

# HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

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## HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES March 19, 2003

### **PRESENT:**

Mayor Peter Kelly  
Deputy Mayor Harry McInroy (11:40 a.m.)  
Councillors: Steve Streach (10:20 a.m.)  
Gary Hines  
Keith Colwell  
Ron Cooper  
Brian Warshick  
Condo Sarto  
Bruce Hetherington (Regrets - 11:40 a.m.)  
Jim Smith  
John Cunningham  
Jerry Blumenthal  
Dawn Sloane  
Sue Uteck  
Sheila Fougere  
Russell Walker  
Diana Whalen  
Stephen D. Adams  
Brad Johns  
Robert P. Harvey  
Len Goucher  
Reg Rankin

### **ABSENT**

### **WITH REGRETS:**

Councillors: Linda Mosher  
Gary Meade

### **STAFF:**

Mr. George McLellan, Chief Administrative Officer  
Ms. Sherryll Murphy, Legislative Assistant

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1. **CALL TO ORDER**

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

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

- An Action Summary, 2003-2004 Budget Discussions as of March 18, 2003 was distributed to Council.

His Worship noted that motions to approve the infrastructure list, as follows, had been deferred pending clarification on how the North Preston Sewer and Water project would be impacted.

***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 confirmation from Council, the Mayor requested that staff come forward to address the deferral.

Mr. Al Brady, Manager, Wastewater Treatment, requested that Councillor Colwell re-state his question.

Councillor Colwell sought clarification that the motion on the floor will have no effect on the North Preston Sewage Treatment system project. Councillor Colwell indicated that he was concerned because affluent which is not tertiary treated is being released into a lake. Councillor Colwell noted that he believed some problems had arisen with regard to this project and asked that staff explain those.

Mr. Brady advised that the North Preston Sewage Treatment Plant System is actually being delayed due to some legal and expropriation problems and, consequently, the project can be re-positioned in the Infrastructure Grant Program.

The Mayor indicated that Council was now considering the proposed amendment, as follows:

**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 project.**

A brief discussion ensued and the **MOTION TO AMEND WAS PUT AND PASSED.**

Staff responded to a number of questions regarding the Infrastructure List.

His Worship called for the question on the amended motion, as follows:

**MOVED by Councillor Hetherington, seconded by Councillor Walker that Council approve the Proposed Infrastructure Projects for Remaining Funds found on page B24 of the document entitled Budget 2003-2004, Halifax Regional Municipality Service Plans with the exception that #5 become #1 and the remaining items be re-numbered accordingly, and further that any funding not allocated to the Herring Cove Project be used for the Princess Lodge sewer and water project. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

The Chief Administrative Officer referred to a package of information regarding Fiscal Service Account #M312 distributed to Council today and provided a brief explanation as set out in the Background section of the cover document.

### **Real Property and Asset Management Services**

Mr. Mike Labrecque, Director, Real Property and Asset Management Services, presented the 2003/2004 Operating and Capital Budgets for Real Property and Asset Management.

**MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Warshick that \$100,000 be placed in the parking lot for washrooms on the Halifax Commons. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Mr. Labrecque and his staff then responded to a number questions regarding the budget.

The meeting recessed at 11:50 with it being agreed that discussion of the Real Property and Asset Management Services 2003/2004 Operating and Capital budget would continue after lunch.

The meeting reconvened at 1:20 p.m. with the following members of Council being present: Mayor Peter Kelly, Deputy Mayor McInroy, and Councillors: Streach, Hines, Colwell, Warshick, Sarto, Hetherington, Smith, Cunningham, Sloane, Uteck, Fougere, Walker, Whalen, Adams, Johns, Harvey, Goucher, and Rankin.

The review of the Real Property and Asset Management 2003/2004 Capital and Operating Budgets resumed with members of Council questioning staff on various aspects of the proposed budget.

During the discussion the following requests were made:

- Councillor Sloane requested that staff investigate the possibility of ensuring that the benches at the Public Gardens are accessible
- Councillor Sloane requested that staff investigate whether, given that the Public Gardens are a National Historic Site, there are Federal monies available with respect to improvements at the Gardens

**MOVED by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Sloane that \$90,000 be placed in the parking lot to provide for an increase of two staff to be utilized in planting trees.**

A discussion ensued with regard to this matter with note being made of a number community led initiatives to plant trees.

**The Mover of the motion, with the agreement of the seconder, withdrew his motion.**

- Councillor Whalen requested a breakdown of what is included in the \$701,600 allocated to Overtime on page 405, Real Property & Asset Management, Summary by General Ledger Object

**MOVED Councillor Cunningham, seconded by Councillor Warshick that \$125,000 be placed in the parking lot to complete the foot bridge to move forward the completion of the Dartmouth Multi-Use Trail.**

After a discussion the **MOTION WAS PUT AND PASSED.**

Following a further questioning of staff, His Worship thanked staff for their presentation.

At this point the meeting recessed for a 10 minute break.

The meeting reconvened at 3:10 p.m.

### **Public Works and Transportation Services**

Mr. Rick Paynter, Director, Public Works and Transportation Services, presented the 2003/2004 Operating and Capital Budgets for Public Works and Transportation Services. Mr. Paynter and his staff then responded to questions from members of Council.

During the discussion the following requests were made:

- Councillor McInroy requested a status report regarding Capital Budget requests put forward by Councillors.
- Councillor Streach requested a report relative to providing a commuter type service to the Eastern and Western extremities of HRM.
- Councillor Cunningham referred to problems with flooding on Prince Albert Road and asked what, if any, plans were in place to rectify this problem.
- Councillor Cunningham requested a status report regarding the Lyle Street Storm Sewer project.
- Councillor Sarto requested that monies allocated to Steve Cross Drive be transferred to Guysborough Avenue. Mr. Paynter indicated that he believed staff could accommodate this request.
- Councillor Sloane expressed concern that flooding occurred every year on Wright Avenue as a result of sewer drains not being cleared. In response, staff confirmed that a database of problem flooding areas was maintained and that a structured program of street cleaning was in place. Staff will follow up with Councillor Sloane with regard to the Wright Avenue problem.
- Councillor Sloane advised that some of the smaller streets in her District have not been cleaned for a number of years. Staff is to follow up with the Councillor on this matter.
- Councillor Sloane noted that the budget allocated money for sidewalk renewal on West Street in an area with very little pedestrian traffic. Staff noted that they would review this matter with the Councillor.
- Councillor Hetherington confirmed with staff that the technology is available in Dartmouth to allow that traffic lights flash amber after 11:00 p.m. He noted in particular the lights on Alderney Drive at the library. Staff noted they would look into this concern.
- Councillor Colwell requested that staff look into the possibility of instituting an area rate to provide a minimum service level on Private Roads. Minimum service level would include grading once or twice a year and snow removal. The Municipality would carry out the work (perhaps through a contractor).
- Councillor Cooper requested an update on the status of projects within the Pavement Management System
- Referring to the remainder of the recommendations contained in the Main Street widening report, Councillor Cooper noted that of particular priority to the residents of the area is installation of a left turning arrow on Main at Montague Road.
- Councillor Smith noted that the budget included the installation of a signalized crosswalk at Victoria Road and Highfield Park Drive. He went on to express concern that there were no sidewalks at this location. Staff indicated that they would look into the matter and report back to the Councillor.

- Councillor Rankin noted that Hammonds Plains Road is fairly stressed and indicated that he was concerned that no monies had been allocated in the years ahead to alleviate that stress. Staff indicated that they would give consideration to the Councillor's concern.

His Worship thanked Mr. Paynter for his presentation.

**3. ADJOURNMENT**

As it was now 4:00 p.m., the meeting adjourned. Discussion relative to the budget will continue on March 20, 2003.

Sherryl Murphy  
Legislative Assistant