

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL
MINUTES
April 17, 2007

PRESENT:

Mayor Peter Kelly
Deputy Mayor Sue Uteck
Councillors Steve Streach
Krista Snow
David Hendsbee
Harry McInroy
Gloria McCluskey
Andrew Younger
Bill Karsten
Becky Kent
Jim Smith
Mary Wile
Patrick Murphy
Dawn Sloane
Russell Walker
Debbie Hum
Linda Mosher
Steve Adams
Brad Johns
Robert Harvey
Gary Martin
Reg Rankin
Gary Meade

REGRETS:

Councillor Sheila Fougere

STAFF:

Mr. Dan English, Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. Mary Ellen Donovan, Municipal Solicitor
Ms. Jan Gibson, Municipal Clerk
Ms. Julia Horncastle, Legislative Assistant

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1. INVOCATION

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. with the Invocation being led by Councillor Kent . Council observed a moment of silence in memory of Mr. Kenneth Margeson and the students who lost their lives at Virginia Tech.

2. SPECIAL COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Councillor Sloane noted an HRM By Design forum is being held at the Bus Stop Theatre on Gottingen Street on April 17, 2007.

Councillor McCluskey congratulated all those who were nominated for a book festival award.

Deputy Mayor Uteck noted the International Lacrosse Championships are being hosted in HRM and advised there is a need for local families to provide accommodation to some of the players.

Councillor Meade advised the Rapid Transit meeting for the Tantallon corridor will be held on Wednesday, April 25th at the St. Margaret's Centre. The Councillor also extended congratulations to Amrit Sampalli on his participation in Can West Can Spell National Spelling Bee.

Councillor Murphy acknowledged the work of staff on the anniversary of the Titanic.

Councillor Kent advised the Eastern Passage Lions Club will be holding their Adopt a Highway program on Saturday morning starting at 9:00 a.m. She further requested assistance with the clean up of brush in the area of Tallahassee School.

Councillor Adams advised that members of the community are being asked to meet at the Captain William Spry Centre on Sunday at 12:30 p.m. to help clean up the community. The Councillor further commended Mr. Hank Bird on his initiative in cleaning up Old Sambro Road.

Councillor Streach thanked the residents for attending the Vision HRM process in Musquodoboit Harbour and reminded them that at 7:00 p.m. on April 23rd at the Eastern Shore High School there will a meeting regarding the Rural Rapid Transit service for the #107 corridor.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - NONE

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

Deletions

10.3.3 Councillor Streach - Community Energy Plan Request - Defer to April 24, 2007

Additions

- 12.1 Photo Radar initiative
- 12.2 Capital Debt for Regional Recreational Facilities/Strategic Growth Reserve Utilization
- 12.3 2007/08 Budget Parking Lot

Councillor Mosher requested item 10.3.1 be deleted - April 10, 2007 Information item #1, "Improving HRM's Community Relations - An Assessment of HRM's Past and Present Public Engagement Exercises Project"

Councillor Kent requested Canadian Coast Guard Ship movement to Newfoundland be added to the agenda.

MOVED by Councillor Snow, seconded by Councillor Kent, that the Order of Business, as amended, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

10.2.1 HRM Tax Reform Advisory Committee - Activity Update

- A copy of a powerpoint presentation was circulated to Council.

Mr. David Grace, Chair, Tax Reform Advisory Committee, presented the report to Council noting:

- Under Phase 1 considerable research was undertaken,
- Under Phase 2 the Committee was established,
- Six meetings have been held to date,
- A communication and public participation plan is being put in place that will guide the remainder of the project,
- There will be spring and fall workshops with a report to Council in June,
- Future stages include Recommendations to Council (Phase 4); Further Information Sessions for the Public (Phase 5); Implementation (Phase 6); and, Evaluation (Phase 7),
- The final recommendation to Council will be coming forward in January, 2008.

Following discussion the following issues or concerns were raised by members of Council:

- Will the number of public meetings be sufficient to obtain input from the residents,
- Consultation be held with Councillors to receive input regarding Associations that

- should be contacted,
- Input should be obtained from as many people as possible,
 - Concern that this is taking a small snapshot and assuming,
 - There is a need for more time and not to rush the consultation process.

MOVED by Councillor Johns, seconded by Deputy Mayor Uteck, that Council endorse the Committee moving into Phase 3 and holding spring workshops as outlined in the presentation.

- Due to the size of some districts, there may be a need for individual district meetings,
- There is a need for communication of these workshops in print, on the website as well as radio and tv,
- There is a need to get the stakeholders involved,
- Concern that this may be wasting time,
- There needs to be legislative changes provincially,
- There is a need to go into each district to receive input,
- Four meetings are not enough.

**MOVED by Councillor Karsten, seconded by Councillor McCluskey, that the matter be referred back to the committee to re-examine the number of workshops.
MOTION DEFEATED.**

MAIN 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. **CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS**
- 9.1 **Correspondence - None**
- 9.2 **Petitions - None**
- 12.3 **2007/08 Budget Parking Lot**

- This item was addressed at the April 16, 2007 Committee of the Whole Budget Deliberations and was now before Council for ratification.

MOVED by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Walker, that Regional Council:

- 1. Approve the strategy presented in the Discussion section of the April 16, 2007 staff report to address Parking Lot items; and,**
- 2. Approve the changes to the Operating, Reserve, and Capital budgets, as summarized in the Budget Implications section of the April 16, 2007 staff report and detailed in Attachment B.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10. REPORTS

10.1 CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

10.1.1 Approval of Operating and Capital Budgets

MOVED by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Walker, that It is hereby resolved that:

- a) the Capital Budget in the amount of \$212,069,000 be approved;**
- b) the Operating Budget in the amount of \$ 646,286,453 gross expenditures, \$535,920,420 non-departmental revenues, and \$ 110,366,033 departmental revenues be approved;**
- c) the general rates of taxation on commercial and business occupancy be set at
 - (i) \$3.054 for the urban area;**
 - (ii) \$3.054 for the suburban area; and**
 - (iii) \$2.703 for the rural area**applied to the full assessed value of the property;**
- d) the general rates of taxation on residential and resource property be set at
 - (i) \$0.808 for the urban area;**
 - (ii) \$0.708 for the suburban area; and**
 - (iii) \$0.702 for the rural area**applied to the full assessed value of the property;**
- e) the boundary of the urban, suburban and rural areas is as delineated in the attached "Tax Structure Map";**
- f) the Provincial Area Rate for Mandatory Education on residential and resource property be set at the rate of \$0.325; and at a rate of \$0.340 for all commercial and business occupancy assessment;**
- g) the Provincial Area Rate for Assessment Services on residential and resource**

- property be set at the rate of \$0.023; and at a rate of \$0.016 for all commercial and business occupancy assessment;
- h) the Provincial Area Rate for Correctional Services on residential and resource property be set at the rate of \$0.033; and at a rate of \$0.006 for all commercial and business occupancy assessment;
 - i) the Provincial Area Rate for Metro Regional Housing Authority on residential and resource property be set at the rate of \$0.009; and at a rate of \$0.009 for all commercial and business occupancy assessment;
 - j) the final tax bills will become due on Friday, September 28, 2007;
 - k) the interest rate on the Special Reserve Funds, designated as requiring interest under Section 100(2) of the Municipal Government Act, be set at the rate of return on funds invested by HRM for the period April 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008;
 - l) the interest rate on the Pollution Control Reserves be set at the rate of return on funds invested HRM for the period April 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008;
 - m) the interest rate on all reserves except for those identified in k) and l) will be set at the rate of return on funds invested from HRM for the period April 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008; and
 - n) the interest rate on trust funds will be set at the annual rate of return on specific investments held by the trusts.

MOVED by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Streach, that the question now be put. MOTION DEFEATED.

Deputy Mayor Uteck noted increases in cost of services, rates and fees since 2003. She noted supplementary funding is increasing in both Bedford and the former County areas. HRM has no control over the downloading of education, correctional and housing costs. This budget sees an increase of more than 5%.

Councillor McCluskey stated, in her opinion, the budget is beyond the means of the taxpayers.

Councillor Meade requested staff examine and report back to Council with possible adjustment to correct boundaries as portions of Glen Arbour, Maplewood on the Lakes and White Hills are in suburban and portions are in rural

MOVED by Councillor Johns, seconded by Councillor Adams, that Section “e” of the map be amended to add those lands of District 19 west of Highway #101 under the urban rate rather than suburban.

Ms. Cathie O’Toole, Acting Director of Finance, stated that moving those lands to the urban rate does guarantee that those residents will be paying higher taxes but may not necessarily guarantee that they would see any change to services.

In response to Councillor Johns, Mr. Mike Labrecque, Director, Transportation and Public Works, advised staff will return to Council with a report on the neighbourhood bus option after summer break with a concept of what it would look like and what the costs would be.

MOTION DEFEATED.

MOVED by Councillor Kent, seconded by Councillor Wile, that McNabs Island and Devils Island designation be changed from suburban to rural. MOTION DEFEATED.

Councillor Mosher stated next year she would like the budget dates set and adhered to with the Parking Lot discussion held prior to the final budget approval. She requested there be a more detailed budget with the entire set of books being provided to Council. She stated Council has to set priorities and stick to them. She stated early on in the process Council to sit down with the CAO and set the direction to staff as to what the priorities are and say how much money is needed and then have the exact dates for budget discussion.

Council recessed at 7:54 p.m.
Council reconvened at 8:08 p.m

Councillor Karsten stated the rise in assessments is beyond the control of the municipality noting, the status quo has been maintained in terms of programs and services.

MAIN MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Councillor Johns, seconded by Councillor Snow, that staff provide a report laying out options to extend transit service to Timberlea and Timber Trails. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councillor Adams stated the process needs to change such that a draft budget is developed and provided to Council. Following circulation of the budget, Council would hold a one day meeting with directors and staff to ask questions. After the meeting staff can go back and look at the requests and look at what can and can't be done, thus eliminating the Parking Lot.

MOVED by Councillor Adams, seconded by Councillor Sloane, that a report on the feasibility of changing the budget process to be drafted and brought back to Council.

Mr. Dan English, Chief Administrative Officer, advised staff will prepare a report looking at process, format and budget book content. Council has to commit themselves to following a process and look at services that are within the mandate.

Councillor Streach stated that when the report comes forward he would still like to see some mechanism that by majority vote, Council can make a change.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10.1.8 District Boundaries Review

- A report dated April 11, 2007, on the above noted, was before Council.

Mr. Marcus Garnet, Planner, presented the report to Council outlining the proposed boundary changes.

Councillor Hum noted Map 3 and placed the following motion.

MOVED by Councillor Hum, seconded by Councillor Sloane, that Rochdale Place and Worthington Place be moved to District 21 (Map 3). MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councillor Hendsbee stated he would not be voting on this matter and excused himself from discussion.

At the request of Councillor McInroy, Council agreed to separate each recommendation.

MOVED by Councillor Karsten, seconded by Councillor Smith, that Regional Council apply to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board to amend the Municipality's polling district boundaries, as set forth in Maps 2 and 5, as amended.

Without a vote being taken on the motion on the floor, the following motion was placed.

MOVED by Councillor McInroy, seconded by Deputy Mayor Uteck, that the status quo be maintained with no change to the boundary between Districts 3 and 4 (Map 5). MOTION PUT AND PASSED

Councillor Mosher indicated the change between District 17 and 18 is noted as being a housekeeping change but advised there is a community of interest.

MOVED by Councillor Mosher, seconded by Deputy Mayor Uteck, that the status quo be maintained with no change to the boundary between Districts 17 and 18 (Map 4).

Council was advised most of the development falls west of the current district boundary. Approximately three quarters of this development falls within District 18.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Councillor Snow, seconded by Councillor Johns, that the lands containing Barrett's Lumber and homes owned by Mr. Barrett surrounding the business be placed in Beaver Bank (map to be verified through staff). MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The motion as amended was now before Council.

MOVED by Councillor Karsten, seconded by Councillor Smith, that Regional Council apply to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board to amend the Municipality's polling district boundaries, as set forth in Maps 2 and 5, with the following amendments:

1. Rochdale Place and Worthington Place be moved to District 21 (Map 3)
2. The status quo be maintained with no change to the boundary between Districts 3 and 4. (Map 5)
3. The status quo be maintained with no change to the boundary between Districts 17 and 18 (Map 4)
4. The lands containing Barrett's Lumber and homes owned by Mr. Barrett surrounding the business be placed in Beaver Bank (Map to be verified through staff)

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

10.1.2 Request for Proposal 07-031 - Property Pesticide Application Assessment Program

- A report dated March 30, 2007, on the above noted, was before Council.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Uteck, seconded by Councillor Walker, that Council:

1. Award RFP No. 07-031, Property Pesticide Application Assessment Program, to the highest scoring proponent, Clean Nova Scotia at a cost of \$102,123.73 (net HST included) for the 2007 season with funding from Operating Account No. D940 6999 as outlined in the Budget Implications section of the March 30, 2007 report.
2. Approve the award for Year Two (2) in 2008 and Year Three (3) in 2009 of the contract, to Clean Nova Scotia for \$106,209.17 and \$110,458.03 (net HST included) respectively, subject to performance, need and available budget.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councillor Harvey requested staff provide a report addressing the matter that if there is

some doubt as to whether illegal pesticides have been used on a residential property that HRM would do soil testing.

Councillor Adams requested the report provide information on how many charges and convictions there have been under the By-Law.

10.1.3 Quotation 06M153 - Overhead Sign Structure Repairs

- A report dated April 3, 2007, on the above noted, was before Council.

MOVED by Councillor McCluskey, seconded by Councillor Kent, that Council award Quotation No. 06M153, Overhead Sign Structure Repairs, to Black & MacDonald Limited for a Total Tender Price of \$103,301.78 (net HST included) with funding from Capital Account No. CTR00904, Destination Signage Program, as outlined in the Budget Implications section of the April 3, 2007 report.

Councillor Streach stated he would like information on why the other company bidding on this contract was rejected. In response, staff advised there is a requirement in the tender process that if an addendum is issued that affects the requirement of the work, the bidder acknowledge the addendum which is a change in the tender requirement which materially affects the tender. Councillor Streach stated he wanted to know specifically what the addendum was in this instance.

Without a vote being taken on the motion, the following motion was placed.

MOVED by Councillor Streach, seconded by Councillor Smith, that the matter be referred back to staff. MOTION DEFEATED.

MAIN MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10.1.4 Tender 07-212- Crack Sealing - Various Locations

- A staff report dated March 28, 2007, on the above noted, was before Council.

MOVED by Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Karsten, that Council award Tender No. 07-212, Crack Sealing - Various Locations to Road Savers Maritime Limited for material and services listed at the unit prices quoted for a Total Tender Price of \$125,734.45 (net HST included) with funding from Capital Account No. CZU00782 - Resurfacing, as outlined in the Budget Implications section of the March 28, 2007 report. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

10.1.5 Tender 07-217 - Sidewalk Renewal, Tulip Street, Dartmouth - East Region

- A report dated March 30, 2007, on the above noted, was before Council.

MOVED by Councillor McCluskey, seconded by Councillor Kent, that Council award Tender No. 07-217, Sidewalk Renewal, Tulip Street, Dartmouth - East Region to Sackville Trenching Limited for materials and services listed at the unit prices quoted for a Total Tender Price of \$155,753.73 (net HST included) with funding from Capital Account Nos. CRU00701 - Other Road Related Works Design and Construction, CKU00783 - Sidewalk Renewals, and CGU00461 - Sewer Lateral Replacement as outlined in the Budget Implications section of the March 30, 2007 report. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

10.1.6 Tender 07-228 - New Paving of Subdivision Streets inside the Core Area - Hillary Crescent (East Region) and Sidhu Drive (Central Region)

- A report dated April 2, 2007, on the above noted, was before Council.

MOVED by Councillor Kent, seconded by Councillor Karsten, that Council award Tender No. 07-228, New Paving of Subdivision Streets Inside the Core Area - Hillary Crescent (East Region) and Sidhu Drive (Central Region) to Ocean Contractors Limited for material and services listed at the unit prices quoted for a Total Tender Price of \$347,521.44 (net HST included) with funding from Capital Account No. CXU00715 - New Paving of Subdivision Streets Inside the Core Area, as outlined in the Budget Implications section of the April 2, 2007 report. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councillor Meade requested staff provide an information report showing a standard tender package.

10.1.7 Proposed Revisions to Residential Tax Exemption and Deferral Programs: Administrative Order 10 and By-Law T-700

- A report dated April 5, 2007, on the above noted, was before Council.

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Deputy Mayor Uteck, that Regional Council:

- 1. Approve in principle the development of a formulaic approach to index property tax assistance for lower income homeowners under a revised Administrative Order 10 and By-Law T-700 to commence April, 2008;**
- 2. Approve revisions to schedule of property tax rebates as shown in Revised Table T on page 3 of the April 5, 2007 report, effective May, 2007, at an estimated cost increase of \$252,000;**

3. **Direct staff to prepare amendments to By-Law T-700 to reflect an increase in the program's income eligibility threshold and proceed to a public hearing.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

10.1.8 District Boundaries Review

This item was addressed earlier in the meeting. (See page 10)

10.1.9 Case 01030 - Amendments to the Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-Law for Eastern Passage/Cow Bay for lands at Department of National Defence Shearwater

- A report dated April 3, 2007, on the above noted, was before Council.

MOVED by Councillor Kent, seconded by Councillor Smith, that Halifax Regional Council approve the public participation program presented as Attachment A to the April 3, 2007 staff report. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

10.2 HRM TAX REFORM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

10.2.1 Activity Update

This was addressed earlier in the meeting. (See page 5)

10.3 MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

10.3.1 Councillor Mosher - April 10, 2007 Information item #1, Improving HRM's Community Relations - An Assessment of HRM's Past and Present Public Engagement Exercises Project

Councillor Mosher requested this item be deleted under the approval of the Order of Business.

10.3.2 Councillor Johns - Request for staff report re: Alternative Locations for Council Chambers

Councillor Johns stated this request was for a report that would highlight the pros and cons of the current chamber and alternate locations that might be a better fit.

MOVED by Councillor Johns, seconded by Councillor Snow, that staff provide a report on possible alternate locations for council chambers.

Mr. English, Chief Administrative Officer, advised that if Council so wishes there may be an opportunity for a possible co-location with the province at the Birks site. He further noted staff will be examining a total corporate accommodations plan.

Councillor Mosher stated there is the need to provide a safe working environment for employees and she would like the report to address safety issues, staff employees, incidents in this chamber and outside.

MOTION DEFEATED.

MOVED by Councillor Adams, seconded by Councillor Walker, that Council extend beyond 10:00 p.m. and finish the agenda items. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

10.3.3 Councillor Streach - Community Energy Plan Request

This item was deleted under the approval of the Order of Business.

11. MOTIONS - NONE

12. ADDED ITEMS

12.1 Photo Radar Initiative

- This item was discussed at the April 2, 2007 Committee of the Whole (Budget Deliberations) and was now before Council for ratification.

MOVED by Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Karsten, that Regional Council urge the provincial government to move forward on responsible legislation in regard to photo radar intersection initiatives. Further, that this matter be referred to the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities for their support and review. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

12.2 Capital Debt for Regional Recreational Facilities/Strategic Growth Reserve Utilization

- This item was discussed at the April 16, 2007 Committee of the Whole (Budget Deliberations) and was now before Council for ratification.

MOVED by Councillor Karsten, seconded by Councillor Walker, that Regional Council:

1. **Endorse the present policy of allowing major facilities to issue debt**

outside Council's debt policy, and hence require them to pay back principal and interest.

2. Direct staff to prepare a report and return to Council within 3 months, evaluating the operational and financial implications of budgeting, accounting, reporting and managing Sackville Sports Stadium in a manner consistent with other HRM owned and managed facilities such as Northcliffe or Centennial Pools, or re-establishing a Community Board for the facility.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Councillor Karsten, seconded by Councillor Walker, that Regional Council:

3. Allocate the existing un-committed balance of the Strategic Growth Reserve as per the budget implications section of the April 16, 2007 Supplementary Staff Report.
4. Council re-confirm the Strategic Growth Reserve Business Case.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.3 2007/08 Budget Parking Lot

This item was addressed earlier in the meeting. (See page 6)

12.4 Councillor Kent - Canadian Coast Guard Ship movement to Newfoundland

Councillor Kent noted there was a recent announcement that two of the Coast Guard ships would be relocated to Newfoundland from Dartmouth. She noted much of this was without consultation or communication locally with the municipality, employees of the Coast Guard, their union nor the provincial or federal MP's. The Councillor stated this is a direct loss of jobs locally and there may be travelling expenses due to relocations.

MOVED by Councillor Kent, seconded by Councillor Sloane, that Mayor Kelly write the Prime Minister, Minister MacKay, and MP's for both Dartmouth and Halifax requesting information regarding the movement of the two ships to Newfoundland.

Councillor Kent stated the letter needs to state that there is a need for clarity on this matter as there was no business case to justify this relocation and, if there is, it be provided to HRM. She noted the movement of these ships disregards the Regional Plan. She

advised the citizens have expressed concern with what may be the intended use of and the long term plans for that site.

Councillor McCluskey requested the letter ask whether local representatives knew of this move and, if not, why not.

Councillor Streach requested the letter be forwarded to Mr. Peter Stoffer, MP.

MOTION UT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

13. NOTICES OF MOTION

Councillor Murphy

Take Notice that at the next regular meeting of Regional Council to be held on Tuesday, April 24, 2007 I will be seeking a report for the protection of public art including recognition, protection and penalties for damage.

Councillor McCluskey

Take Notice that at the next regular meeting of Regional Council to be held on Tuesday, April 24, 2007, I intent to move a motion to amend the Sewer Charge By-Law, S-100 to clarify the relationship between S-100 and the proposed By-Law C-600.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

Jan Gibson
Municipal Clerk

The following information items were circulated to Council.

1. Proclamation - Administrative Professionals Week - April 22 - 28, 2007
2. Memorandum from the Municipal Clerk dated April 12, 2007 re: Requests for Presentation to Council - None.