

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

PRESENT: Mayor Peter J. Kelly
Deputy Mayor Len Goucher
Councillors: Steve Streach
Krista Snow
David Hendsbee
Harry McInroy
Gloria McCluskey (2:40 p.m.)
Bill Karsten
Becky Kent
Jim Smith
Mary Wile
Patrick Murphy (1:25 p.m.)
Dawn Sloane
Sue Uteck (1:35 p.m.)
Sheila Fougere
Russell Walker (2:45 p.m.)
Debbie Hum
Linda Mosher
Stephen Adams
Brad Johns
Robert Harvey
Gary Meade

REGRETS: Councillors: Andrew Younger
Reg Rankin

STAFF: Mr. George McLellan, Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. Jan Gibson, Municipal Clerk
Ms. Sherryl Murphy, Legislative Assistant

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The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

4. BUDGET DELIBERATIONS

4.2 Fire and Emergency Services (Cont'd)

Chief Eddy and Deputy Chief Moser responded to questions from members of Council regarding the 2005-2006 Fire and Emergency Services budget.

A brief discussion ensued regarding CityWatch with Councillor Smith requesting an update on the CityWatch program in terms of future use. Councillor Snow indicated that it was her understanding that staff would be giving a presentation at an upcoming In Camera session with regard to the future of CityWatch.

Following a further questioning of staff the Chair thanked Mr. Eddy for his presentation.

4.3 Integrated Emergency Services

Mr. Bill More, Superintendent, briefly reviewed the priorities for Integrated Emergency Services for the coming year as set out in the implications of the proposed business plan document. A copy of implications sheet is included with the file for this meeting.

Mr. Moore responded to questions for members of Council regarding various aspects of the Integrated Emergency Services budget.

Councillor Hendsbee asked if there is improved ability to track 911 calls that are received through the various mobile technologies (cell phone, e-mail, etc). Mr. More indicated that this is a Provincial initiative and that he would pose that question at an upcoming meeting with the Province and get back to the Councillor.

Following a further brief questioning of staff, the Chair thanked Mr. Moore for his presentation.

The meeting recessed at 2:10 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 2:25 p.m. with the same members present with the exception of Councillor Kent who extended regrets.

4.4. Human Resources

- Page 181 of the Halifax Regional Municipality 2005/06 Proposed Business Plans & Budget was circulated to Council.

Mr. Louis Coutinho, Director, Human Resources, introduced the Human Resource budget noting that HRM has significant dollars invested in human capital. There were no questions for Mr. Coutinho.

His Worship thanked Mr. Coutinho for his presentation.

4.5 Legal Services

Mr. Wayne Anstey, Director, Legal Services briefly reviewed the plan for Legal Services as found on page 225 of the budget book. Mr. Anstey noted that the department is presently experiencing staff shortages. Following a recent competition for lawyers, Mr. Anstey indicated that he is proposing that a second lawyer be hired at this time to address these shortages. Mr. Anstey noted that he believes it will be possible to eliminate the external budget in the next budget year.

There were no questions for Mr. Anstey.

The Chair thanked Mr. Anstey for his presentation.

4.6 Planning and Development

Mr. Paul Dunphy, Director, Planning and Development, reviewed with Council the implications of the proposed business plan for Planning and Development and responded to questions.

Councillor Uteck requested an update on the proposal to seek increased fines for stop work orders. Councillor Uteck noted that when a stop work order is issued a significant amount of staff time is taken up with getting the project back on line. Consequently, other approved projects are delayed.

Councillor Mosher requested that staff address issues around in appropriate meeting space for community meetings.

Following a further brief questioning of staff, the Chair thanked Mr. Donovan for his presentation.

As it was now 3:30 p.m., the meeting adjourned.

Jan Gibson
Municipal Clerk