

# HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

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## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL 2002/2003 OPERATING AND CAPITAL FEBRUARY 20, 2002 MINUTES

**PRESENT:** His Worship Mayor Peter Kelly  
Deputy Mayor Robert Harvey  
Councillors: Steve Streach  
Gary Hines  
Keith Colwell  
Ron Cooper  
Harry McInroy  
Brian Warshick  
Condo Sarto  
Jim Smith  
John Cunningham  
Jerry Blumenthal  
Dawn Sloane  
Sheila Fougere  
Russell Walker  
Diana Whalen  
Linda Mosher  
Stephen D. Adams  
Brad Johns  
Len Goucher  
Gary Meade

**ABSENT:** Councillors: Bruce Hetherington (Regrets)  
Sue Uteck  
Reg Rankin

**STAFF:** George McLellan, CAO  
Dale MacLellan, Director, Financial Services  
Bruce Fisher, Budget Coordinator  
Sherryll Murphy, Assistant Municipal Clerk

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## 1. OVERVIEW

- A 2002/2003 Operating and Capital Budget Committee of the Whole Council schedule with attached presentations was before Council for consideration.

Mr. McLellan provided a brief overview of the guidelines for the 2002/2003 Operating and Capital Budget. Mr. McLellan touched upon the following key points:

- Mult-Year Financial Strategy  
< Double Entry Principal

Mr. McLellan indicated that, as Council was aware, the multi year financial strategy called for a double entry principal. If Council accepts the position put forth by staff reduce the tax rate slightly, then new items will have to be funded by deleting existing items. In terms of the capital expenditure, the double entry program applies.

- Regional vs District

Mr. McLellan indicated there was very little detail provided regarding District expenditures. He noted that staff has based expenditures upon priorities.

- Parking Lot

Parking Lot items will be maintained. In order to include parking lot items in this year's budget, capacity must be realized either through deletion of items or an increase in the tax rate.

- Contact Staff

If Council has questions which are more complex than these discussions allow, please contact staff.

Councillor Mosher asked if any of the 2001/2002 parking lot items had been undertaken.

The Chair requested that Council indicate whether they were in favor of the proposed schedule.

A discussion ensued with Councillor Walker requesting that the Parking Lot list, including the dollars, be kept up to date on a meeting by meeting basis.

A brief discussion ensued with regard to the budget survey undertaken by staff. Mr. Fisher indicated that staff has one more Community Council at which to make a budget

presentation and following that an update on the results can be provided to Council. In response to a request from Councillor Warshick regarding the results of the CRA survey, Mr. Fisher indicated that the results would be re-circulated to Council.

Deputy Mayor Harvey assumes the Chair.

In response to a request from Councillor Cooper, Ms. MacLellan indicated that the Councillors Request List would be re-circulated to members of Council with an indication of the status of the item in the proposed budget (i.e. in what year the item is budgeted). Ms. MacLellan noted that as was the case with staff request, Councillor requests were moved to the back as the 2002/2003 budget was finalized.

A brief discussion regarding the status of 2001/2002 parking lot items ensued with Ms. MacLellan indicating that staff would bring forward a listing of parking lot items for the 2001/2002 budget year with an indication of those that were approved for implementation.

In response to a question from Councillor Sarto regarding unfinished capital projects from previous budgets, Ms. MacLellan indicated that a detailed capital management report was provided to management on a routine basis. She indicated that this report would be provided to Council for tomorrow's meeting.

**MOVED by Councillor Warshick, seconded by Councillor Smith that the schedule as distributed be approved with Council reviewing the schedule on a meeting by meeting basis depending on the outcome of each meeting. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

## **2. FIRE SERVICES**

Chief Mike Eddy gave a brief overview of the 2002/2003 Fire Services budget as contained in the schedule/presentation package distributed to Council. Chief Eddy then responded to various questions from members of Council.

His Worship resumes the Chair.

Councillor Johns expressed concern regarding the reduction in funding for the Beaverbank Fire Station and requested that staff bring back a report as to how to increase the \$1 million presently budgeted to the \$1.5 million originally requested. An additional \$500,000 was added to the Parking Lot in this regard.

## **3. POLICE SERVICES**

Chief Dave MacKinnon gave a brief overview of the Police Services budget for

2002/2003 as contained in the schedule/presentation package distributed to Council.

Chief MacKinnon responded to various questions from members of Council.

**MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Whalen that \$100,000 be added to the Parking Lot to cover the cost of Criminal Record checks. MOTION PUT AND DEFEATED.**

Councillor Cunningham, noting that residents have noted that the procedure of visiting homes when problems are reported has changed, and requested that a report be provided outlining the categorization of police calls.

A further discussion ensued with staff being requested to provide a report outlining the policy in place for block funding of capital from operating.

#### **4. 911 SERVICES**

Mr. Mike Mahar gave a brief overview of the 911 Services budget for 2002/2003 as contained in the schedule/presentation package distributed to Council.

Mr. Mahar responded to various questions from Council regarding the 2002/2003 budget and the 911 Service in general.

#### **5. RCMP**

Superintendent Stan Ferguson gave a brief overview of the RCMP budget for 2002/2003 as contained in the schedule/presentation package distributed to Council.

Superintendent Ferguson responded to various questions from Council regarding the 2002/2003 budget and services provided by the RCMP.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Sherryl Murphy  
Assistant Municipal Clerk