

HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL
MINUTES

March 19, 2013

PRESENT:

Mayor Mike Savage
Deputy Mayor Reg Rankin
Councillors: Barry Dalrymple
David Hendsbee
Bill Karsten
Lorelei Nicoll
Gloria McCluskey
Darren Fisher
Waye Mason
Jennifer Watts
Linda Mosher
Russell Walker
Stephen Adams
Matt Whitman
Steve Craig
Tim Outhit

REGRETS:

Councillor Brad Johns

STAFF:

Mr. Richard Butts, Chief Administrative Officer
Mr. Martin Ward, Municipal Solicitor
Ms. Cathy Mellett, Municipal Clerk
Ms. Sherryl Murphy, Deputy Clerk
Mr. Quentin Hill, Legislative Assistant

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1. INVOCATION

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. with the Invocation being led by Councillor Craig.

2. SPECIAL COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Councillors noted a number of community announcements and acknowledgements.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 12, 2013 Committee of the Whole, February 19 & 26 & March 5, 2013 Regional Council.

Councillor Watts advised that page 19 of the February 19, 2013 Regional Council minutes should include comments made by Council, regarding concern about impact on fundraising opportunities for low income residents and community organizations regarding changing the bottle deposit model.

MOVED by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Fisher that the minutes of February 12, 2013 Committee of the Whole, February 19 & 26 & March 5, 2013 Regional Council be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

Council agreed to defer item 12.1 to the March 26, 2013 Regional Council meeting.

MOVED by Councillor Craig, seconded by Councillor Whitman that the agenda be approved, as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES – NONE

6. MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION – NONE

7. MOTIONS OF RESCISSION – NONE

8. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

9. PUBLIC HEARINGS

9.1 Proposed By-law T-229, An Amendment to By-Law T-200, Respecting Tax Exemption for Non-Profit Organizations-2012-2013

This item was dealt with later in the meeting. See page 16.

10. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

10.1 Correspondence

10.1.1 Request for Fly-Past – Scotiabank Blue Nose Marathon

Correspondence from Mr. Chris Larsen dated March 7, 2013 was before Regional Council.

MOVED by Councillor Craig, seconded by Councillor McCluskey that Halifax Regional Council approve a fly past at 500 feet by the Canadian Forces in conjunction with festivities surrounding the Blue Nose weekend taking place on the 2013 May Victoria Day Holiday weekend in the Halifax Regional Municipality.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. (16 in favour)

Councillor Johns was not present for the vote.

10.2 Petitions – NONE

10.3 Presentation- NONE

11. REPORTS

11.1 CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

11.1.1 Request for Proposal – P12-066, RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) Tagging Services - Halifax Central Library

A staff report dated November 22, 2012 was before Regional Council.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Watts that Halifax Regional Council award RFP No. P12-066, RFID and Tagging Services to the highest scoring proponent, Sirsi-Dynix, for a Total Price of \$1,235,598.80 (net HST included) with funding from Project No. CBX01275, as outlined in the Financial Implications section of the November 22, 2012 staff report.

In response to questions from Council, Mr. Bruce Corman, Director of Central Halifax Regional Library Services advised that the new tagging service would be a cost avoidance strategy. Mr. Corman advised that the program is for all libraries of HRM and would allow for self-checkout, providing staff more time to interact with visitors to the library.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. (16 in favour)

Councillor Johns was not present for the vote.

11.1.2 Request for Proposal P12-123, Supply of Up to Eighty (80) 12.2 Meter Transit Buses

A staff report dated February 28, 2013 was before Regional Council.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee that Halifax Regional Council;

- 1. Award RFP No. P12-123, Supply of up to eighty (80) 12.2 Meter Transit Buses, to the highest scoring proponent, New Flyer Industries.**
- 2. Authorize the purchase of twenty-two (22) 12.2 Meter Transit Buses, for a Total Price of \$9,324,507.50**
- 3. Increase Project budget CVD00435 (Conventional Transit Bus Replacement) by \$1,148,969.00 with a corresponding decrease and funding from Project Account No. CVD00434-Conventional Transit Bus Expansion.**

Councillor Rankin noted that Council had previously authorized the purchase of 80 transit buses and 22 of those buses will be assigned for 2013-2014.

Councillor Hendsbee inquired as to when the order is expected to be delivered, would all the new buses be used for fleet replacement, and where the buses would be stored.

Mr. Eddie Robar, Director of Metro Transit, advised that the tender is for up to 80 units. He advised that the purchasing of buses would depend on monies available in upcoming budgets. He noted that not all of the new buses would be for replacement as some may be used for expansion of service. Mr. Robar advised that the Ragged Lake storage facility is currently being expanded and would be available for storage of these new buses.

Councillor Karsten requested clarification on the scoring method used to determine the successful proponent.

Mr. Robar advised that there are quantitative and qualitative measures used when scoring tender applicants as provided in the RFP.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. (16 in favour)

Councillor Johns was not present for the vote.

11.1.3 Tender 12-115 – Supply of up to eleven (11) new Rescue Pumper Fire Apparatus

A staff report dated February 11, 2013 was before Regional Council.

MOVED by Councillor Dalrymple, seconded by Councillor Nicoll, that Halifax Regional Council:

- 1. Award Tender No. 12-115, for the supply of up to eleven (11) new Rescue Pumper Fire Apparatus, to the lowest bidder meeting specifications, Carl Thibault Fire Trucks Inc.; and**
- 2. Authorize the purchase of three (3) Rescue Fire Pump Apparatus in fiscal 2012/2013, for a Total Price of \$1,282,580.14 (net HST included) with funding from Project Account CVJ01088-Fire Fleet Apparatus, as outlined in the Financial Implications of the February 11, 2013 staff report.**

Staff responded to questions following which the motion was put.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. (16 in favour)

Councillor Johns was not present for the vote.

11.1.4 Tender 12-117 – one (1) 100 foot Rear Mount Platform Fire Apparatus

A staff report dated February 11, 2013 was before Regional Council.

MOVED by Councillor McCluskey, seconded by Councillor Mason that Council award Tender No. 12-117, for the supply of one (1) new 100 foot rear mount platform fire apparatus, to the lowest bidder meeting specifications, Micmac Fire and Safety Source Ltd./ Peirce Manufacturing Inc. for a Total Tender Price of \$979,146.47 (net HST included) with funding from Project Account No. CVJ01088-Fire Apparatus Replacement, as outlined in the Budget implications of the February 11, 2013 staff report.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. (16 in favour)

Councillor Johns was not present for the vote.

11.1.5 Tender 12-118 – supply of up to two (2) new 75 foot Quint Fire Apparatus

A staff report dated February 12, 2013 was before Regional Council.

MOVED by Councillor Karsten, seconded by Councillor McCluskey that Council:

- 1. Award Tender No. 12-118, for the supply of up to two (2) new 75 foot Quint Fire Apparatus, to the lowest bidder meeting specifications, Micmac Fire & Safety Source Ltd. / Peirce Manufacturing Inc.; and**
- 2. Authorize the purchase of one (1) 75 foot Quint Fire Apparatus in the fiscal 2012/2013, for a total price of \$791,753.91 (net HST included) with funding**

from Project Account No. CVJ01088-Fire Apparatus Replacement, as outlined in the Financial Implications section of the February 12, 2013 staff report.

Councillor Dalrymple asked if there was any opportunity to keep older fire units that may be considered antique for a museum.

Mr. Reashor, Director, Transportation and Public Works advised that staff would look into this request.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. (16 in favour)

Councillor Johns was not present for the vote.

11.1.6 Sole Source Award - Voith Schneider Propeller Unit Parts – Voith Turbo GmbH & Co.

A staff report dated February 18, 2013 was before Regional Council.

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Karsten that Halifax Regional Council, in accordance with the Sole Source Policy (Administrative Order 35, Section 8(11A) sub-sections (a) and (b) attached to the February 18, 2013 staff report) award the Sole Source purchase of Voith Schneider propeller unit parts Metro Transit ferries, for the estimated amount of \$59,255.29 (Cdn, Net HST included) to Voith Turbo GmbH&Co., with funding from Project No. CVD00436- Biennial Ferry Refit, as outlined in the Budget Implications section of the February 18, 2013 staff report.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. (16 in favour)

Councillor Johns was not present for the vote.

11.1.7 Funding Request – YMCA of Greater Halifax/Dartmouth

A staff report dated February 14, 2013 was before Regional Council.

MOVED by Councillor Fisher, seconded by Councillor Karsten that Halifax Regional Council provide funding in the amount of \$140,000 for a 24 month period, paid in two \$70,000 installments within the next 24 months to the YMCA of Greater Halifax/Dartmouth as outlined in the Financial Implications section of the February 14, 2013 report, conditional upon the continuation of the YMCA programs and services at the current levels and subject to review of the agreement with Nova Scotia Community College for use of the Akerley pool.

A discussion ensued with staff responding to questions of clarification.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. (16 in favour)

Councillor Johns was not present for the vote.

11.2 AUDIT AND FINANCE STANDING COMMITTEE

11.2.1 Multi-District Facility Project (Reporting Requirements)

A staff report dated February 27, 2013 was before Regional Council.

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor McCluskey that Halifax Regional Council:

- 1. Declare Phase 2 of the Multi District Facility Project (Accountability and Reporting) as complete with the implementation of effective accountability and reporting processes;**
- 2. Lift the restrictions on major capital expansions for all HRM MDF recreation facilities since the accountability and reporting processes are in place as required in the Regional Council motion of November 8, 2011;**
- 3. Direct staff to undertake completion of Phase 2 (Alignment) of the Multi District Facility Project which includes community and HRM program expectations, facility mandates and facility program funding as it relates to the MDF's and expand the scope of Phase 2 to include governance;**
- 4. As part of the phase 2 (alignment), adjust the schedule for the development of repayment plans for any outstanding capital or operating amounts owing from the Multi-District Facilities (MDF) to no later than June 2014 for the reasons outlined in the report; and**
- 5. Extend the requirements that no new subsidies or significant changes to existing subsidies be approved with a term of more than one year until completion of Phase 2 of the MDF Project.**

Councillor McCluskey asked if this action by Council would hold back work at the Dartmouth Sportsplex.

Ms. Denise Schofield, Manager Community and Recreation Services, advised that if Council passed the motion, the proposed work to the Dartmouth Sportsplex would be coming forward to Regional Council in the next few months.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. (16 in favour)

Councillor Johns was not present for the vote.

11.2.2 Regional Facility Expansion Reserve Q145

A staff report dated February 27, 2013 was before Regional Council.

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Mosher that Halifax Regional Council:

- 1. Approve the establishment of the Regional Facility Expansion Reserve (Q145) as per the Reserve Business Case attached to the February 27, 2013 staff report;**
- 2. Approve the transfer of \$6M to the Regional Facility Expansion Reserve (Q145) funded \$5M from Snow and Ice Control Variable Reserve (Q309), and \$1M from Operational Stabilization Reserve (Q308); and**
- 3. Approve the transfer of \$1M from an unallocated 2011/2012 surplus; as per the financial implications section of the February 27, 2013 staff report; and**
- 4. Approve that no withdrawals can be made from the reserve until Council has recognized and declared Phase 1 of the Multi District Facility Project (Accountability and Reporting) as substantively complete, with the presence of effective accountability and reporting processes; and**
- 5. That the Spryfield Lion's Rink and Recreation Centre be added to the list of Multi-District Facilities.**

Councillor Hendsbee asked if the Spryfield Lion's Rink and Recreation Centre would be considered a regional facility or a multi-district facility.

Ms. Schofield advised that the Spryfield Lion's Rink and Recreation Centre should be defined as a regional facility.

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Mosher that number five (5) of the motion be amended by striking the word 'Multi-District' and replacing it with "Regional Facilities."

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. (16 in favour)

Councillor Johns was not present for the vote.

The motion now before Council was as follows:

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Mosher that Halifax Regional Council:

1. **Approve the establishment of the Regional Facility Expansion Reserve (Q145) as per the Reserve Business Case attached to the February 27, 2013 staff report;**
2. **Approve the transfer of \$6M to the Regional Facility Expansion Reserve (Q145) funded \$5M from Snow and Ice Control Variable Reserve (Q309), and \$1M from operational Stabilization Reserve (Q308); and**
3. **Approve the transfer of \$1M from an unallocated 2011/2012 surplus; as per the financial implications section of the February 27, 2013 staff report; and**
4. **Approve that no withdrawals can be made from the reserve until Council has recognized and declared Phase 1 of the Multi District Facility Project (Accountability and Reporting) as substantively complete, with the presence of effective accountability and reporting processes; and**
5. **That the Spryfield Lion's Rink and Recreation Centre be added to the list of Regional Facilities.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. (16 in favour)

Councillor Johns was not present for the vote.

11.2.3 Write-off of Uncollectible Accounts

A staff report dated February 28, 2013 was before Regional Council.

Councillor Fisher declared a Conflict of Interest and left his seat.

MOVED by Councillor Karsten, seconded by Councillor Craig that Halifax Regional Council approve:

1. **The business occupancy tax accounts in the amount of \$86,408.37 comprised of \$60,494.95 principal and \$25,913.42 interest as detailed in Schedule 2 of the February 28, 2013 staff report, be formally written out of the books of account;**
2. **The general revenue accounts in the amount of \$209,080.76 comprised of \$201,727.73 principal and \$7,353.03 interest as detailed in Schedule 3 of the February 28, 2013 staff report, be formally written out of the books of account;**
3. **The real property tax accounts in the amount of \$169,474.03 comprised of \$97,818.89 principal and \$71,655.14 interest as detailed in Schedule 4 of the**

February 28, 2013 staff report be formally written out of the books of the account.

Staff responded to questions, following which the motion was put.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. (15 in favour)

Councillors Fisher and Johns were not present for the vote.

Councillor Fisher resumed his seat.

11.3 COMMUNITY PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STANDING COMMITTEE

11.3.1 Legislative Requests - 2012 Update

A report dated February 22, 2013 was before Regional Council.

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor McCluskey that Halifax Regional Council:

- 1. Endorses the issues raised in the January 23, 2013 staff report in regard to Bill 160 and direct staff to work with the Province towards resolving them in time for the Spring 2013 session of the Legislature;**
- 2. Review all of HRM's outstanding amendment requests to determine their ongoing necessity and relevance; and**
- 3. Authorize a joint review of the HRM Charter with Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations**

Councillor Nicoll advised there are thirty-five outstanding Charter amendment requests since 2006.

The CAO advised that the list of outstanding amendment requests were prioritized by Council and that staff have focused on nine of them to move forward with the Province.

A number of Councillors expressed support for the motion. Council noted that the priority amendments are needed to help HRM grow.

Mayor Savage stepped down from the Chair and Councillor Rankin assumed the Chair.

Mayor Savage stated that he felt that the discussion on the amendments was important. He indicated that he has felt the frustration from Council members regarding the issue. He advised that he has had discussions with the Premier and Ministers regarding the importance of these amendments to HRM. The Mayor indicated he would be talking to

all members of the government regarding these amendments. Mayor Savage encouraged Councillors to support the motion.

Mayor Savage resumed the Chair and Deputy Mayor Rankin took his seat in Council.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. (15 in favour)

Councillors Mosher and Johns were not present for the vote.

Council recessed at 3:07 pm and reconvened at 3:20 pm.

11.4 ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY STANDING COMMITTEE

11.4.1 Alteration of Clean Nova Scotia Partnership Agreement

A report dated February 21, 2013 was before Regional Council.

MOVED by Councillor Dalrymple, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee that Halifax Regional Council direct staff to terminate the partnership agreement with Clean Nova Scotia for a Fleet Fuel reduction Project and initiate an agreement for a two-year Rain Yards Project, as proposed by Clean Nova Scotia in Attachment A of the staff report dated January 21, 2013, with the previously allocated funding of \$50,000 from Operating Account D948-Sustainable Community Projects.

Councillor Dalrymple noted that this was not new funding but a reallocation of funds from a Fleet Fuel Reduction program that was not meeting its goals.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. (13 in favour)

Councillors Mosher, Whitman, Johns and Outhit were not present for the vote.

11.5 TRANSPORTATION STANDING COMMITTEE

11.5.1 Options for Managing Advertising Signage Provincial Highway 333

A report dated March 5, 2013 was before Regional Council.

MOVED by Councillor Adams, seconded by Councillor Whitman that Halifax Regional Council approve "Option 1: Uniform Directional Signs" for managing advertising signage on the Provincial Highway 333 as set out in the February 11, 2013 information report.

Councillor Whitman stated that he and the residents of the area are happy to see this issue addressed. He stated that this will help beautify the area and eliminate the issues with signage that currently litter the area.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. (15 in favour)

Councillors Mosher and Johns were not present for the vote.

11.6 GRANTS COMMITTEE

11.6.1 Property Matter: Less than Market Value Lease: Canada Games Centre - Canadian Sport Centre Atlantic

A staff report dated March 5, 2013 was before Regional Council.

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Dalrymple that Halifax Regional Council approve the less than market value Lease with Canadian Sport Centre Atlantic with terms and conditions as outlined in Table 1 of the February 11, 2013 staff report.

Councillor Walker noted a correction that the report should indicate a term of 3 years from January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2013.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. (16 in favour)

Councillor Johns was not present for the vote.

11.6.2 Less than Market Sale- 2421 Brunswick Street, Halifax, to Adsum Association for Women and Children

A staff report dated March 5, 2013 was before Regional Council.

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Watts that Halifax Regional Council set a date for a public hearing as required under Section 63 (2) of the HRM Charter to consider a less than market value sale of 2421 Brunswick Street, Halifax to Adsum Association for Women and Children.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. (16 in favour)

Councillor Johns was not present for the vote.

12. MOTIONS

12.1 Councillor Mason

“That Regional Council approve the disbursement of \$12,075 to Brunswick Street United Church for the purchase and installation of a wrought iron style fence and gates to improve security, control, traffic and provide access control to the church, the Brunswick Street Mission, the Metro Turning Point shelter, and the surrounding residential

neighborhood, \$3,000 to be funded from the District 8 capital budget, \$9,075 to be funded from the District 7 discretionary capital budget.”

This matter was deferred to the March 26, 2013 Regional Council meeting during the setting of the agenda.

13. IN CAMERA

13.1 In Camera Minutes- February 26, 2013

MOVED by Councillor McCluskey, seconded by Councillor Walker that the In Camera minutes of February 26, 2013 be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

13.2 Personnel Matter

13.2.1 Citizen Appointments to Boards and Committees

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Walker that Halifax Regional Council:

- 1. Approve the appointment to the Heritage Advisory Committee as outlined in the Private and Confidential Report of March 5, 2013.**
- 2. It is further recommended that the Citizen appointment be released to the public following Council ratification.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. (16 in favour)

Councillor Johns was not present for the vote.

14. ADDED ITEMS - NONE

15. NOTICES OF MOTION - NONE

Council recessed at 3:35 pm and reconvened at 6:00 pm.

9. PUBLIC HEARINGS- 6:00 P.M.

9.1 Proposed By-law T-229, An Amendment to By-Law T-200, Respecting Tax Exemption for Non-Profit Organizations-2012-2013

A staff report dated February 4, 2013 was before Council.

Mayor Savage declared the public hearing open and requested that anyone wishing to speak for or against the By-law T-229 to come forward.

Councillor Craig declared a Conflict of Interest regarding the Canadian Cancer Society as he is a board member. He advised that he wished to participate in the rest of the debate and asked if Council could deal with the Canadian Cancer Society separately; to which Council agreed. Councillor Craig removed himself from the meeting.

The Mayor called three times for any persons wishing to speak on the Canadian Cancer Society; there being none it was **MOVED by Councillor Adams seconded by Councillor Whitman that the Canadian Cancer Society retain its current funding.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. (14 in favour)

Deputy Mayor Rankin and Councillors Johns and Craig were not present for the vote.

Councillor Craig returned to the meeting.

Mayor Savage called for persons wishing to speak as identified on the speakers list.

Ms. Debra Hines spoke on behalf of the Musquodoboit Harbour and District Lions Club. She stated that the Lions are a service club on the Eastern Shore. She advised that they have many fundraising events to help families in need through; buying furnace oil, and paying power bills and any other emergencies that may arise. She noted that the local food bank is housed in their building at no cost and they continually raise funds and donate items for the food bank. Ms. Hines also noted that HRM had requested that their facility be used as a comfort shelter in the event of an emergency. She raised concern that they are not being given the same tax exemption other Lions Clubs are allotted throughout HRM. She requested Council to reconsider their tax exemption status and make a fair decision on their property taxes.

Mr. Mark Turner and **Mr. Michael Robicheau** spoke on behalf of Canadian Blood Services (CBS). Mr. Turner advised that CBS had just recently moved into a new facility at 270 Savage Avenue, Dartmouth. He requested that the property tax be converted from the commercial rate to the residential rate. He advised that Canadian Blood Services is a not for profit group and a registered charity. Mr. Turner noted that the new facility provides a vital role for collecting and storing blood through HRM and beyond. He advised that the blood products are provided to hospitals in HRM and beyond. He noted that the property was built as a consolidation of services offered by Canadian Blood Services and the new facility relocated to HRM. Mr. Turner explained that the move has created jobs in the area. He stated that this is a new facility and being taxed for the first time and HRM had not been collecting taxes on the property to this point.

Councillor McCluskey requested clarification on the tax rate that Canadian Blood Services paid at their facility in New Brunswick.

Mr. Robicheau advised that they paid the residential rate in New Brunswick. He advised that the facility is closing in New Brunswick as they are consolidating their services to the new facility in Dartmouth.

Mr. John McPhee, spoke on behalf of the Lake Echo Lions Club. He advised that they are operating a facility for HRM. He noted that they requested to become tenants as they could not afford to run the facility on their own. He asked that HRM consider the repercussions of the tax increase on their club as they will be unable to respond to emergency situations.

Councillor Hendsbee advised that for the last 16 years the Lions club had been managing the Lake Echo Community Centre and it had not been rent free. He noted that they were transitioning from managing the building to becoming a tenant.

Councillor Walker advised that the Community Centre was not included in the report and there were no issues to be debated at this time.

Mr. Chris Wilcox spoke on behalf of the Scotia Chamber of Players. He advised that they are a 14 member board with 3 full time and 3 part time staff. He stated that the organization attracts over 150 people from outside HRM to study music. He also advised that the Chamber offers its facilities for no charge to other non-profit groups and to Dalhousie University. Mr. Wilcox advised that they rely heavily on car raffles and they are time consuming and risky. He stated that any change in their tax exemption would be a big blow to their organization. He requested that Council continue their current tax exemption.

Councillor Watts requested clarification if a reduction in tax exemption to the Scotia Chamber of Players was included as part of the motion before Council

The Clerk advised that the exemptions are for the current year and there is no reduction proposed to the group in the motion currently before Regional Council.

Mr. Joe Doucette presented on behalf of the Dartmouth Kinsman Club. He stated that they share their facility with other non-profit groups. He advised that some of the groups that use the facility are the Lions Club of East Dartmouth, YMCA, Gamblers Anonymous and an alternative space for children during suspensions. He advised that they cannot afford a tax hike of any kind noting that any increase will have an impact on some of the various groups they support in the community.

Ms. Kim Thompson presented on behalf of the Deanery Project Cooperative. She advised that the group was formed a couple years ago because of some residents concern about the proposed sale of lake front property in the community. She stated that they wanted to save it and turn it into an environmental resource for the community. She noted that they had worked with many provincial and municipal groups to secure the property. She advised that a number of groups use the facility including immigration integration services, Dalhousie Architects, and HRM Recreation.

In response to questions from Council, Ms. Thompson explained that a number of youth attend the facility including students from Oyster Pond Academy and Lake Front Elementary School. She explained that there is a great deal of intergenerational project work. Ms. Thompson noted that they have an amazing group of volunteers but currently have no funding.

Mr. Morgan MacDonald also presented on behalf of the Deanery Project Cooperative. He advised that he was one of the founding members and had been involved as a volunteer in many non-profit organizations. He stated that he is a science teacher and the Deanery project provides great hands on scientific learning for students. He advised that students learn about forestry industry sustainability. Mr. MacDonald noted that there are few areas in the province that provide the same learning opportunity as the Deanery Project lands. He requested that Council consider supporting the dedicated passionate individuals who have worked on the project.

Ms. Susan Wheeler is the Chair of the Dartmouth Adult Services Centre (DASC) and presented on their behalf. She advised that the adult centre teaches life skills for physically challenged individuals with complex needs. She noted that the centre currently serves 180 individuals at the facility. She requested support from Council since they had recently opened a new facility. She thanked Council for their show of support from moving DASC from a commercial tax rate to residential rate. Ms. Wheeler requested that Council consider increasing the tax exemption rate to 75% from 25% noting it is in keeping with similar facilities.

The Mayor called three times for any further persons wishing to speak on this matter; there being none it was **MOVED by Councillor Karsten, seconded by Councillor Nicoll that the public hearing close. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Karsten that Halifax Regional Council approve By-Law T-229 as follows:

- a) **The renewal of tax exemption status for the 2012- 2013 fiscal year for 148 organizations (297 properties) as listed in 'Table 3a (Attachment 3 of the February 4, 2013 staff report), for a total combined cost of \$2,368,878;**
- b) **The renewal of tax exemption status for the 2012-20 13 fiscal year for the 35 organizations (35 leased properties) as listed in Table 3b (Attachment 3 of the February 4, 2013 staff report) for a total \$369,585;**
- c) **The addition of 5 organizations (5 properties) for the 2012-2013 fiscal year as detailed in Table 4a (Attachment 4 of the February 4, 2013 staff report) for a total combined cost of \$20,301;**

- d) **A change in exemption level for 1 organization (3 properties) for the 2012-2013 fiscal year as detailed in Table 4b (Attachment 4 of the February 4, 2013 staff report) for an increase in cost of \$2,470;**
- e) **The removal of 5 organizations (6 properties) in 2012-2013 as detailed in Table 5a (Attachment 5 of the February 4, 2013 staff report) for a combined saving of \$2,065;**
- f) **The decline of 6 new applicants (12 properties) as detailed in Table 6a (Attachment 6 of the February 4, 2013 staff report);**
- g) **The declined of an increase in current level of 12 applicants (12 properties) as detailed in Table 6b (Attachment 6 of the February 4, 2013 staff report);**
- h) **The deferral of 25 organizations (308 properties) previously deferred and 6 new applicants (7 properties) as detailed in Tables 7a & b (Attachment 7 of the February 4, 2013 staff report)**
- i) **That in accordance with the recommendation of the Grants Committee that Neptune Theatre Foundation exemption level be retained at the current level until a HRM cultural policy and funding strategy is created.**

Councillor Walker advised that the Grants Committee only had limited amounts of funds to work with and had put forward a request to the Audit and Finance Standing Committee. He noted that the Grants Committee worked to make sure that the funding was spent as fairly as possible. He requested that any recommendations being sent back to the Grant Committee for further consideration should have new information that had not been considered.

The Clerk advised Council that any requests for changes to funding would have to be made by individual motion and it would be referred back to the Grants Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Adams, seconded by Councillor Mosher that the application by the Village Green Recreation Society be referred back to the Grants Committee for consideration to be funded at 100% tax exemption.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED. (14 in favour, 1 opposed)

Those voting in favour were: Mayor Mike Savage; and Councillors Hendsbee, Karsten Nicoll, McCluskey, Fisher, Mason, Watts, Mosher, Walker, Adams, Whitman, Craig, Outhit.

Those voting against were: Councillor Dalrymple.

Deputy Mayor Rankin and Councillor Johns were not present for the vote.

MOVED by Councillor Adams, seconded by Councillor Mosher that the application by the St. Vincent DePaul Society be referred back to the Grants Committee for consideration to be funded at 100% tax exemption.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED. (13 in favour, 1 opposed)

Those voting in favour were: Mayor Mike Savage; and Councillors Dalrymple, Hendsbee, Karsten, Nicoll, McCluskey, Fisher, Watts, Mosher, Adams, Whitman, Craig, Outhit.

Those voting against were: Councillor Walker.

Deputy Mayor Rankin and Councillors Mason and Johns were not present for the vote.

MOVED by Councillor McCluskey, seconded by Councillor Dalrymple that the application by the DASC Industries be referred back to the Grants Committee for consideration of a 75% tax exemption.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED. (13 in favour, 1 opposed)

Those voting in favour were: Mayor Mike Savage; and Councillors Dalrymple, Karsten, Nicoll, McCluskey, Fisher, Watts, Mosher, Adams, Whitman, Craig, Outhit.

Those voting against were: Councillor Walker.

Deputy Mayor Rankin and Councillors Mason and Johns were not present for the vote.

MOVED by Councillor McCluskey , seconded by Councillor Hendsbee that the application by the Canoe Kayak Training Centre be referred back to the Grants Committee for consideration of 100% tax exemption.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED. (14 in favour, 1 opposed)

Those voting in favour were: Mayor Mike Savage; and Councillors Dalrymple, Karsten, Nicoll, McCluskey, Fisher, Mason, Watts, Mosher, Walker, Adams, Whitman, Craig, Outhit.

Those voting against were: Councillor Dalrymple.

Deputy Mayor Rankin and Councillor Johns were not present for the vote.

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Watts that the application by the Deanery Project Cooperative be referred back to the Grants Committee for reconsideration due to transition of the ownership of the property.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. (15 in favour)

Deputy Mayor Rankin and Councillor Johns were not present for the vote.

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Karsten that the application by the Musquodoboit Lions Club be referred back to the Grants Committee for reconsideration of 100% tax exemption.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. (15 in favour)

Deputy Mayor Rankin and Councillor Johns were not present for the vote.

MOVED by Councillor Fisher, seconded by Councillor Karsten that the application by the Kinsman Club of Dartmouth be referred back to the Grants Committee for reconsideration of the tax exemption to bring it in line with other service groups providing similar services.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. (15 in favour)

Deputy Mayor Rankin and Councillor Johns were not present for the vote.

MOVED by Councillor Fisher, seconded by Councillor Karsten that the Grant Committee reconsider the tax exemption for Canadian Blood Services property for conversion to residential rate based on the information provided regarding their taxation rate in their facility in New Brunswick.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. (15 in favour)

Deputy Mayor Rankin and Councillor Johns were not present for the vote.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Watts to amend the motion to include Scotia Chamber of Players under section (i) of the main motion.

In response to a question including the Scotia Chamber of Players in this section Councillor Mason advised that it was for consistency and recognition that the Scotia Chamber of Players would be part of the cultural plan and similar to what the Grants Committee decided in regard to Neptune Theatre.

The CAO noted there has not been a Cultural Policy set in place under the Regional Plan. He noted there was a framework for setting a policy but he would need to see some clarification as he was not clear that the Regional Plan included an Arts Policy.

After a brief discussion and the agreement of Council the **MOTION WAS WITHDRAWN.**

In response to questions and comments of Council, Mr. Fisher advised that after the Auditor General's review of the Grants program, there is an overall Grant policy report coming forward. He noted that staff and the committee are committed to making the process more streamlined with fewer categories for consideration.

Council then voted on the main motion as amended.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. (15 in favour)

Councillor Johns was not present for the vote.

With the agreement of Council the following motion was put forward.

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Karsten that Halifax Regional Council request that staff prepare a report in response to questions raised by the Lake Echo Lions Club as to why they and other non-profit organizations are taxed for leasing premises in municipal recreational facilities and that the report explain staff interpretation of the assessment act and comment on polices that could provide tax relief and or exemptions for such non-profit organizations.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED. (14 in favour, 1 opposed)

Those voting in favour were: Mayor Mike Savage; and Councillors Dalrymple, Karsten Hendsbee, Nicoll, McCluskey, Fisher, Mason, Watts, Mosher, Adams, Whitman, Craig, Outhit.

Those voting against were: Councillor Walker.

Deputy Mayor Rankin and Councillor Johns were not present for the vote.

16. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:39 pm.

Cathy J. Mellett
Municipal Clerk

INFORMATION ITEMS

- 1 Memorandum from the Municipal Clerk dated March 12, 2013 re: Requests for Presentations to Council-None