

**HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MINUTES
March 1, 2005
(afternoon session)**

PRESENT:

Mayor Peter J. Kelly
Deputy Mayor Len Goucher
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
Sue Uteck
Sheila Fougere (1:25 p.m.)
Russell Walker
Debbie Hum
Linda Mosher
Brad Johns
Robert Harvey
Gary Meade (1:30 p.m.)

REGRETS:

Councillors: Steve Adams
Reg Rankin

STAFF:

Mr. George McLellan, Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. Jan Gibson, Municipal Clerk
Ms. Julia Horncastle, Legislative Assistant

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1. **CALL TO ORDER**

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

2. **BUDGET DELIBERATIONS**

2.1 **Governance**

Ms. Betty MacDonald, Director, Governance and Strategic Initiatives, presented Council with an overview of the 2005/2006 budget.

MOVED by Councillor Harvey, seconded by Councillor Johns, that staff provide a report evaluating the pros and cons of reverting to the reduced gross amount of \$45,000 to \$46,000 and reinstitute the stipend of 1/3 tax free. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Councillor Younger requested a breakdown of the costs of the Immigration Conference be provided to Council.

In response to Councillor Walker, Ms MacDonald advised the amount of \$200,000 is allocated yearly to the election reserve.

Ms. Dale McLennan, Director, Financial Services, advised she would provide a summary of election costs and offset figures from the Province on March 2nd.

MOVED by Councillor McCluskey, seconded by Councillor Younger, that the amount of \$65,000 allocated for UNSM membership be placed in the parking lot for consideration for removal from the budget. MOTION DEFEATED.

Councillor Streach noted HRM receives \$7.9 million in gas tax revenues. The Councillor advised that the residents in his district pay a large portion of this and requested staff to consider his concerns when determining the disbursement of those funds.

Councillor Hendsbee noted that community identification signage was a part of the civic addressing process and expressed concern that there may not be a significant amount allocated to ensure that all community signs are up and in place.

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Snow, that the amount of \$100,000 be placed in the parking lot for the provision of community identification signs as part of the civic addressing initiative. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Snow, that the amount of \$5,000 for each Councillor for an assistant be added to the parking lot. MOTION DEFEATED.

In response to Councillor Mosher, Council was advised that there were no funding identified in this budget for a muralist.

MOVED by Councillor Mosher, seconded by Councillor Smith, that the amount of \$60,000 be placed in the parking lot for a muralist position. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Councillor Johns expressed concern that there was no increase to the funding to the HRDA in the proposed budget.

MOVED by Councillor Johns, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee, that the amount of \$25,000 be placed in the parking lot as an increase for the HRDA for this year. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Councillor Younger referenced page 32 item 14 and noted there was a \$300,000 increase and requested a breakdown of what was included under the heading "other goods and services" be provided in future budgets.

MOVED by Councillor Streach, seconded by Councillor Sloane, that the amount of \$50,000 be included in the budget for increased support for the Councilor's office to aid in the handling of workload, support for community meetings, and issues to be handled by manager of Councilor's Support. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Councillor Hendsbee stated people in rural suburban areas need to start seeing some tangible results as to what the regional plan is providing.

Councillor Streach stated that under civic addressing, the street signs be up before a street name is officially changed.

Councillor Hendsbee requested information be provided on the costs to upgrade the audio and visual in Council chambers.

3. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Jan Gibson
Municipal Clerk