

## HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

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### HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES

December 4, 2007

**PRESENT:** Mayor Peter Kelly  
Deputy Mayor Stephen D. Adams  
Councillors: David Hendsbee  
Harry McInroy  
Gloria McCluskey  
Andrew Younger  
Bill Karsten  
Jim Smith  
Mary Wile  
Dawn Sloane  
Sue Uteck  
Sheila Fougere  
Russell Walker  
Debbie Hum  
Linda Mosher  
Robert P. Harvey  
Gary G. Meade

**REGRETS:** Councillors: Steve Streach  
Krista Snow  
Patrick Murphy  
Brad Johns  
Gary Martin  
Reg Rankin

**STAFF:** Mr. Wayne Anstey, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer  
Ms. Mary Ellen Donovan, Municipal Solicitor  
Ms. Julia Horncastle, Acting Municipal Clerk  
Ms. Shawnee Gregory, Legislative Assistant

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 3:11 p.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**MOVED by Councillor Karsten, seconded by Councillor Wile that the minutes of November 13 & 20, 2007 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**3. HRM COMMUNITY ENERGY PLAN**

**(i) Regional Plan Advisory Committee Report**

C A copy of the PowerPoint presentation was before the Committee of the Whole.

C An Information Report dated November 22, 2007 was before the Committee of the Whole.

C A Staff Report dated November 21, 2007 was before the Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Fred Morley, Chair of the Regional Planning Advisory Committee, stated that the presentation would be on the Committee's recommendations regarding the HRM Community Energy Plan.

Councillor Hendsbee and Councillor Hum entered the meeting at 3:15 p.m.

Mr. Stephen King, Environmental Performance Manager, provided the presentation on the HRM Community Energy Plan. Highlights of his presentation were as follows:

C The project has involved hundreds of individuals and groups;

C The presentation and report are available on CD which was the most sustainable method of distribution;

C Three key issues of the plan are:

C Cost

C Emissions - which continue to rise

C Energy Security - fuel supplies are declining

C The Community Energy Plan focusses on buildings, transportation and infrastructure as well as the demonstration of local government leadership.

Mr. King turned the technical aspect of the presentation over to David Lea, Senior Energy Engineer with CBCL. Highlights of his presentation were as follows:

- C The amount of diesel use on the chart is not necessarily a bad thing because the transit fleet has increased in size;
- C Corporate electricity use has remained flat;
- C The higher end of the damage cost spectrum pollution costs can be higher than the direct energy costs;
- C There are many existing sustainability programs that can help; it is just a matter of making the community aware of how to use them;
- C There is a growing movement regarding the desire to consume local food (within one hundred miles) whenever possible. This will increase local opportunity and decrease transportation costs and pollution.

Councillor Younger entered the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

A discussion ensued with the presenters responding to questions. The following comments were noted:

- C Council was informed that the new Farmer's Market criteria will be evaluated and at that time staff will be able to make a recommendation;
- C Concern was raised over making all HRM business units aware of the Energy Plan so that they can all work together to achieve the plan's goals;
- C Staff is hoping to have some information and recommendations for Council regarding wind turbine farms in February or March of 2008. There was one round of public consultation for rural areas last spring and now the urban areas are being researched;
- C HRM Traffic and Right Way Services is currently working with Nova Scotia Power to complete an inventory of street light location and wattage. They have also been working with Cathie O'Toole, Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management, to do a cost sharing in order to convert municipal traffic signals to LED lights;
- C The point was raised that, with regards to local food production, there may be land available in urban and suburban areas in addition to rural locations;
- C There was an interest in fast tracking applications for energy efficient and environmentally sustainable buildings as an incentive to developers.

Councillor Mosher entered the meeting at 3:50 p.m.

**MOVED BY Councillor Uteck, seconded by Councillor Fougere that Council approve the recommendation to endorse, in principle, the Community Energy Functional Plan, which is consistent with the policies and intent of the regional plan and further the goals and policy directives of the regional plan. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

#### **4. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:12 p.m.

Julia Horncastle  
Acting Municipal Clerk