

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL
MINUTES
March 3, 2009

PRESENT:

Mayor Peter Kelly
Councillors: Steve Streach
Barry Dalrymple
Lorelei Nicoll
Gloria McCluskey
Andrew Younger
Bill Karsten
Jackie Barkhouse
Jim Smith
Jerry Blumenthal
Dawn Sloane
Sue Uteck
Jennifer Watts
Russell Walker
Debbie Hum
Linda Mosher
Steve Adams
Robert Harvey
Tim Outhit
Peter Lund
Reg Rankin

REGRETS:

Deputy Mayor David Hendsbee
Councillors: Mary Wile
Brad Johns

STAFF:

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. INVOCATION 4

2. SPECIAL COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS ... 4

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES 5

4. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS 5

5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES 6

6. MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION 6

7. MOTIONS OF RESCISSION 6

8. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS 6

9. PUBLIC HEARINGS

9.1 Case 1074 - Land Use By-Law Amendments - Definition of Day Care Facilities 6

10. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

10.1 Correspondence 7

10.2 Petitions 7

10.3 Presentations 7

11. REPORTS

11.1 CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

11.1.1 Nova Scotia Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal Construction Agreement 2009-012 7

11.1.2 Resolution #09-2008 - Chronic Offenders 7

11.2 SPECIAL EVENTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

11.2.1 Special Events Grants Request 8

11.3 GRANT COMMITTEE

11.3.1 By-Law T-200, Respecting Tax Exemption for Non-Profit Organizations: Appeal Community Care Network 9

11.3.2 HRM Recapitalization Assistance to Community Recreation Facilities 2008-2009: Appeal - St. Margaret's Centre 10

11.3.3 Less than Market Value Sale Lot 1115, 59 Dorey Avenue, Dartmouth Adult Services Centre Association 10

11.4 MEMBERS OF COUNCIL
 11.4.1 Councillor Mosher - Request for Report re: 311 Service for Non-Emergency Municipal Government Services 11

12. MOTIONS 12

13. ADDED ITEMS 14

14. NOTICES OF MOTION 16

15. ADJOURNMENT 17

1. INVOCATION

Mayor Kelly called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. with the Invocation being led by Councillor Blumenthal.

2. SPECIAL COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Councillor Sloane advised she attended "R is for Romance" this past weekend at Argyle Fine Arts. The event was a great time, reading romance novels out loud in support of Adsum House.

Councillor Dalrymple advised of a public meeting to be held on Thursday, March 5, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at the Beaver Bank Kinsac Recreation Centre regarding Lost Creek.

Councillor Karsten advised that the provincial Anti-Litter Campaign is starting in March. He added that litter continues to be a problem and invited everyone to visit the website www.bestthingyoullneverdo.ca. He noted that March 6th is HRM Employee Appreciation Day.

Councillor Watts advised that a meeting to discuss the development agreement for mixed use on Gladstone Street will be held on March 4, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at the Bloomfield Centre. She added she had attended the Scrabble for Grandmothers in Africa, in support of families affected by AIDS, where \$4000 was raised. She expressed her appreciation to Councillors who were in attendance.

Councillor Outhit advised that on March 5th from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Bedford Community Council Association is having a Meet and Greet at Brewsters in Mill Cove. He added that on March 5th the Lions Club will host a Speak Out competition at the Lions Den. He advised on Thursday, April 2nd, he, the Mayor and other politicians will host a Community Information meeting at Basinview School.

Councillor Mosher advised that she and Councillor Adams attended the "Take the Roof of Winter" event on March 1, 2009 at the Spryfield Lions Arena. She extended her appreciation to Ms. Sherry Moffatt and the staff for a great event.

Councillor Adams advised that the Spryfield Lions gave notice that they are no longer able to operate the arena and they have requested that HRM take over the rink. He expressed his appreciation to the Spryfield Lions adding that they have a positive impact on the districts in the area. A Spryfield Lions Appreciation Day will be held in their honour. The Councillor invited any members of District 17 and District 18 to become members of a committee to support the arena.

Councillor Younger advised of a meeting on Monday, March 23rd at 7:00 p.m. at the Woodlawn Library to discuss proposed locations for the new library.

Councillor Lund acknowledged the passing Ms. Betty Parsons.

Councillor Barkhouse expressed her appreciation to the students Tallahassee School for their organization of activities and events from March 9-19, 2009. The Councillor put out a call looking for volunteers for various projects and initiatives in the community.

Councillor Harvey advised he had attended Caudle Park School during a reading of the Dr. Seuss book, the Cat in the Hat, in support of the reading program to encourage reading among youth.

Councillor McCluskey acknowledged the loss of Mr. Michael Schaus, a great paddler and a member of the Banook Canoe Club. The Councillor expressed condolences on the passing of the Honourable Michael Baker, Nova Scotia Minister of Finance. Council observed a minute of silence in their memory.

Councillor Sloane noted that the Sacred Heart Grade Three class took a tour of City Hall last Friday. She expressed her appreciation to the teachers and the class. She added that she had attended the swearing in ceremony for fifty-four new Canadians, representing 25 countries, on March 3, 2009.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - February 10, 2009

MOVED BY Councillor Blumenthal, seconded by Councillor Barkhouse, that the minutes of February 10, 2009, be approved.

Councillor McCluskey noted that Page 4, Special Community Announcements and Acknowledgements, her acknowledgment should read Dal Varsity Coaches and Swimmers.

Councillor Mosher advised that she requested a verbatim of the snow removal portion of the minutes and requested the approval of the minutes be deferred to the next meeting.

MOVED BY Councillor Mosher, seconded by Councillor McCluskey that the approval of the February 10, 2009 minutes be deferred. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions:

13.1 Transit Funding Options

13.2 Personnel Matter - Citizen Appointments to Boards, Committees & Commissions

13.3 Personnel Matter - Citizen Appointments to Boards, Committees & Commissions

Deletion:

12.2 Motion - Councillor Younger

MOVED BY Councillor McCluskey, seconded by Councillor Barkhouse, that the Order of Business, as amended, be approved. 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 **Case 01074 - Land Use By-Law Amendments - Definition of Day Care Facilities**

- A presentation Case 01074: LUB Amendments - Definition of Day Care Facilities was before Council
- A staff report dated January 23, 2009 was before Council.

Ms. MacKenzie Stonehocker, Planner I, provided the presentation to Council.

Mayor Kelly opened the Public Hearing calling three time for those wishing to speak for or against the proposed amendment. Hearing none, the following motion was placed.

MOVED BY Councillor McCluskey, seconded by Councillor Karsten that the public hearing be closed. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED BY Councillor McCluskey, seconded by Councillor Karsten, that Regional Council approve the proposed amendments to the HRM land use by-laws identified in Attachments A to U of the staff report dated January 23, 2009. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

10.1 Correspondence

10.1.1 Halifax Student Alliance re: Late Night Transit Pilot

MOVED BY Councillor Uteck, seconded by Councillor Karsten, that Regional Council accept the correspondence from the Halifax Student Alliance regarding a Late Night Transit Pilot and forward the information to Metro Transit and the Board of Police Commissioners. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10.2 Petitions

Councillor Smith submitted a petition of 340 names from residents in District 9 requesting the lights at the crosswalk at Primose Street and Victoria Road be made longer to enable residents time to safely cross the street and for HRM to provide the intersection with a school crossing guard.

10.3 Presentations - None

11. REPORTS

11.1 CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

11.1.1 Nova Scotia Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal Construction Agreement 2009-2012

- A staff report dated February 19, 2009 was before Council.

MOVED BY Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Walker, that his Worship the Mayor and the Municipal Clerk be authorized, by resolution of Regional Council, to sign on behalf of Halifax Regional Municipality, Construction Agreement NO 2009-012 between HRM and the Nova Scotia Transportation Infrastructure Renewal (NSTIR), a three-year agreement, as outlined in the Discussion Section of the report dated February 19, 2009. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

11.1.2 Resolution #09-2008 - Chronic Offenders

- A staff report dated February 25, 2009 was before Council.

MOVED BY Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor McCluskey, that Regional Council endorse the CACP Resolution #09-2008 - Chronic Offenders, and refer the matter to the FCM Standing Committee on Crime and Public Safety.

In response to Councillor Younger requested as to what is a chronic offender, Chief Beazley advised that this is a small number of offenders with a large number of primarily property offences. He added that this does not include dangerous offenders.

Councillor Watts raised concern that this will affect the discretion of judges. She added that incarceration may not be the best option, as many of these offenders suffer from mental illness and addiction.

Councillor Dalrymple noted that this is less than 1% of the population. He added it is extremely frustrating to police to arrest an individual and then have the perpetrator released, where he/she commits more crimes.

Councillor Streach noted that this recommendation is consistent with the federal initiatives on fighting crime.

Councillor Walker advised Council that this issue will be debated by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and he added that this is just the first step in the process.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

11.2 SPECIAL EVENTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

11.2.1 Special Events Grants Request

- A report dated February 18, 2009 was before Council.

MOVED BY Councillor Uteck, seconded by Councillor Blumenthal, that Regional Council approve:

- 1. \$10,000 to the Scotia Festival of Music from MLSER (Q315) as per the staff report dated November 6, 2008;**
- 2. Amend the Civic Event Policy and Granting Framework and MLSER Business Case to include the Scotia Festival of Music as a “Hallmark Event”.**

In response to a query by Councillor McCluskey, staff advised that the report for the upcoming canoe championships is now before the Special Events Advisory Committee and will be coming to Council in the future.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED BY Councillor McCluskey, seconded by Councillor Hum that Regional Council request the Special Events Advisory Committee to include the SEDMHA

International Hockey Tournament for consideration as a Hallmark event. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

11.3 GRANT COMMITTEE

11.3.1 By-Law T-200, Respecting Tax Exemption for Non-Profit Organizations: Appeal Community Care Network

- A report dated February 27, 2009 was before Council.

MOVED BY Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Lund, that Halifax Regional Council decline an increase in exemption level for the Community Care Network property located at 2425 Maynard Street, Halifax in fiscal year 2008-2009.

Councillor McCluskey expressed concern that the Community Care Network exemption was denied. She stated that this organization does a lot of good work for the Community.

Councillor Younger advised that correspondence was received from Mr. Boutlier by members of Council and this information was provided to staff. Ms. Temple, Team Leader, Tax, Grants & Special Projects, advised that the application was received after the deadline and would be considered the following year. It was noted that the appeal came forward through a member of Council.

Councillor Streach questioned whether the dollar amount is the main issue. The Councillor advised that changes are made by Council many times, adding this should be given due process.

Councillor Hum stated that due process has not been followed in this instance. She added that in respect to other applicants, this application should go forward next year.

Councillor Watts advised that if this exemption is granted, other groups will come forward requesting the same be done in their case.

Councillor Blumenthal added Council cannot make an exemption in this case. He stated that the Committee has made its recommendation and Council should stand by it. He added if more money is required, it be considered in the budget process.

Councillor Younger advised that Council has made changes to recommendations throughout the years. He added that this request came to Council and was referred back to staff, and added that this needs to come to Council before the appeal period ends, not after.

Councillor Smith raised concerns that if Council grants this exception, all other applications will come forward requesting the same.

Councillor Walker advised Council that it should adhere to the process of the Committee.

A recorded vote was requested.

Those voting In favour: Mayor Kelly, Councillors Dalrymple, Nicoll, Karsten, Barkhouse, Smith, Blumenthal, Sloane, Uteck, Watts, Walker, Hum, Mosher, Adams, Harvey, Outhit, Rankin, and Lund

MOTION PUT AND PASSED. (18 in favour, 3 against)

Those voting against: Councillors Streach, McCluskey, and Younger

Those absent for the vote: Deputy Mayor Hendsbee, Councillors Wile, and Johns

11.3.2 HRM Recapitalization Assistance to Community Recreation Facilities 2008-2009: Appeal - St. Margaret's Centre

- A report dated February 27, 2009 was before Council.

MOVED BY Councillor Lund, seconded by Councillor Walker, that Regional Council:

1. Approve a capital grant in the amount of \$20,000 toward the replacement of the pool liner;
2. Carry forward an amount of \$80,000 pending a supplementary report tot he HRM Grants Committee.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

11.3.3 Less than Market Value Sale Lot 1115, 59 Dorey Avenue, Dartmouth Adult Services Centre Association

- A staff report dated February 27, 2009 was before Council.

MOVED BY Councillor Dalrymple, seconded by Councillor Lund, that Regional Council:

1. Uphold staff's recommendation to decline the sale of Lot 1115, 59 Dorey Avenue, Dartmouth, for the sum of \$1;
2. Approve, in principle, a less than market value sale of Lot 1115, 59 Dorey Avenue, Dartmouth to the Dartmouth Adult Service Centre Association for the sum of \$101,592.00 as per the terms and conditions of the report dated February 26, 2009 and set a public hearing date.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

11.4 MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

11.4.1 Councillor Mosher - Request for Report re: 311 Service for Non-Emergency Municipal Government Services

MOVED BY Councillor Mosher, seconded by Councillor Adams, that Regional Council request a staff report on the implementation of a 311 telephone number for non-emergency government services for the Halifax Regional Municipality.

Councillor Mosher stated that this plan is not new to HRM advising that she met with staff regarding this issue on March 28, 2008. She advised that many municipalities have implemented this service. The number provides superior customer service and is a great model of service delivery. 311 is an easy number to remember and can provide better access to City Hall. The Councillor advised that HRM has 490-4000, but 311 is a step forward. She advised Council that HRM has CRTC approval for this.

Councillor Younger advised that Council needs to know the costs and information regarding the savings and efficiencies of 311 before an implementation plan is started.

Councillor Mosher clarified she wants a general report on the next steps, on what HRM has to do to move forward with this initiative.

Councillor Blumenthal noted that 490-4000 works well and raised concerns of the costs associated with the implementation.

Councillor Streach raised concern that this may be a redundant service. He advised Council that some areas of HRM pay long distance to call into the City and a 1-800 number has been set up for those residents and he does not want that number affected.

Mr. English advised the report will cover all issues, and police and fire will also be included in the 311 number.

Councillor Hum noted that the 490-4000 number is working well. She stated that HRM is going to start the budget process and is trying to keep the costs down, which will be affected by this change. She added the report should include the benefits of a 311 system over the 490-4000 number.

In response to a query by Councillor Barkhouse, Mr. English advised that the report would include the cost of the 311 implementation. The intent is to get costs before any implementation moves forward.

Councillor Uteck left the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Councillor Outhit suggested that non-emergency fire and police be added to the current 490-4000 number.

Councillor Harvey added that there is always a cost to a staff report, and he added 490-4000 is working well and an easy number to remember.

Councillor Sloane left the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Councillor Mosher advised that 311 will pay for itself in ten years. She added that there are many efficiencies with 311 with enhanced services beyond 490-4000.

In response to a query by Councillor Streach, Ms. Kaiser, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, advised that 311 has a much broader range than the current 490-4000. It consolidates all numbers (non emergency police, fire and municipal services), it can be a 24 hour service, it covers all areas, reduces calls to 911 and creates efficiencies and can offer a variety of languages. She advised that HRM is able to afford this service.

Councillor Karsten advised it would be beneficial to see the efficiencies noted in the report as it relates to decreased calls to 911. He added that 490-4000 is already a streamlined service.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Council recessed at 8:05 p.m.

Council reconvened at 8:15 p.m.

Councillor Rankin left the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

12. MOTIONS

12.1 Councillor Dalrymple

MOVED BY Councillor Dalrymple, seconded by Councillor Streach, that Halifax Regional Council approve inclusion in the Metro Transit operating budget for the upcoming 2009/10 and subsequent fiscal years, funding for conventional transit routes to service the communities of Prospect, Timberlea, Fall River, Cow Bay, Lawrencetown and Musquodoboit Harbour, in the manner fully integrated with the existing Metro Transit services, and funded through the general tax rate; the first service to commence as soon as the required buses are available.

And, be it further resolved that the current Community Transit based area-rated transit services in Beaver Bank, Hammonds Plains and Porters Lake also be incorporated into the same conventional transit service delivery model.

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

MOVED BY Councillor Adams, seconded by Councillor Blumenthal, as requested by Councillor Johns, to add the Lucasville Road to the motion. AMENDMENT TO THE MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The motion now reads:

MOVED BY Councillor Dalrymple, seconded by Councillor Streach, that Halifax Regional Council approve inclusion in the Metro Transit operating budget for the upcoming 2009/10 and subsequent fiscal years, funding for conventional transit routes to service the communities of Prospect, Timberlea, Fall River, Cow Bay, Lawrencetown and Musquodoboit Harbour, and Lucasville Road in the manner fully integrated with the existing Metro Transit services, and funded through the general tax rate; the first service to commence as soon as the required buses are available.

And, be it further resolved that the current Community Transit based area-rated transit services in Beaver Bank, Hammonds Plains and Porters Lake also be incorporated into the same conventional transit service delivery model.

In response to a query by Councillor Younger, staff advised that the implications of extended services will be provided in a report at budget time.

Councillor Streach advised he supports the improvements to service boundaries.

In response to a question by Councillor Karsten, Mr. English advised the staff report regarding costing will be presented separate to budget.

Councillor Harvey expressed concern that this is moving ahead adding that HRM needs to use fiscal responsibility. He added he was prepared to support one bus to start.

Councillor Barkhouse added that many areas need access to service.

Councillor Hum advised that many residents cannot afford tax increases, and added concern that HRM is expanding its services too quickly. She advised that the report is a huge undertaking for staff.

It was noted that the motion should read "proposed budget".

Ms. O'Toole advised it needs to be determined if services are added, what other services to be cut to accommodate.

In response to a question by Councillor Younger, Mr. English advised that the staff report will be available during the fiscal framework. Councillor Younger advised the equality issues related to service needs to be addressed.

Councillor Outhit advised HRM cannot add to the general tax rate. He suggested an amendment to the motion to look at all funding options.

MOVED BY Councillor Outhit, seconded by Councillor Lund, an amendment to the motion adding, examine funding through the general tax rate and/or other means identified by HRM staff and approved by Council. AMENDMENT TO MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The motion now reads:

MOVED BY Councillor Dalrymple, seconded by Councillor Streach, that Halifax Regional Council approve inclusion in the proposed Metro Transit operating budget for the upcoming 2009/10 and subsequent fiscal years, funding for conventional transit routes to service the communities of Prospect, Timberlea, Fall River, Cow Bay, Lawrencetown and Musquodoboit Harbour, Lucasville Road in the manner fully integrated with the existing Metro Transit services, and examine funding through the general tax rate and/or other means identified by HRM staff and approved by Council; the first service to commence as soon as the required buses are available.

And, be it further resolved that the current Community Transit based area-rated transit services in Beaver Bank, Hammonds Plains and Porters Lake also be incorporated into the same conventional transit service delivery model.”

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.2 Councillor Younger

This item was deleted from the agenda during the approval of the order of business.

13. ADDED ITEMS

13.1 TRANSIT FUNDING OPTIONS

This item was dealt with at an earlier Committee of the Whole session and was now before Council for ratification.

A recorded vote and separate votes on each recommendation was requested:

MOVED BY Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Lund that Halifax Regional Council direct staff to:

1. **Include a transit fare increase in the proposed 2009/10 operating budget.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED. (13 in favour, 5 against)

Those voting In favour: Mayor Kelly, Councillors Streach, Dalrymple, Nicoll, McCluskey, Karsten, Barkhouse, Walker, Hum, Mosher, Adams, Harvey, Lund

Those voting against: Councillors Younger, Smith, Blumenthal, Watts, Outhit

Those Absent for the vote: Deputy Mayor Hendsbee, Councillors Wile, Johns, Sloane, Uteck, Rankin

MOVED BY Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Lund that Halifax Regional Council direct staff to:

2. **Initiate discussions with potential funding partners, such as the Province of Nova Scotia, to help enable sustainable transit operating funding.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED. (18 in favour, 0 against)

Those Absent for the vote: Deputy Mayor Hendsbee, Councillors Wile, Johns, Sloane, Uteck, Rankin

13.2 Personnel Matter - Citizen Appointments to Boards, Committees & Commissions

This item was dealt with at an earlier In Camera session and was now before Council for ratification.

MOVED BY Councillor Streach, seconded by Councillor McCluskey that Regional Council:

1. **Approve the appointment of Monica Jordan and David Wood to the Grant Committee for a term to November 2010.**
2. **Amend Section 4 of the Terms of Reference for the Regional Plan Advisory Committee to expand the HRM Resident Composition from Seven (7) to ten (10) until November 30, 2009.**

3. **Extend the terms of Mr. Fred Morley, Ms. Cheryl Newcombe and Ms. Maya Warnock, currently serving members of the Regional Plan Advisory Committee to November 30, 2009 to fill the above expansion of the Committee's composition.**
4. **Extend the current term for Councillor Lorelei Nicoll on the Special Events Advisory Committee to expire July 2010 and amend Councillor Peter Lund's term to run from July 2010 to July 2012 to allow for staggered terms.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

13.3 Personnel Matter - Citizen Appointments to Boards, Committees & Commissions

This item was dealt with at an earlier In Camera session and was now before Council for ratification.

MOVED BY Councillor Harvey, seconded by Councillor Adams that Regional Council extend the terms of the Heritage Advisory Committee until the Committee has completed their review of the HRM By Design. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

14. NOTICES OF MOTION

14.1 Councillor Mosher

Take Notice that at the March 24, 2009, meeting of Council, I intend to move a motion that a report be provided on the adoption of the new UNSM Code of Ethics for elected officials.

14.2 Councillor Mosher

Take Notice that at the March 24, 2009, meeting of Council, I intend to move a motion asking for preparation of a policy on the naming and/or dedication of parks and public spaces in HRM providing that Council is the approving authority.

14.3 Councillor Walker

Take Notice that at the next regular meeting of the Halifax Regional Council to be held on March 10, 2009, I intend to introduce a motion of rescission on the motion of Regional Council dated December 16, 2008, 12.2 Committee of the Whole Recommendation - Public Transportation and Municipal Property Taxation.

15. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Julia Horncastle
Acting Municipal Clerk

The following were distributed as Information Items:

1. Proclamation - Employee Appreciation Day - March 6, 2009
2. Proclamation - Epilepsy Month, March 2009
3. Memorandum from Chair, Special Events Advisory Committee dated January 30, 2009 re: Great Atlantic Blues & Beyond Festival
4. Memorandum from Director, Community Development dated February 4, 2009 re: Case 01152 - Municipal Planning Strategy Amendment, Timberlea / Lakeside / Beechville
5. Memorandum from Chief Financial Officer dated February 27, 2009 re: Third Quarter 2008 / 2009 Financial Report
6. Memorandum from Director, Business Planning & Information Management and Halifax Harbour Solutions Project dated February 18, 2009 re: Harbour Solutions 3rd Quarter Report - October 1 - December 31, 2008
7. Memorandum from the Acting Municipal Clerk dated February 27, 2009 re: Requests for Presentation to Council - Alliance for Equality of Blind Canadians
8. Memorandum from Director, Financial Services dated February 27, 2009 re: Taxation Assumptions on 2009-2010 Transit Services