

**HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
MINUTES  
March 08, 2005**

**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  
Mary Wile  
Patrick Murphy  
Sue Uteck  
Russell Walker  
Debbie Hum  
Linda Mosher  
Stephen Adams  
Brad Johns  
Robert Harvey  
Reg Rankin  
Jim Smith  
Dawn Sloane  
Sheila Fougere

**REGRETS:**

Councillors: Gary Meade

**STAFF:**

Mr. George McLellan, Chief Administrative Officer  
Mr. Wayne Anstey, Municipal Solicitor  
Ms. Jan Gibson, Municipal Clerk  
Ms. Julia Horncastle, Legislative Assistant  
Ms. Sherryl Murphy, Legislative Assistant  
Ms. Stephanie Parsons, Legislative Assistant

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	Call To Order .....	03
2.	Approval of Minutes .....	03
3.	Approval of the Order of Business And Approval of Additions And Deletions	03
4.	2005-2006 Operating and Capital Budget recap .....	03
5.	Parking Lot .....	04
6.	Supplementary Funding .....	05
7.	Adjournment .....	06

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - None**

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

The Mayor stated that agenda items 5, 7, 8 and 9 are part of the Operating and Capital Budget Recap and that the Parking Lot will follow the recap, followed by Supplementary funding.

**4. 2005-2006 OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGET RECAP**

The following documents were before Council for consideration:

- PowerPoint Presentation - Service and Taxation Review
- Report - 2005-2006 Proposed Business Plans and Budget Parking Lot Items
- Table - Supplementary Education Area Rates for 2005-2006
- Table - Growth in Residential Assessments from 2004-2005 one Dwelling Units
- Table - Growth in Residential Assessments from 2004-2005 all Dwellings
- Table - Tax Reduction Scenarios
- Table of additional questions asked by Committee for the Whole

Ms. Dale McLennan, Director of Financial Services noted the following in her presentation to Council:

- The Operating Expenditure per Dwelling Unit is based on a conservative CPI, it does not reflect the full impact of inflation HRM.
- The 3.2% tax rate reduction reflects the traditional revenue strategy which is why staff brought forward a hold the rate budget.
- A 2% tax rate reduction is inconsistent with revenue strategy there is a nominal decrease with no increase in services.
- The 7.6% tax cut is not beneficial to those who need it therefore recommended temporary tax credit
- Staffs report back to Council on Tax Reform for 2006-2007 will link the revenue strategy to the Regional Plan.

Ms. Dale McLennan made the following recommendations:

1. That Council Fund Parking lot as recommended.
2. Transfer Capital Surplus (2.5 m) to a contingency account to use for a temporary tax credit.
3. Split supplementary Education rates.

**5. Parking Lot**

**Recommendation # 1**

**MOVED by Councillor Uteck, seconded by Councillor Streach, that the recommended parking lot items be moved into the Capital budget (\$15,000 for Summerfest and \$85,000 for community signage as part of the civic addressing initiative).**

**Amendment # 1**

**MOVED by Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor McCluskey that the motion be amended to include \$25,000 for a cost of living increase for crossing guards. MOTION PUT AND PASSED**

(Staff to determine where the funds would be coming from)

**Amendment #2**

**MOVED by Councillor Harvey, seconded by Councillor Walker that effective April 1, 2005 that Councillor remuneration be reduced and reinstate the 1/3 stipend. MOTION DEFEATED**

**Amendment #3**

**MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Johns, that \$80,000 be taken from the allocation for washrooms on the North Commons and be put towards the restoration of Seawall . MOTION DEFEATED**

**MOTION AS AMENDED PUT AND PASSED**

The following concerns/comments were also made in regards to the non recommended Parking Lot items:

- In response to Councillors Younger's concern that the Woodlawn Replacement Relocation Study is constantly put off Ms. Dale MacLellan commented that the recommendations reflect the priority process. If the Library wanted to complete the study the funds could be taken from the Library Reserve Funds. The Library and the Finance department would prepare a Reserve Business Case.

- In response to Councillor Smith on how By-law A- 300 could be integrated if there is no money allocated to it, Ms. McLellan and Brad Anguish commented that if the By-law was approved they would provide a report to Council detailing cost implications and options with specific recommendations on how to manage the bylaw.
- Councillor Mosher commented that the Muralist position is still required and that the Restoration of Seawall needs to be done.

### **Recommendation #2**

**MOVED by Councillor Uteck, seconded by Councillor Goucher to Transfer Capital Surplus (\$2.5m) funds to a contingency account for use for temporary tax credit with any extra to be returned to Capital Surplus for use in 2006-2007 Capital Budget.**

The meeting recessed for lunch at 11:45. The meeting reconvened at 1:20 p.m. with the following 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, Mary Wile, Patrick Murphy, Sue Uteck, Russell Walker, Debbie Hum, Linda Mosher, Brad Johns, Robert Harvey, Reg Rankin, Jim Smith, Dawn Sloane, Sheila Fougere.

After a brief discussion Ms. McLellan commented that the recommendation only includes lands that have dwellings on them. The process to implement the proposed Temporary Tax Credit has not been determined, staff would return to Council with additional details on the how the proposed Temporary Tax Credit would be implemented.

### **MOTION PUT AND PASSED**

#### **6. Supplementary Funding**

### **Recommendation # 3**

**MOVED by Councillor Uteck, seconded by Councillor Sloane that:**

- **The Halifax supplementary education rate be set at 7.6 cents per \$100 of assessment and the budget reduced to \$10,661,400.**
- **Council levy a 1.8 cents per \$100 of assessment area rate for \$1,633,600 on**

**Residential and Commercial Property in Halifax for music and arts.**

- **The Dartmouth supplementary education rate be set at 6.1 cents per \$100 of assessment and the budget reduced to \$4,668,000**
- **That Council levy a 1.4 cent per \$100 of assessment area rate for 571,200 on Residential and Commercial Property in Dartmouth for music and arts.**
- **The Halifax Regional School Board be notified that in 2006-07 HRM intends to reduce the Halifax and Dartmouth supplementary education rates by 10%**

It was clarified by Mr. Anstey that the recommendation is in compliance with the Municipal Government Act. Currently HRM has no control as to where supplementary funding is spent, but by putting arts, music and other special programs into an area rate HRM could stipulate how it should be used. The reduction of 10 percent only applies to the original amount. If the School Board allocated monies to other than what was specified, HRM could ask to be reimbursed for those funds. Council has the right to levy an area rate without a public meeting.

**MOVED by Councillor Harvey, seconded by Councillor Streach that further consideration of this matter be deferred to April 15, 2005 pending the release of the Hogg Report and further that staff come forward with a management report to clarify the proposed area rate. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**MOVED by Councillor Mosher, seconded by Councillor Sloane that HRM hold a plebiscite during the next Provincial Election to deal with the issue of supplementary education funding and further that HRM approve the wording of the plebiscite. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Councillor Hum referred to discussion at meeting of the Committee of the Whole Council last week which referred to the opinions of Mike Brownlow relative to supplementary education funding. Councillor Hum indicated that Mr. Brownlow is very committed to supplementary funding and, for the public record, Mr. Brownlow has submitted his opinion on the issue. A copy is included with the file for this meeting.

**6. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Jan Gibson  
Municipal Clerk