

HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL  
MINUTES

February 14, 2012

PRESENT:

Mayor Peter Kelly  
Deputy Mayor Bill Karsten  
Councillors: Steve Streach  
Barry Dalrymple  
David Hendsbee  
Lorelei Nicoll  
Gloria McCluskey  
Darren Fisher  
Jackie Barkhouse  
Mary Wile  
Jerry Blumenthal  
Dawn Sloane  
Sue Uteck  
Jennifer Watts  
Russell Walker  
Debbie Hum  
Linda Mosher  
Stephen Adams  
Robert Harvey  
Tim Outhit  
Reg Rankin  
Peter Lund

REGRETS:

Councillors: Jim Smith  
Brad Johns

STAFF:

Mr. Richard Butts, Chief Administrative Officer  
Ms. Mary Ellen Donovan, Municipal Solicitor  
Ms. Sherryl Murphy, Acting Municipal Clerk  
Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant

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**1. INVOCATION**

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. with the invocation being led by Councillor Dalrymple.

**2. SPECIAL COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

On behalf of Council Mayor Kelly offered condolences to Councillor McCluskey and her family on the recent passing of her husband Tom McCluskey, noting that he was a well respected member of the community and, in particular, the boxing community.

Members of Council provided a variety of community announcements and acknowledgements.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – None**

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

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

**MOVED by Councillor Adams, seconded by Councillor Sloane that item 15.2.1 ATU Contract Negotiations be moved up and dealt with immediately following the public hearing, at which time Council will convene to In Camera. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**MOVED by Councillor Blumenthal, seconded by Councillor Sloane that the agenda 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 By-Law T-228, An Amendment to By-Law T-200, Respecting Tax Exemption for Non Profit Organizations 2011-2012.**

First Reading of this matter was given at the January 24, 2012 Regional Council meeting.

A report dated January 10, 2012 from the Grants Committee, with an attached staff report dated December 16, 2012 was before Council.

Additional minor corrections to By-law T-228 were submitted as follows:

- **Page 22. Halifax Alta Gymnastics**

Incorrect assessment account # (04405944); **correct assessment account # is 08995206**

- **Page 23. Moser River Community Centre**

The correct name should read **River Community Centre Association**

- **Page 25. City of Halifax Non-Profit Housing Society**

Table 4a is correct. The recommendation references removal from Schedule 26 (full exemption); **should read Schedule 27 (75% exempt at the Residential rate).**

- **Page 28. Alrasoul Islamic Society**

Report states "Staff recommend full exemption be declined. The property is sub-leased to commercial/private interest". **This is a typo.** The correct recommendation follows (add at Conversion).

- **Page 30. Indo-Canadian Community Centre Association.**

The correct name should read **Indo-Canadian Community Centre Society.**

- **Page 30. Metro Non-Profit Housing Association**

Typo. Recommendation references Schedule 27 at 25% exempt; **should read Schedule 30 at 25% exempt.**

- **Page 33. Hooked Rug Museum of North America**

Typo. Recommendation references Schedule 30 at a Conversion; **should read Schedule 29 at a Conversion.**

- **Page 35. North Preston Medical Society**

Incorrect address. Added in 1998 on Schedule 26 with civic address as 114 Johnson Road, North Preston. **Schedule 26 should be amended to read 52 Cain Street, North Preston.** The assessment account number is correct.

- **Page 38. Sackville Heights Community Centre Association**

Incorrect ANN# listed in Table 6b. Correct ANN# is 03376702.

- **Page 58. Eastern Shore Recreation Commission**

Incorrect assessment #09122990 cited in By-law T-228; **should read ANN#01362925**

Ms. Peta Jane Temple, Team Lead, Grants and Contributions addressed Council and provided an overview of the report, and responded to questions.

Mayor Kelly reviewed the rules of procedure for public hearings, and he opened the hearing for anyone wishing to speak.

Mr. John Verlinden, representing the Musquodoboit Harbour Heritage Society addressed Council with regard to the Musquodoboit Railway Museum. Mr. Verlinden provided a brief history of the Museum, and noted the significant repair and renovation work that has been done which has exhausted all the Heritage Society's resources. Mr. Verlinden explained that the Society has gone through restructuring and as a result, the documentation from the Municipality associated with the tax exemption had been mislaid and only recently found. He expressed appreciation to Councillors Streach and Hendsbee for bringing this matter to his attention, and advised Council that the error would not occur again.

Mr. Lucian Bianchini advised that he was representing the Veritas Society which runs a book/church store at 1546 Barrington Street. Mr. Bianchini advised that the Society was registered 18 years ago as a nonprofit charity, and since 1994 they have operated as a book store and a supplier of church goods, and has been staffed exclusively with volunteers. He added that the store serves 100 churches of various denominations and the Armed Forces within the area. He noted that their application was submitted in November 2010 and they found out it was declined through the Grant Committee report of January 9, 2012 when it was posted online. Mr. Bianchini pointed out that the report states that the Society leases space in the Brewery Market, from Barrington Street Historical developments. He advised that this was not true, and the Society is now concerned that the Grants Committee did not have the correct information on the Society when making their decision.

Ms. Cathy Deagle Gammon, Executive Director of the Dartmouth Adult Services Centre addressed Council and advised that she wanted to thank Council for their assistance in helping them acquire the land at Dorey Avenue because, in getting this land, it made them eligible for Federal and Provincial support. They received 2.1 million dollars from the Federal Government and \$500,000 from the Province, and with \$300,000 they have fund-raised, they have 3.1 million raised for their new building. She noted that they have \$750,000 to raise and will break ground on the new building in April and take occupancy in December 2012, thus meeting the terms and conditions of the land sale agreement. Ms. Deagle advised that they applied for a tax exemption of 75% reduction and received notice that the Grants Committee recommendation was for 50%.

Mr. Wayne Rudolph advised that he was a charter member of the Chezzetcook and District Lions Club for the last 28 years. Mr. Rudolph explained that their facility has been tax-exempt for the past ten years, and through an oversight the documentation the Municipality sent out to him with regard to this matter was mislaid. He added that the Club is small with only 17 members, and that without the assistance on their taxes, the tax bill will be between \$500 and \$600 a month and will be very onerous on their budget.

Mr. Jonathan Hannam advised that he was the President of the Board of Directors of the North End United Housing Co-operative Limited. Mr. Hannam spoke in support of the amendments to By-Law T-228. He noted that having the tax exemption allows the co-op to cushion the increases in assessment. Mr. Hannam referred to the list of deferrals in this years' program and advised that 76 percent of the organizations are the 25 housing cooperatives of the Plan, which represents over 400 units of co-operative housing in HRM. He encouraged Council to support the amendments in the By-law and further added that he hoped Council would support a program redesign so that it can be more encompassing for non-profits and not-for-profit organizations in HRM.

The Chair called three times for further speakers; there being none, it was **MOVED by Councillor McCluskey, seconded by Councillor Sloane that the public hearing close.**

Councillor Hendsbee rose to state that he wanted it noted for the record the letters submitted from Mr. John Appleby, Ostrea Lake Wharf Society, as well as from Rev. Wayne Desmond, North Preston Medical Society in regard to keeping their tax exemption status.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Councillor Sloane advised that she would like the Grants Committee to reconsider the application from the Veritas Society. She noted that in the speaker's comment during the public hearing, he had said that staff had incorrect information about the location of their offices.

**MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Karsten that the application by the Veritas Society, 101-1546 Barrington Street, Halifax be referred back to the Grants Committee. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**MOVED by Councillor Streach, seconded by Councillor Sloane that the Musquodoboit Harbour Heritage Society, 78995 Highway #7, Musquodoboit Harbour, and the Ostrea Lake Wharf Preservation Society, Parcel 97-A Ostrea Lake Road, Ostrea Lake applications be referred back to the Grants Committee. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**MOVED by Councillor Dalrymple, seconded by Councillor Walker that Regional Council approve By-Law T-228, Respecting Tax Exemption for Non-Profit Organizations for 2011/2012 as outlined in the Grant Committee Report dated January 10, 2012.**

Without a vote taken on the motion, the following motions were put and passed.

**MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Blumenthal that the applications for the Chezzetcook & District Lions Club, 89 East Chezzetcook**

**Road, Chezzetcook and the North Preston Medical Social, 52 Cain Street, North Preston be referred back to the Grants Committee. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**MOVED by Councillor McCluskey, seconded by Deputy Mayor Karsten that the application by the Dartmouth Adult Services Centre, 59 Dorey Avenue, Dartmouth be referred back to the Grants Committee for reconsideration of providing them their request of 75% instead of the 50% as recommended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

At this time the originating motion to approve on By-Law was **PUT AND PASSED.**

At this time Council convened In Camera to deal with Item 15.1.2 ATU Contract Negotiations, as per the previous motion (see pg. 3)

## **10. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS**

### **10.1 Correspondence**

#### **10.1.1 Request for Fly-Past – 2012 FIVB Beach Volleyball SWATCH Junior World Championships**

This matter was not dealt with and was deferred to the February 21, 2012 Council meeting.

### **10.2 Petitions - None**

### **10.3 Delegations - None**

## **11. REPORTS**

### **11.1 CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

#### **11.1.1 Budget Overview 2012/2013 (Staff Presentation)**

This matter was not dealt with and was deferred to the February 21, 2012 Council meeting.

## **12. MOTIONS**

### **12.1 Councillor Watts**

“To request a staff report on key reserve funds that explains how funds are transferred into the specific accounts, what is the criteria for the dispersal of the funds and documentation that shows the funds received and disbursed for a 10 year period for the identified reserves.”

This matter was not dealt with and was deferred to the February 21, 2012 Council meeting.

**13. ADDED ITEMS:** None

**14. NOTICES OF MOTION**

This item was not dealt with.

**15. IN CAMERA**

Council may rise and go into a private In Camera session, in accordance with Section 19 of the Halifax Regional Municipality Charter, for the purpose of dealing with the following;

**15.1 Personnel Matter**

Citizen and Councillor appointments to boards and committees in keeping with the Public Appointment Policy adopted by Regional Council in August 2011, to be found at <http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/documents/Citizenrecruitmentpolicy.pdf>

**15.1.1 Citizen Appointments to Community Design Review Committee – Private and Confidential Report**

Motion:

It is recommended that Halifax Regional Council:

1. Adopt the recommendations of the Standing Committees regarding the Citizen Appointments as outlined in Attachment 1 of the February 10, 2012 Private & Confidential Report
2. That Halifax Regional Council, by way of this motion, expresses their appreciation to all residents who have put forward their names to serve on Boards and Committees of Council
3. It is further recommended that the list of citizen appointments be released to the public following Council ratification

This matter was not dealt with and was deferred to the February 21, 2012 Council meeting.

**15.2 Labour Relations**

A matter pertaining to reports, advice and recommendations, instruction or direction to officers and employees of the Municipality concerning labour relations and employee

negotiations arising out of the contract or contract negotiations with one of the Municipalities unions.

**15.2.1 ATU Contract Negotiations - Oral**

This matter was discussed In Camera.

**16. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:37 p.m.

Cathy J. Mellett  
Municipal Clerk

The following items were submitted for information:

Memorandum from Acting Director, Finance and Information Technology dated January 13, 2012 re: Award of Contracts – Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Approval

Memorandum from Director, Legal Services and Risk Management dated January 23, 2012 re: Status of By-Law Prosecutions – October 1 - 31, 2011

Memorandum from the Municipal Clerk dated February 7, 2012 re: Requests for Presentation to Council – Halifax Taxi Driver's Owner's Associations (HTDOA) re: Taxi Zones