

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MINUTES
June 20, 2006

PRESENT:

Mayor Peter J. Kelly
Deputy Mayor Russell Walker
Councillors: Krista Snow
Steve Streach
David Hendsbee
Harry McInroy
Gloria McCluskey
Andrew Younger
Bill Karsten
Becky Kent
Mary Wile
Patrick Murphy
Dawn Sloane
Sue Uteck
Sheila Fougere
Debbie Hum
Linda Mosher
Robert Harvey
Reg Rankin
Gary Meade

REGRETS:

Jim Smith
Stephen Adams
Brad Johns
Len Goucher

STAFF:

Mr. Dan English, Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. Mary Ellen Donovan, Municipal Solicitor
Ms. Julia Horncastle, Acting Municipal Clerk
Ms. Stephanie Parsons, Legislative Assistant

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| 1. | CALL TO ORDER | 3 |
| 2. | APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS | 3 |
| 3. | BUDGET DELIBERATIONS | 3 |
| 3.1 | Human Resources | 3 |
| 3.2 | Legal Services | 3 |
| 3.3 | Business Planning | 4 |
| 4. | ADJOURNMENT | 5 |

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:55 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - None

3. BUDGET DELIBERATIONS

3.1 Human Resources

Ms. Cathi Mullally, Acting Director, Human Resources, provided an overview of the 2006-2007 budget. The following was noted:

- There are no changes to the organizational structure,
- Human Resources and Finance partnered in a auditor review of HRM's Workers Compensation Board Practices and will be making changes to increase effectiveness,
- A proactive strategy in terms of prevention will be utilized to achieve the outcomes,
- A pilot project will be done with Transit Services.

Councillor Sloane entered the meeting at 10:03 a.m.

Councillor McCluskey asked for clarification regarding the increase in the actual consulting fees spent given that the consulting fees were reduced from last year's budget.

Ms. Mullally, advised that she will address Councillor McCluskey's question through the parking lot follow-up.

3.2 Legal Services

Ms. Mary Ellen Donovan, Director, Legal Services provided an overview of the 2006-2007 budget and noted the following:

- The Business Unit will undertake more engineering studies as a strategic approach to reduce exposure to the Municipality,
- Staff will continue to work with the Department of Justice regarding the establishment of a Municipal Court.
- The addition of the Risk Management team has proven to be effective,
- A Request for Proposal will be issued to determine the deductible for general liability and the level of the reserve,
- The reduction of the insurance premium for 2006-2007 is a reflection of the improved ability to manage claims.

Councillor Streach, Councillor Murphy and Councillor Rankin entered the meeting at 10:14 a.m.

During the ensuing discussion regarding a Municipal Court, Mayor Kelly advised that he had discussions with the Province and will continue the discussion once the new government is formed.

MOVED BY Councillor Meade, seconded by Councillor Hum that Regional Council Council commence at 1:00 p.m. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3.2 Business Planning

Ms. Betty MacDonald provided an overview of the 2006-2007 proposed budget and noted the following:

- The new business unit is comprised of the former Shared Services and Business Planning Units,
- Dispatch will not be receiving calls from the public after hours, all calls will go through 490-4000. Dispatch will pick up service requests from the call centres,
- This allows for the adjustment of shifts and the ability of HRM to provide services after hours.

Councillor Streach raised concern that not enough resources have been allocated to complete the community signage and 911 project.

Ms. Donna Davis, Division Manager, Shared Services advised that based on the current level of funding it will take an additional three years to complete the project. To complete the project in two years an additional \$65,000 is required.

In the interest of public safety and to ensure the completion of the community signage project that was initiated several years ago Councillor Streach placed the following motion.

MOVED BY Councillor Streach, seconded by Councillor Snow that \$65,00 be added to the parking lot to complete the Community Signage Project. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Councillor McCluskey raised concern regarding the \$100,000 allocated for upgrades to the Council Chamber given the current needs of the fire stations.

Councillor McCluskey asked for clarification as to the location of the historical documents from the former municipal governments.

Ms. Donna Davis advised that she will refer Councillor McCluskey's question to Ms. Susan McClure, Municipal Archivist.

Councillor McCluskey requested that staff provide the total dollar amount spent on leasehold improvements since amalgamation.

Ms. Geri Kaiser, Deputy CAO, Corporate and Services Strategy, advised that staff will report back to Council with the information

Councillor Uteck addressed Council and advised that there has been no presentation by the School Board this year. Based on the information received from the Halifax School Board, HRM's budget would require an additional \$2 million, as the School Board did not decrease the supplementary funding amount in their budget.

MOVED BY Councillor Uteck, seconded by Councilor Hendsbee that Halifax Regional Council reaffirm its position to reduce supplementary funding by 10 % a year. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED BY Councillor Uteck, seconded by Councillor Wile that Halifax Regional Council invite the Halifax School Board to present their proposed budget prior to budget debate

A discussion ensued as to why the Halifax Regional School Board should present to Council if Halifax Regional Council reaffirms its position to reduce supplementary funding by 10% a year. Further, Council does not need to reaffirm its position given that a motion was by passed in 2005 to this effect.

Further discussion ensued regarding the fact that the Halifax School Board passed a budget that did not include the 10% reduction of supplementary funding by HRM.

Councillor Mosher entered the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

Councillor Hendsbee entered the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

After further discussion the motion was put and passed.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The meeting adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

Julia Horncastle,

Acting Municipal Clerk