

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES OCTOBER 2, 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
Sheila Fougere
Russell Walker
Diana Whalen
Linda Mosher
Robert Harvey
Len Goucher
Reg Rankin
Gary Meade

REGRETS: Councillors: Stephen Adams
Brad Johns

STAFF: Mr. George McLellan, Acting Chief Administrative Officer
Mr. Wayne Anstey, Municipal Solicitor
Ms. Vi Carmichael, Municipal Clerk
Ms. Julia Horncastle, Assistant Municipal Clerk

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1. **CALL TO ORDER**

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

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

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

3. **HARBOUR SOLUTIONS UPDATE**

Mr. Maurice Lloyd, Project Manager, Harbour Solutions Project, advised the evaluation is proceeding well and is on schedule and the recommendation from the Selection Committee is expected to come to Council by the end of October. The Environmental Impact Assessment has been completed except for one minor item in terms of the potential phasing of the project.

He advised staff is meeting with DND on Wednesday regarding the DND/HRM site. Referencing the site on the corner of Cornwallis and Barrington, Mr. Lloyd advised the tenant has filed an appeal with the courts and a decision will be forthcoming. The appraisal has been completed on the Coast Guard site and negotiations are ongoing. He advised staff has approached the Province with respect to the Provincial Government land that is required.

Referencing the Herring Cove site, he advised the two proponents have different locations and they have implications in terms of their impact on 360 Networks. He suggested a proponent be selected following which staff would meet with the proponent and 360 Networks and determine a location that would have minimum impact on 360 Networks.

4. **SUPPLEMENTARY EDUCATION FUNDING - HALIFAX REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD**

- A report prepared for Ms. Dale MacLennan, Director of Financial Services, dated August 23, 2001, on the above noted, was before Council
- A response to the report from the Halifax Regional School Board, dated October 2, 2001, was circulated to Council.

Ms. Sandra Everett, Chair, Mr. David Reid, Superintendent, and Mr. Richard Morris, Director of Financial Operations, Halifax Regional School Board were present to respond to questions and concerns.

Mr. Bruce Fisher, Budget Coordinator, outlined the staff report regarding the transfer of supplementary education funds in the amount of \$4.3 million in 1999/2000 and \$635,000 in 2000/2001 to the general funds as well as the possibility of HRM administering the supplementary funds budget.

Councillor Uteck noted there is an issue of equity with regards to disabled students in communities and suggested the School Board request the Province provide one accessible school in Halifax under this current Capital Budget.

Councillor Colwell stated he would like to have detailed information on where monies are being spent including positions that are created at schools for special education. The Councillor stated he wanted a breakdown of all expenditures from supplementary funding in the former Halifax County area since the funding was put in place. An example would be that if a special education teacher was hired the cost to hire the teacher would be provided as well as advising what school the teacher was in. He stated he wanted to see all purchases identified so that all figures balance out.

Councillor Warshick stated he had been informed that an amount of \$500,000 had been earmarked to do work at Prince Andrew High School and requested information identifying where that money had been spent.

In response to concerns of equity by Councillor Warshick, Mr. David Reid, Superintendent, advised the limiting factor at this time is the Municipal Government Act which prevents the School Board from doing that. Mr. Reid noted equity does not mean equal amounts of money rather, it means providing the resources that are necessary to give someone equal opportunity to learn.

Councillor Rankin referenced special needs funding and noted that many of the programs are part of the per student allocation in the funding formula and questioned whether there was recognition in the funding formula addressing the disproportionate number of students. In response, Mr. Morris advised there is no recognition in the funding formulas for the higher proportionate number of students with special needs in the Halifax Regional School Board.

Councillor Cooper noted the Board has a policy of making programs available in a family of schools but not necessarily at all schools and questioned how the School Board ensures equity of access to all students if you are putting programs only in several buildings. In response, Ms. Everett noted where there are programs required to be offered by the Board, but not necessarily in every school, they would try as far as possible to locate them in each family of schools so the children do have access to them. The Councillor requested a report be provided on the cost of the general programs throughout HRM.

In response to Councillor Sloane as to whether the money that was taken from the

Supplementary Funds and put into the General Fund will be paid back, Mr. Reid advised the suggestion that the money has been taken from someone is wrong and to pay it back would be equally as wrong. He advised the \$4.3 million will not be paid back as it was spent for the students for whom it was intended.

Councillor Smith requested information on the amount of supplementary funding that was supplied to Harbour View and Northbook Schools last year as compared to this year.

Ms. Everett advised they would provide a report by the end of October in answer to questions and concerns and the School Board budget would be provided to HRM by the end of February.

MOVED by Councillor Uteck, seconded by Councillor Hetherington that Halifax Regional Council request the Minister of Education attend a Committee of the Whole Council Session. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mayor Kelly thanked the members of the School Board for their presentation.

5. GREATER HALIFAX PARTNERSHIP & HALIFAX REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY QUARTERLY REPORTS

- A copy of the First Quarter Report 2001-2002 of the Halifax Regional Development Agency, was circulated to Council
- A copy of the Greater Halifax Partnership Quarterly Progress Report to the Halifax Regional Municipality for the period April 1 to August 31, 2001, was circulated to Council.

Mr. Stephen Dempsey, Acting President and CEO, Greater Halifax Partnership, with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation outlined the following:

- the Partnership's Internal Review;
- the Service Agreement;
- the Current Environment - where they are economically, where the opportunities and challenges are;
- they have completed and investor relations strategy that deals with creating a long term relationships with their investors;
- they are moving to a full complement of staff;
- they have adopted a team based approach for internal operations.

Ms. Becky Mason, Acting General Manager, Halifax Regional Development Agency, outlined

the following:

- Mission Statement
- HRDA Goals - 2001-06 Strategic Plan
- HRDA Board of Directors
- Geographic Mandate
- 2001 Business Plan
- Performance Measurement Process
- Quarterly Report
- Evaluation Process

Mayor Kelly thanked Mr. Dempsey and Ms. Mason for their presentations.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Vi Carmichael
Municipal Clerk