

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL
JUNE 14, 2006

PRESENT:

Mayor Peter Kelly
Deputy Mayor Russell Walker
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
Debbie Hum
Linda Mosher
Stephen Adams
Brad Johns
Robert P. Harvey
Reg Rankin
Gary Meade

**ABSENT WITH
REGRETS:**

Len Goucher

STAFF:

Mr. Dan English, Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. Geri Kaiser, Acting Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. Mary Ellen Donovan, Municipal Solicitor
Ms. Jan Gibson, Municipal Clerk
Ms. Sherryl Murphy, Acting 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. with Deputy Mayor Walker in the Chair.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - None

3. BUDGET DELIBERATIONS

- The Proposed 2006-07 Budget Service Plans were before Council. Also before Council was the 2006-07 Proposed Capital Project (Supplementary Reports and 2007-08 & 2008-09 Proposed Plan). A memo dated June 8, 2006 from Cathie O'Toole, Acting Director, Finance, with attached replacement pages for the Proposed 2006/07 Budget Service Plans was circulated to Council.
- A document entitled Committee of the Whole, 2006-07 Service Review and Business Plan & Budget Discussion (June 14 -16, 2006) was before Council.

Mr. Dan English, Chief Administrative Officer, addressed Council indicating that staff would bring forward a Wastewater Management Plan and the Environmental Protection Charge. Staff will also provide a short term remedy relative to rural Fire Stations with a long term plan coming to Council at a later date.

Mr. English, utilizing Powerpoint, gave a presentation including the following key highlights:

- Priority Setting Overview (See Page D1 of the Proposed 2006-7 Budget),
- Expenditure Overview - Capital Areas (Highlights)
 - intention is that once the discussion on the budget is complete staff will identify approximately \$2 million to address Stormwater/Wastewater issues
 - increases in certain areas led to decreases in others,
- High Level Summary of Cost Pressures - Operating Budget,
- Capital budget is now in compliance with debt strategy,
- Corporate Savings - \$2.1 million reduction in Travel, Training and Telecommunications,
- Efficiencies:
 - \$2.5 million in Transportation and Public Works,
 - Renegotiation of telecommunication contracts,
 - Savings from implementation of tighter controls on non-inventoried assets,
- Expenditure Overview: Operating
 - Priorities include:
 - Public Safety
 - Planning and Infrastructure

- Community
- Fiscal responsibility - service reviews, comprehensive audit
- Performance Measurement
- Employer of Choice
- External Affairs
- Commonwealth Games,
- Risks
 - Fuel costs
 - Increase in cost of services purchased
 - Funding programs from other levels of government
 - Revenue projections.

Mr. English then briefly reviewed the guidelines for the budget discussions advising that each Business Unit would present increases in service, decreases in service and expectations not met, and respond to questions. Additions to the budget will be added to the parking lot where the double entry principle will apply (for every addition a corresponding reduction). Mr. English noted that staff will provide a report on matters they are unable to respond to at the time they give their presentation.

MOVED by Councillor Adams, seconded by Councillor Kent that Halifax Regional Council approve the 2006-07 Capital and Operating Budgets as set out in the budget documents.

MOVED by Councillor Adams, seconded by Councillor Kent that the question now be put. MOTION PUT AND DEFEATED.

In support of his motion, Councillor Adams noted that after six (6) days of debate, the 2005/06 budget had been approved with a change of only \$227,000. The Councillor went on to point out that the budget is a dynamic document and can be changed at any time on the basis of the double entry.

MOVED by Councillor Harvey, seconded by Councillor Sloane that consideration of the above motion be deferred pending the Business Unit presentations. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3.1 Chief Administrative Officer

Mr. Dan English, CAO, presented the CAO Business Plan/Budget as contained on pages E-1 to E-12 of the 2006-2007 Budget Service Plan. Mr. English noted that the 2006-2007 CAO budget reflected a 1% increase over the 2005-2006 budget. He went on to indicate that no decreases to service are contemplated. Mr. English noted, however, there is the potential for

a change in the support to Council's Boards and Committees due to not filling one position in the Clerk's office.

Councillor McCluskey noted that budgeted increases are based on budgeted expenditures rather than on actual expenditures. She expressed concern that this is somewhat misleading.

By way of explanation, Mr. English indicated that any change to the tax rate is based on the budget rather than actual expenditures.

MOVED by Councillor Uteck, seconded by Councillor Hum that the Councillors discretionary funding in the amount of \$69,000 and the \$49,122 (7.6%) increase in the Mayor's budget be moved to the parking lot with that funding being redirected to the Library. MOTION DEFEATED.

In response to concerns from Councillor Hum regarding the Councillors Discretionary Fund, the CAO indicated that a review of all Councillors funds is underway and a report will be coming back to Council to clarify the policy around these funds.

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Snow that \$115,000 (\$5,000 per District) be placed in the parking lot for administrative support to Councillors and that these funds be allocated from the Regional Plan budget and/or Contingency Fund(s). MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

In response to a question from Councillor Kent regarding funding for the upcoming By-Election, Mr. English indicated that a report will be provided to Council in the near future.

In response to questions from Councillor McCluskey, Mr. English indicated that he would report back to Council with regard to :

- Clarification of the status of Item E-126 Grant Funded Projects,
- Clarification of increases in line items Vehicle, Travel, and Training and Education.

Councillor Mosher referred to the proposed muralist position she had requested approximately two years ago. Noting that there were operational costs relating to murals, the Councillor requested an update.

The CAO indicated that he would bring back an update, however, the position is not funded in the current budget.

Councillor Mosher indicated that she would like to have this position included in next year's budget. To this end, she went on to suggest that the CAO's office do a survey of how much has been expended by individual Councillors in this area.

Referring to the lobbyist position which has been proposed in the past, Councillor Mosher requested a status update.

The meeting recessed at 11:00 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 11:15 a.m. with His Worship Mayor Kelly in the Chair.

3.2 RCMP

Superintendent Gordon A. Barnett, RCMP, presented the 2006-07 Proposed Budget and Business Plan for the OIC Halifax District Detachment, including the following highlights:

- In 2005/06 a review of the deployment of RCMP resources within HRM was carried out and resources were re-organized to ensure they are deployed effectively ,
- The CAD/RMS was successfully implemented,
- Halifax Detachment now has a more efficient service model,
- The existing resources are not sufficient to meet community expectations and Council focus areas,
- A budget increase is proposed to enhance public safety and quality of life in communities by increasing RCMP Community Liaison Officer positions - 4 Full Time Employees (FTEs) to be deployed in Lake Echo/Porters Lake, Eastern Passage, Fall River/Waverley, Beechville/Lakeside//Timberlea/Prospect area,
- Changing responsibility for policing of Porters Lake to the Musquodoboit office,
- A budget increase is proposed to provide efficient and effective policing services to the North Central Region of HRM - Additional 1.5 FTEs and re-deploy 2.5 FTEs from Enfield Detachment to Halifax District Detachment,
- These FTEs will be deployed to an office to be established in Middle Musquodoboit area which will include a full time public servant during normal business hours,
- No decrease in service is proposed,
- No expectation that services will not be delivered,
- Gaps in services will be addressed by the increases requested.

Superintendent Barnett responded to various questions from members of Council providing the following key information:

- He has no information on how the possible increased federal allocation will impact RCMP in HRM,

- Responsibility for policing of Porters Lake will transfer to the Musquodoboit office effective August 17, 2006,
- Various Community Outreach programs are in the planning and/or implementation stages (i.e. youth, All Terrain Vehicles),
- RCMP personnel will be assisting with By-law enforcement when possible.

Mayor Kelly thanked Superintendent Barnett for his presentation.

3.3 Halifax Regional Police

Mr. Frank Beazley, Chief of Police addressed Council and briefly presented the 2006-2007 Halifax Regional Police (HRP) Budget, including the following highlights:

- The 2006-2007 budget builds on the 2005/2006 budget,
- Budget Increase: Eight (8) new officers in Dartmouth to establish a 24/7 beat patrol,
- Re-deployment will allow for new foot patrols in Central and West Halifax,
- Budget Increase: Addition of two (2) Functional Analysts relative to CAD/RMS,
- Budget Increase: Addition of two (2) Part-time Clerks to increase capacity to process Summary Offence Tickets,
- No decreases proposed,
- Net increases over last year is 24 new positions (16 approved last year, 8 proposed this year).

Chief Beazley responded to questions providing the following key information:

- A Senior NCO has been assigned to review with By-law Enforcement the issues around the Animal By-law. The By-law is presently with Legal Services. HRP is reviewing how to approach Animal Control and looking at cross training Animal, By-law and park patrol officers.

The Chair thanked Chief Beazley for his presentation.

RECESS

The meeting recessed at 12:00 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 1:17 p.m. with the same members present with the exception of Councillor Johns.

Council continued its discussion on the Police Services budget. Chief Frank Beazley and staff responded to questions, clarifying the following points:

- C With the 8 FTE's focussed on North End Dartmouth, the idea is to have them mainly on foot and bicycle patrol; this will allow the police cars to move in other directions. Also, the foot and bicycle patrols will enable the police officers to interact more with the community.

Councillor Mosher entered the meeting at 1:22 p.m.

- C In regard to the Summary Offence Tickets, the need for two part-time FTE's is to deal with the huge volume of work which has been steadily increasing but without any staff increase.
- C If Police Services can obtain sponsorship for a video surveillance plan, or if Council supports such a plan, video surveillance would be placed in high travel and high crime areas.

Councillor McInroy entered the meeting at 1:31 p.m.

- C The status of the Municipal Court idea is that one meeting with the Province has taken place. The Municipal Solicitor has taken the lead on the project and the next step will be to do further research and set up a second meeting with the Province.
- C As requested by Council, staff will ensure that Dillman Park is included in the Park Patrol.

Councillor Uteck and Councillor Streach entered the meeting at approximately 1:39 p.m.

- C Police Services does not own the building on Lakecrest Drive in which it held its Police Youth Program. The youth program was moved, and will be taking space in the Northbrook School. Council suggested that the Deputy CAO look into finding either a suitable use for the building or disposing of it, as it has been sitting in a derelict condition for some time.
- C Staff is impressed with the photo radar technology. This matter is currently before the Province and it will require legislative changes in order to implement.
- C By moving Central Records to Northbrook School, space will become available at Headquarters and it should be enough to meet the needs for the next 10 years.
- C There has not been a lot of movement with regard to a museum. Staff have met with a group of retired firefighters and indicated that, if they find a place, staff are willing to move the police artifacts. With HRM acquiring its own archivist, all police records

dating back to 1860's onward have been turned over to the archivist, and it is staffs' intention to make these public.

Councillor Fougere entered the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

- C In regard to the draft Animal Bylaw (A-300) no money has been budgeted as there has been no decision made concerning cats in the Bylaw. The only money that was placed in the budget is for services staff know will be delivered. (When Bylaw A-300 comes to Council, at that time and based on Council's decision, it will be known whether staff will have to lay out the additional cost and, if so, the additional cost will have to be added to the budget.)
- Proposed Budget outlines only those costs for service which staff know well be delivered. Based on council's discussion when By-Law A-300 comes forward for adoption, any additional costs over and above those mentioned will need to be added to the budget.
- C Staff are looking at a number of studies concerning revenue opportunities in regard to the licensing of dogs. Staff will be coming to Council with a report that will outline cost implications and sufficient revenue streams.
- C In response to a concern about the Sullivan's Pond ducks, staff advised that this matter is being addressed in the draft A-300 Bylaw, and that there is existing legislation staff can use to enforce some of the issues at Sullivan's Pond.

There being no further questions, it was **MOVED by Councillor Snow, seconded by Councillor Sloane that Council recess and, following recess, the meeting reconvene In Camera. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

The meeting recessed at 2:15 p.m. and reconvened at 2:57 p.m. with the same members present. Ms. Sherrill Murphy was Acting Municipal Clerk.

3.4 INTEGRATED EMERGENCY SERVICES

Mr. Bill Moore, Superintendent, Integrated Emergency Services, addressed Council and provided a brief overview of the increases and decreases of the 2006-07 budget for Integrated Emergency Services. In his remarks, he advised that there were no decreases or expected services not to be delivered; and the increases to the budget include the following: a full time trainer from the existing envelope; the Hubbards Fire Service will be brought online as a dispatch fire service, with the assistance of Fire Services; and, with the RCMP and their

resources at the Halifax International Airport, they will be brought into the new integrated emergency services dispatch centre.

Mr. Moore responded to questions, clarifying the following points:

- C With regard to changes in protocol to City Watch, the direction of Council was that City Watch was to be used for health and public safety issues. As long as community groups or services fell within one of those categories they would be allowed to use the service. Each particular group must be responsible for maintaining their list.
- C The Province's funding allocation for the 911 service is \$125,000 a year. The Province pays only for the calls that HRM would not normally receive. HRM does not incur any costs for the hardware of the system; for end of the line costs; or for training.
- C City Watch is not at the point to be marketed to the general public. There has been a misconception that staff are going to be offering this to citizens and this is not the case. If citizens want the service, they will have to sign up with an existing program. The funds in the budget for marketing are for marketing within internal business units.
- C In response to a concern that several information and emergency numbers now end in '11' e.g. 411, 311, 211 and that this could jeopardize the 911 number, the Acting Chief Administrative Officer advised that the CRTC was also concerned about this. She added that when they approved the use of the 311, certain regulations regarding its use was also put in place, part of which states that the Municipality or agency must have a significant communications plan to ensure the public understood the use of the numbers.

4. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 3:29 p.m.

Jan Gibson,
Municipal Clerk

