

**HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 28, 2005
(morning session)**

PRESENT:

Mayor Peter J. Kelly
Deputy Mayor Len Goucher
Councillors: Steve Streach
Krista Snow
David Hendsbee (9:45)
Harry McInroy (9:45)
Gloria McCluskey
Andrew Younger
Bill Karsten
Becky Kent
Jim Smith
Mary Wile
Patrick Murphy
Dawn Sloane
Sue Uteck
Sheila Fougere
Russell Walker
Debbie Hum
Linda Mosher
Stephen Adams
Brad Johns
Robert Harvey
Gary Meade (9:50)

REGRETS:

Councillors: Reg Rankin

STAFF:

Mr. George McLellan, Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. Jan Gibson, Municipal Clerk
Ms. Julia Horncastle, Legislative Assistant

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	CALL TO ORDER	03
2.	APPROVAL OF MINUTES - February 22, 2005	03
3.	APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS	03
4.	BUDGET DELIBERATIONS	
	4.1 Halifax Regional Police/RCMP	03
	4.2 Fire and Emergency Services	03
	4.3 Integrated Emergency Services (911 Dispatch)	03
	4.4 Human Resources	03
5.	ADJOURNMENT	03

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - January 25, February 1 & 8, 2005

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Goucher, seconded by Councillor Karsten, that the minutes of February 8, 2005, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Younger, that the Agenda be approved, as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Ms. Dale McLennan, Director, Financial Services, briefly reviewed the agenda for the week and noted that, as has been the practice in the past, a parking lot will be established and utilized throughout the session.

4. BUDGET DELIBERATIONS

4.1 Halifax Regional Police/RCMP

- An information report from Superintendent Vern Fraser was circulated to council.

Chief Frank Beazley, Halifax Regional Police and Superintendent Fraser, RCMP, presented the Halifax Regional Police and RCMP 2005/06 budgets. Chief Beazley commented that the plan will address safety concerns, visibility and strengthen response to community disorder issues.

Chief Beazley and Superintendent Fraser then responded to a variety of questions from members of Council.

Council raised concerns on the number of retirements and the ability to replace officers. Chief Beazley commented that:

- There will be 135 officers retiring in the next 4-5 years, noting they are addressing succession planning through in service training
- There are twenty four cadets in the Police Science Program and there will be a

second class starting this fall. The Chief advised that currently there are more qualified people than there is space for.

- Officers are trained in house and recruits are taken from outside.

Chief Beazley and Superintendent Fraser provided clarification on the following items:

In response to Councillor Younger regarding line P105 on page 374, Council was advised this is a line item adjustment as a result of staff moving in and out of Chiefs Office. On further question regarding the Port's Policing, Council was advised it is unknown at this time if the service will be enhanced.

The Chief advised there was no raise proposed for the crossing guards in this budget.

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Hum, that a 2.5% wage increase for Crossing Guards be placed in the parking lot. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

In response to Councillor Hendsbee regarding funding for citizens on patrol, Chief Beazley advised that they do their own fundraising. .

Councillor Kent asked when is the resource review scheduled to happen . Superintendent Fraser advised that it is ongoing with services be examined to see what can be done jointly.

In response to Councillor Hum with regards to the citizens on patrol volunteers paying for their own gas, it was noted that if HRM started paying for gas and mileage then HRM would have to assume liability as well as insurance issues.

MOVED by Councillor Snow, seconded by Councillor McCluskey, that the information report to Council submitted by Superintendent Vern Fraser be deferred to In Camera Session on March 1, 2005. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4.2 FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Chief Mike Eddy, Fire and Emergency Services presented the implications of the Proposed 2005-2006 Business Plan, Fire & Emergency Services. A copy of the implications document is on file.

Councillor Hendsbee stated work needs to be done to mitigate the situation with regards to Hurricane Juan debris. On further question regarding alternate power sources for fire stations to address emergency power outages, Chief Eddy advised all stations will have

auxiliary power panels by March 31st and portable generators will be bought on an ongoing basis.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Discussion regarding the Fire and Emergency Services budget resumed at 1:00 p.m. See Afternoon Session minutes of February 28, 2005.

Jan Gibson
Municipal Clerk