

**HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

December 13, 2005

PRESENT:

Mayor Peter Kelly
Deputy Mayor Russell Walker
Councillors: Steve Streach
Krista Snow
David Hendsbee
Gloria McCluskey
Andrew Younger
Bill Karsten
Becky Kent
Jim Smith
Mary Wile
Patrick Murphy
Dawn M. Sloane
Sue Uteck
Sheila Fougere
Debbie Hum
Linda Mosher
Stephen D. Adams
Brad Johns
Robert P. Harvey
Len Goucher
Reg Rankin
Gary G. Meade

REGRETS:

Councillor Harry McInroy

ALSO PRESENT:

Mr. Wayne Anstey, Acting Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. Mary Ellen Donovan, Municipal Solicitor
Ms. Jan Gibson, Municipal Clerk
Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant
Ms. Julia Horncastle, Acting Municipal Clerk

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1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 9:17 a.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

MOVED by Councillor Snow, seconded by Councillor Adams the minutes of November 22, 2005, November 29, 2005 and December 6, 2005 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. **OVERVIEW COUNCIL FOCUS AREAS - INFRASTRUCTURE**
i) MUNICIPAL RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE FUND

C This matter had been deferred from a meeting held on November 29, 2005.

C A supplementary staff report, dated November 25, 2005 was submitted.

Ms. Jennifer Church, Coordinator, Intergovernmental Affairs, addressed Council and provided an update in regard to the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund. She advised that the Agreement was signed on November 24, 2005 and HRM's allocation is \$14.4 million and the funds available for HRM application is \$11.5 million. Ms. Church indicated the 20% urban allocation is \$3.45 million. She advised that if Council can come to an agreement on the urban allocation, then staff will come back with a final project list and recommendations on the allocation of projects.

MOVED by Councillor Snow, seconded by Councillor Karsten that:

1. **The 20% urban component of HRM's MRIF allocation be applied towards the following projects (totalling \$3.45m):**

C **Purchase of three transit buses at a total cost of \$1.35 m to help address a portion of the existing transit service deficiencies within the urban core.**

C **Top priority active transportation projects, totalling \$2.1m, providing a basic network of routes that can be integrated into the daily lives of the public and which contribute significantly to lessening traffic, increasing transit ridership and promoting a healthier lifestyle.**

Halifax Urban Greenway Phase I - \$880,000

Dartmouth Harbourfront Trail (Maplehurst connection) - \$528,000

Shubenacadie Trail - \$400,000

Bedford Highway Bikeway Phase 1 - \$352,000

At 9:29 a.m. Councillor Hum entered the meeting.

Councillor Johns requested clarification on whether the 20% that is considered for strategic priorities has to be spent within HRM or whether the number was flexible. The Councillor advised that, for example, it was his understanding the Province and Federal Government had the discretion to spend only 10% in HRM but 30% in another municipality if they wished to do so.

The Chair advised that staff will verify this matter.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Councillor Adams, seconded by Councillor Sloane that the MRIF priority list, as approved by Council, be reduced proportionally by the subsequent reduction to \$11.5 million.

At 9:46 a.m. Councillor Uteck entered the meeting.

THE MOTION WAS PUT AND DEFEATED.

At 9:53 a.m. Councillor Becky Kent entered the meeting.

MOVED by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Streach that the original MRIF project list as brought forward by staff be submitted to the Province of Nova Scotia.

In speaking to the motion, Councillors Rankin and Streach noted the importance of Broadband being included on the recommended projects list.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

OVERVIEW COUNCIL FOCUS AREAS - INFRASTRUCTURE:

ii) Gas Tax

C A supplementary staff report dated December 8, 2005 was submitted.

Ms. Jennifer Church addressed Council and reviewed the submitted report which highlighted gas tax agreement criteria and provided an approach to allocate the funds.

Ms. Church, and Ms. Debbie McCaig, Budget Coordinator, responded to questions.

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Karsten that Council approve the approach to allocating gas tax funds as indicated in the December 8, 2005 Supplementary Report.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

At 10:35 a.m. the meeting recessed.

The meeting reconvened at 10:40 a.m. with the same members present. During the recess Councillors Fougere and Younger entered the meeting.

Councillor Rankin made reference to Council's previous discussion on MRIF, and questioned how the Public Transit Funds were to be allocated.

In response, Mayor Kelly advised that he recently had discussions with Federal ministers concerning transit funds and it is their understanding the funds are based on ridership. He explained that there are three transit operations in the Province, i.e. Kings, which has a ridership of 500,000; Cape Breton has a 400,000 ridership; and HRM which has a ridership of 16 million. Mayor Kelly added that the \$22 million, over two years, will be proportionally allocated based upon the ridership formula.

Councillor Rankin suggested and **it was agreed** that the Mayor write a letter to the Federal Government requesting assurance on this matter.

4. COUNCIL FOCUS AREAS - PUBLIC SAFETY

C An information report dated December 8, 2005 was submitted.

Ms. Betty MacDonald, Director, Governance and Strategic Initiatives addressed Council and provided a brief overview of the Public Safety Focus Area.

At 10:55 a.m. Councillor Murphy entered the meeting.

i) By- Law Enforcement

Mr. Brad Anguish, Director, Environmental Management Services, and Mr. Paul Dunphy, Director, Development and Planning addressed Council with regard to the current state of the Bylaw Services program. The presentation highlighted enhancements to the program currently underway and asked for Council's direction in regard to the following matters: confirm areas of concern; confirm daily operational priorities; confirm current initiatives, confirm community stewardship, and to get Council's view on whether a service level review should be conducted.

At 11:15 a.m. Councillor Wile entered the meeting.

A discussion ensued with Mr. Anguish, Mr. Dunphy, and Mr. Allan Waye, General Manager, Community Projects, responding to questions.

The following comments were put forward:

- C support a service level review
- C additional staff need to be hired

- C status quo is not acceptable; a service level review should be conducted before considering hiring additional staff

MOVED by Councillor Fougere, seconded by Councillor Snow that By-law Enforcement conduct a Service Level Review in conjunction with a more detailed analysis of the data available regarding requests for service.

- C the creation of a municipal court system would alleviate the backlog of tickets waiting for court dates.
- C police officers should not be used as by-law enforcement officers; if additional by-law staff is required, then they should be hired.
- C provide increased education to HRM residents on the by-laws; repeat offenders are a main concern
- C the hours that by-law enforcement officers work should be reconsidered, with the idea of providing expanded hours of service, year round.
- C would be helpful for Councillors to have a list of the by-law officers, and a list of by-law resources.

At 12:00 p.m. the meeting recessed.

The meeting reconvened at 1:40 p.m. with the Deputy Mayor in the Chair, and the following Council members present:

Councillors: Streach, Snow, Hendsbee, McCluskey, Younger, Kent, Wile, Murphy, Sloane, Uteck, Fougere, Hum, Mosher, Johns, Harvey, Goucher, Rankin and Meade.

Regrets: Councillors McInroy, Karsten, Smith, and Adams.

Also Present: Mr. Wayne Anstey, Acting Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Ms. Mary Ellen Donovan, Municipal Solicitor; Ms. Jan Gibson, Municipal Clerk; and Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant.

Discussion continued on by-law services with further points being noted as follows:

- C should have additional staff, other than police and by-law enforcement with the authority to issue tickets.

- C cautioned against enacting by-laws which the Municipality does not have the ability to enforce.
- C reference was made to the Memo of Understanding for inspections of residential occupations which Development and Planning and Fire Services prepared, and it was suggested that staff prepare a concise document that the Councillors as well as the Call Centre could use as reference.
- C better communication required between staff and Councillors, i.e. do not get enough follow-up from staff when a Councillor reports an incident.
- C support the stewardship program - suggestion that staff consider programming on local cable channels, information radio, brochures in tax or water bills, and information provided in the Councillors' newsletters.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

ii) Policing

This matter was deferred.

iii) Fire Services / Emergency Measures Organization

At 2:27 p.m. Mayor Kelly entered the meeting and took his seat as Chair.

Mr. Mike Eddy, Chief of Fire Services and Deputy Chief Roy Hollett provided a presentation on Proposed Service Standards for Fire and Emergency Services. The presentation provided background information on the reason for developing the proposed standard; reviewed the existing Fire Service Standards; noted the research which went into developing the proposal; and elaborated on the proposed standard. Chief Eddy also noted the various individuals and groups who have reviewed and support the proposed standard. He concluded the presentation with an overview of the current and upcoming initiatives in Emergency Services.

Chief Eddy and Deputy Chief Hollett responded to questions.

Mr. Anstey, Acting Deputy Chief Administrative Officer advised that staff was not looking for a decision from Council today. He noted that there was a report being prepared which will probably be provided to Council at its first meeting in January. Mr. Anstey indicated the recommendation in the report pertains to approval in principle of a higher service standard as a goal to work towards, and, also, to establish a service standard for today based upon current resources.

5. FISCAL FRAMEWORK

This matter was deferred.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:32 p.m.

Jan Gibson
Municipal Clerk