

**HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MINUTES
March 2, 2005
(morning session)**

PRESENT:

Mayor Peter J. Kelly
Deputy Mayor Len Goucher
Councillors: Krista Snow (10:15 a.m.)
David Hendsbee (11:00 a.m.)
Harry McInroy
Gloria McCluskey
Andrew Younger
Bill Karsten
Becky Kent
Mary Wile
Patrick Murphy
Sue Uteck
Sheila Fougere
Russell Walker
Debbie Hum
Linda Mosher
Stephen Adams
Robert Harvey
Gary Meade

ABSENT:

Councillor Steve Streach (regrets)
Councillor Reg Rankin (regrets)
Councillor Jim Smith (regrets)
Councillor Dawn Sloane
Councillor Brad Johns

STAFF:

Mr. George McLellan, Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. Jan Gibson, Municipal Clerk
Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:40 a.m.

2. BUDGET DELIBERATIONS:

Halifax Regional Library

- C A copy of the Implications of the Proposed Business Plan for the Halifax Regional Library was submitted.

Ms. Judith Hare, CEO, Halifax Regional Library addressed Council and presented the business plan for 2005/06 for the Halifax Regional Library.

Ms. Hare responded to questions.

MOVED by Councillor Younger, seconded by Councillor Wile that \$50,000 for the Woodlawn Library be placed in the Parking Lot. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Councillor Adams, seconded by Councillor Mosher that \$50,000 for the William Spry Library be placed in the Parking Lot for the beginning of a phase-in program. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Deputy Mayor Goucher referred to the three pilot sites (Sackville, Keshen Goodman, Spring Garden Road) for the wireless hot spots project and advised he would like to have one in Bedford. He requested Ms. Hare to ask her staff to contact him to discuss the cost.

In response to a question by Councillor Harry McInroy regarding co-locating opportunities between the Library Board and other partners, Ms. Hare indicated that she had recently prepared a report in this regard and it had been circulated to Council. Subsequently, the CAO advised that, in consultation with the Deputy CAO, there was no indication Council received this report, and he requested Ms. Hare recirculate it.

Councillor Meade referred to the Tantallon Library and asked if the Library Board would consider budgeting, in next year's budget, to allow for Monday openings. Ms. Hare advised that she will take this request back to the Board.

Councillor McCluskey asked Betty MacDonald, Director, Governance and Strategic Initiatives to provide the criteria used to rate budget items when they are reviewed by the Theme Team.

Council recessed at 10:25 a.m., and recovered at 10:45 a.m. with the same members present.

Shared Services

C A copy of the Implications of the Proposed 2005-2006 Business Plan for Shared Services was submitted.

Ms. Geri Kaiser addressed Council and outlined her proposed budget for 2005-2006 and responded to questions from Council.

Councillor Meade pointed out that the Access-a-Bus cannot drop off passengers at the West End Mall Customer Service Centre due to an overhead awning recently installed. He indicated that the Mall doesn't seem to be concerned of the difficulty this causes disabled passengers and questioned Ms. Kaiser if staff was addressing this matter. In response, Ms. Kaiser advised that the lease for HRM's customer service centre expires within two years in conjunction with the Province's lease on its customer service centre, and at that time there maybe an opportunity for both to co-locate someplace else. She expressed appreciation to Councillor Meade for bringing this issue to her attention and advised that it will be taken into consideration when staff look at future location requirements.

Fiscal Services

Ms. Dale MacLennan, Director of Financial Services addressed Council and, noting that this is the category which generates discussion on tax revenue and tax rates, she requested that Council set aside discussion on that aspect at this time, until the remaining business units have presented their budgets. Ms. MacLennan suggested that once all business units have presented their budgets, then on Friday Council could have a full discussion without any concern over time constraints.

Mr. Bruce Fisher, Manager of Financial Planning addressed Council and began his presentation with an explanation of the Fiscal Services Business Unit, noting that it is

not a real business unit, but is essentially, a collection of costs. Mr. Fisher reviewed the expected increases and decreases in costs the Municipality will incur over the next year.

Mr. Fisher and Ms. MacLennan responded to questions of Council.

Councillor McCluskey advised that she understood the Correctional Facility was exempt from providing a grant because the name has been transferred to a charitable organization. Mr. Fisher indicated he believed it was exempt under the Assessment Act, however, he would check on Councillor McCluskey's comment and report back.

3. ADJOURN

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m., advising that Council would reconvene at 1:10 p.m., continuing with the discussion on Fiscal Services.

Jan Gibson
Municipal Clerk