

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES February 26, 2002

PRESENT:

Mayor Peter J. Kelly (1:55 p.m.)
Deputy Mayor Robert P. Harvey
Councillors: Stephen Streach (1:30 p.m.)
Gary Hines
Keith Colwell
Ron Cooper
Harry McInroy (2:00 p.m.)
Brian Warshick (1:50 p.m.)
Bruce Hetherington
John Cunningham
Jerry Blumenthal
Dawn Sloane (2:40 p.m.)
Sue Uteck
Sheila Fougere
Russell Walker
Diana Whalen
Linda Mosher (1:40 p.m.)
Stephen D. Adams (1:45 p.m.)
Brad Johns
Len Goucher
Reg Rankin
Gary Meade

REGRETS:

Councillors: Condo Sarto
Jim Smith

STAFF MEMBERS:

Mr. George McLellan, Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. Patti Halliday, Assistant Municipal Clerk

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Deputy Mayor Harvey called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

**1. 2002/2003 OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGET DELIBERATIONS
(CONTINUATION):**

Planning and Development Services

Mr. Paul Dunphy, Director, Planning and Development Services, made a brief presentation to the Committee regarding the 2002/2003 Operating and Capital Budget for Planning and Development Services.

Mr. Dunphy and Mr. George McLellan, Chief Administrative Officer, responded to questions of Council and the following actions resulted:

- C Councillor Meade stated Canada Post will be working on civic numbering next month, and he inquired if approval of the civic numbering system project could be approved this evening at Council to allow Canada Post to work with HRM staff in the St. Margaret's Bay area. Mr. McLellan stated, in order to do this, staff would have to draft a report for Council's consideration. It was agreed that Mr. Dunphy would contact Ms. Geri Kaiser, Director, Shared Services, regarding this issue.
- C Councillor Cooper expressed concern with staff allocation to the Regional Planning exercise, and the effect it has on Planning and Development Services, and suggested more consideration be given to providing some temporary assistance to this department.

Deputy Mayor Harvey thanked Mr. Dunphy for his presentation.

Tourism, Culture, and Heritage Services

Mr. Lew Rogers, Director, Tourism, Culture and Heritage, made a brief presentation to the Committee regarding the 2002/2003 Operating and Capital Budget for Tourism, Culture and Heritage.

Mr. Rogers responded to questions of Council and the following actions resulted:

- C Councillor Walker inquired about grants and tax concessions and asked if the \$118,000 is coming from the hotel tax. Mr. Rogers agreed to get back to the Councillor with a response.
- C Councillor Cunningham requested that consideration be given to supporting a request from the Halifax Diamond Man for funding of its quadrathon. It was agreed that the \$5,000 request be referred to the Grant Committee.

- C Councillor Whalen requested that consideration be given to concentrating funds allocated to the Capital District more on the waterfront area of HRM, both Dartmouth and Halifax. Mr. Rogers stated staff could come back with a report examining this issue.
- C On the other hand, Councillor Mosher requested that staff look at expanding the area of the Capital District to include areas such as Dutch Village Road, the Hydrostone, Herring Cove Road, etc. The Councillor stated she does not see a clear delineation of the geographic area when Quinpool Road is added. Ms. Macomber agreed that staff could report back on this.

(Mayor Kelly took his place at the meeting at 1:55 p.m. and assumed the Chair.)

Library Services

Ms. Judith Hare, CEO, Public Library Administration, made a brief presentation to the Committee regarding the 2002/2003 Operating and Capital Budget for Library Services.

Ms. Hare responded to questions of Council and the following actions resulted:

- C Councillor Streach inquired about the possibility of obtaining a recently declared surplus school building in Musquodoboit Valley for a permanent library for the community. Ms. Hare agreed to provide a staff report regarding this issue. The Councillor asked that the report investigate the possibilities, the need and the cost benefits.
- C Responding to a question of Councillor Streach regarding HRM and Library Services sharing administrative functions to save money, Mr. McLellan stated it is the intention of staff to report back on this matter sometime in the near future. Councillor Streach requested a staff report to further explore the amalgamation of the two.
- C Councillor Warshick requested that the following be included in the action summary for future consideration: that the Library and its Board seriously consider possibly expansion into District 6 and that the potential site of Mary Lawson School be considered as a possible location.
- C Responding to a question of Councillor Cunningham, Ms. Hare stated the Library would like to discuss the quality of the collection with EMT, and suggested they may want to factor into the budget a percentage for inflation on an annual basis for the collection. She stated this can be looked at over the course of the year.

Mayor Kelly thanked Ms. Hare for her comments.

Solid Waste Services

Mr. Brian Smith, Director, Solid Waste Resources, made a brief presentation to the Committee regarding the 2002/2003 Operating and Capital Budget for Solid Waste Services.

Mr. Smith responded to questions of Council and the following actions resulted:

- C **MOVED by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Warshick, that when any upcoming tender for solid waste collection goes forward, that it be part of the proposal call to identify the cost of weekly collection of the green carts as a separate component in the tender. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.** It was noted that the Solid Waste Resource Advisory Committee has also made this recommendation.

- C With regard to household hazardous waste, Councillor Rankin suggested that staff consider a term longer than three years for the contract (possibly five years with an option for renewal for an additional one year). With regard to bonds, the Councillor suggested that 10 percent would reduce the cost to HRM on overall administrative charges and would allow for more competition. He asked that staff take this into consideration. Regarding mobile depots, Councillor Rankin requested that there be at least seven, the majority of which being located in the rural areas.

- C Councillor McInroy inquired if a later start up time in the morning for the solid waste vehicles could be considered. Mr. Smith stated staff can look at this in the review of the collection contracts.

- C In response to a question of Councillor Walker, Mr. Smith agreed that a further breakdown of Professional Fees and Contract fees (Page 372) could be provided.

- C Mr. Smith stated a breakdown of the three accounts (Otter Lake WSF, Otter Lake RDF and Otter Lake FEP) can be provided.

- C Responding to a question of Councillor Johns, Mr. Smith stated the estimated revenue from the tipping fees for food banks can be brought back in a staff report. Mr. McLellan noted staff will be coming back to Council to look at this issue.

- C In response to a question of Councillor Colwell, Mr. Smith advised that staff can look at the complaint call policy again as part of the tender process.

- C Councillor Colwell inquired about the 43 percent increase in Overtime - Salaries and Wages, and Mr. Smith agreed to provide a report on this.

- C Responding to a question of Councillor Colwell, Mr. Smith stated staff can look at providing the same level of blue bag pick up service to all of HRM as part of the tender process.
- C Councillor Warshick encouraged staff to see if there are any new technological advances that could be implemented in the green cart program.
- C Councillor Warshick suggested that, in the future, notes could be included in the budget documents that show the connection between specific expenses and revenues that balance each other out.
- C Councillor Cooper inquired if there has been any investigation of savings or use of DND's large hazardous waste depot in the area. Staff agreed to look at this.
- C Councillor Whalen suggested that better descriptions be provided for line items in the future.

Community Projects

Mr. Allan Waye, General Manager, Community Projects, made a brief presentation to the Committee regarding the 2002/2003 Operating and Capital Budget for Community Projects.

Mr. Waye responded to questions of Council, and the following actions resulted:

- C Councillor Walker requested a further breakdown of collapsed revenue accounts.
- C **MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Walker, that a staff report be provided with respect to moving an unspecified amount of money to the parking lot for Animal Control. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**
- C Councillor Warshick inquired how many people are registered for the Pesticide By-Law. Staff agreed to get back to the Councillor with this information.
- C Councillor Cooper requested that any subsequent reports requested during the budget deliberations be circulated to all members of Council.
- C Councillor Whalen requested that the cost for By-Law Enforcement be separated out. Staff agreed to come back with this information.

General Government

Mr. George McLellan, Chief Administrative Officer, made a brief presentation to the Committee regarding the 2002/2003 Operating and Capital Budget for General Government.

There were no questions.

Other

- C Mr. McLellan suggested that staff could provide footnotes in the final budget document for lease terms outstanding so it can be seen it has a fixed component.
- C Mr. Dan English, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, advised Council that a sheet regarding the Metro Centre was inadvertently left out of the supplementary documents but it can be circulated to Council.

Fiscal Services

Ms. Dale MacLennan, Director, Financial Services, made a brief presentation to the Committee regarding Fiscal Services.

Ms. MacLennan and Mr. Fisher responded to questions of Council, and the following actions resulted:

- C Mr. Fisher agreed to check to see what other items are included in Contract Fees, in response to a question of Councillor Walker.
- C Mr. Fisher agreed to bring back information regarding what is included in Other Goods and Services.
- C Mr. Fisher noted the amalgamation costs will probably be wiped out in 2007-08, but agreed to check into this for confirmation.
- C Councillor Uteck noted a possible journal error in Supplementary Funding. Mr. Fisher stated it is probably a manual error and the final book will have the correct figure.

It was agreed that the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 5, 2002 at 1:00 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Patti Halliday
Assistant Municipal Clerk