Fund to be viewed as compensation, it was **MOVED by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor McInroy that the motion be amended to limit the Integration Fund to the site and the immediately adjacent areas of the site.**

A brief debate ensued and the **MOTION TO AMEND WAS PUT AND DEFEATED.**

The vote on the original motion was taken. **MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Mr. Lloyd introduced Mr. and Mrs. Bill Nicholson members of the Dartmouth Community Liaison Committee seated in the gallery. His Worship, on behalf of Council, thanked Mr. and Mrs. Nicholson on a job well done. Council recognized Mr. and Mrs. Nicholson with a round of applause.

4. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Vi Carmichael
Municipal Clerk