

# HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

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## HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES March 18, 2003

### PRESENT:

Mayor Peter J. Kelly  
Deputy Mayor Harry McInroy  
Councillors: Steve Streach  
Gary Hines  
Keith Colwell (10:45 a.m.)  
Ron Cooper  
Brian Warshick  
Condo Sarto  
Bruce Hetherington  
Jim Smith  
John Cunningham  
Jerry Blumenthal  
Dawn Sloane (10:40 a.m.)  
Sue Uteck  
Sheila Fougere  
Russell Walker  
Diana Whalen  
Stephen Adams  
Brad Johns  
Robert Harvey  
Len Goucher  
Reg Rankin

### ABSENT WITH REGRETS:

Councillors: Linda Mosher  
Gary Meade

### STAFF:

Mr. George McLellan, Chief Administrative Officer  
Ms. Julia Horncastle, Legislative Assistant

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1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. **2003/2004 OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGET DELIBERATIONS**

2.1 **School Board**

Mr. Richard Morris, Executive Director of Finance, Halifax Regional School Board, and Ms. Valerie McLeod, Staffing Supervisor provided an overview of the business plan and budget proposal advising they were presenting a status quo budget.

Councillors received clarification on varying aspects of the proposed budget.

Councillor Blumenthal requested that the number of students and successes in the grade 10 program be provided by the School Board.

**MOVED by Councillor Uteck, seconded by Councillor Rankin, that the amount provided for Supplementary Funding be the same as the amount provided in 2002/2003.**

Mr. Bruce Fisher advised that the amounts as per Councillor Uteck's motion would be Halifax \$12,295,000, Dartmouth \$5,239,200 and Halifax County/Bedford \$3,312,000.

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

**MOVED by Councillor Cunningham, seconded by Councillor Blumenthal that the consideration of Supplementary Funding be deferred until after the budget process is complete. MOTION DEFEATED.**

**MAIN MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

2.2 **Fiscal Services**

Mr. Bruce Fisher, Manager, Financial Planning, presented and overview of the proposed budget. Mr. Fisher advised the debt will decrease by \$7.5 million. He advised the principle and interest charges are up \$1.2 million, noting the principle and interest charges as a percentage of the budget has declined to 9.6%. The capital from operating is up \$6.6 million.

Councillor Walker noted under item M284, Supplementary Funding, Education, Halifax, on

page 192, there has been an overpayment of \$205,000 and recommended these monies should not be part of general revenue but credited in some way back to the residents of the former city of Halifax as it was collected in the former city.

Councillor Whalen referenced the Organizational Development Fund and requested a breakdown of costs.

**MOVED by Councillor Whalen, seconded by Councillor Walker, that line item M312, Organizational Development Fund, in the amount of \$1,280,00 be placed in the parking lot. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

### **Infrastructure List**

Mr. Bruce Fisher, Manager, Financial Planning, outlined the projects on the list and requested the list be reordered such that "Other Green Projects" becomes priority #1 because there is a requirement under the federal program that 60% of the funds go towards green projects. He advised the remaining four projects were on the previous Infrastructure list.

Mr. Fisher noted the projects listed under "Other Green Projects" are: Herring Cove Sewer, Herring Cove Water, North Preston Sewage Treatment Plant, Princess Lodge Sewer, Princess Lodge Water, Maplewood Water Service Phase II, Wastewater Treatment Upgrade Aerotech Park, Anderson Street Sewage Pump Station Upgrade, Morris Lake Sewage Pump Station Upgrade, Bayers Lake Sewage Pump Station and Forcemain Upgrade, Sackville Sanitary Trunk Sewer Upgrade, and Roaches Pond Sewage Forcemain Upgrade.

**MOVED by Councillor Hetherington, seconded by Councillor Walker, that Council approve the Infrastructure list with item #5 being moved to #1 and #1 becoming #2 etc.**

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

**MOVED by Councillor Whalen, seconded by Councillor Walker, that any funds not allocated to the Herring Cove Sewer and Water project be used for the Princess Lodge Sewer and Water.**

Following discussion and, without a vote being taken on either the motion or amendment, the following motion was placed.

**MOVED by Councillor Colwell, seconded by Councillor Blumenthal, that the item be deferred pending clarification on what impact approval of these items will have on the North Preston Sewage Treatment Plant. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

3. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Julia Horncastle  
Legislative Assistant