

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MINUTES
June 16, 2006

PRESENT:

Mayor Peter J. 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 Sloane
Sue Uteck
Sheila Fougere
Debbie Hum
Linda Mosher
Stephen Adams
Robert Harvey
Len Goucher
Reg Rankin
Gary Meade

REGRETS:

Councillor Harry McInroy
Councillor Brad Johns

STAFF:

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

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 11:36 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - None

3. BUDGET DELIBERATIONS

3.1 Fire

Chief Mike Eddy, Fire and Emergency Services, presented Council with an overview of the 2006-2007 budget.

MOVED BY Councillor Streach, seconded by Councillor Snow that \$510,000 be added to the parking lot to increase the Fire Services budget to address the Occupational Health and Safety and Fire Code issues. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Councillor Murphy entered the meeting at 11:42 a.m.

Councillor Hendsbee raised concern regarding the change of hours and demands of the Lake Echo Fire Stations as well as the risk, safety and liability issues of the rural fire stations.

In response to Councillor Streach, Chief Eddy advised that approximately \$450,000 is required to address the deficiencies at the Port Dufferin Station.

Mr. English stated that a proper assessment of the rural stations is required. If the \$510,000 is approved some of the issues identified will be addressed in the short term. A funding strategy over the long term is required.

Councillor Streach raised concern regarding the lack of washroom facilities and running water in some of the buildings. He suggested the installation of portable washrooms in the short term.

The Councillor advised that he expects to see the Three Harbours, Port Dufferin and Dutch Settlement stations addressed in the 2007-2008 Capital Budget.

RECESS

Council recessed at 11:54 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 1:20 p.m. with the same members present.

Council continued its discussion on the Fire Services budget with Chief Eddy and staff responding to questions. The following points were noted:

- C With regard to a concern expressed that the Lady Hammond Road Station may close, it was felt that in reducing the budget, the most appropriate staffing reduction would be to cut the overtime budget. When the staff complement at the Lady Hammond Road Station falls to 60, Engine 4 will be taken out of service.
- C In response to concerns about the state of some of the rural fire stations, the Chief Administrative Officer advised that staff will come back with a report regarding the \$510,000 that Council has placed in the budget to deal with these short term issues. He added that the long term issues will require an assessment of all the buildings, a funding plan and long term strategy.

Regional Council requested that the report also address the following issues:

- The conditions surrounding the lack of running water and washrooms at the Three Harbours Station and Dutch Settlement Station and if Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund funds can be used to assist with the upgrading,
- Define what a 'must' situation is, as referred to in an earlier meeting by the Solicitor.

Councillor Younger entered the meeting at 1:34 p.m.

MOVED by Councillor Snow, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee that \$1 million be placed in the Parking Lot for Fire Services. THE MOTION WAS PUT AND DEFEATED.

Councillor Fougere entered the meeting at 1:48 p.m.

MOVED by Councillor Younger, seconded by Councillor Streach that for next year's budget, staff review and report back on the idea of combining Station 14 and Station 18. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Deputy Mayor Walker entered the meeting at 1:57 p.m.

Councillor Karsten retired from the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

Additional comments put forward by Council were as follows:

- C Concern was expressed that the King Street Station in Dartmouth could be closed for a period of time, particularly since it is a high density district with a lot of seniors.

- C Noting that Halifax International Airport gives a payment in lieu of taxes for the fire services of Goff's Fire Station - staff was asked to report back on what is 'best practice' in this situation,
- C The volunteers and residents in Fall River and surrounding area have said that it is in the best interests of the community not to change the hours of the fire fighters.

The Chair thanked Chief Eddy for the overview of his business plan.

MOVED by Councillor McCluskey, seconded by Councillor Murphy that the CAO be requested to provide a report on placing controls on the following budgetary items: Office Furniture, Consulting Fees, Out of Town Travel, Books and Periodicals, Advertising and Promotion, Training and Education, and Membership Dues. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

RECESS

Council recessed at 2:15 p.m. and convened at 2:25 p.m. Mr. Wayne Anstey was Acting Chief Administrative Officer.

3.2 Transportation and Public Works (Cont'd)

This matter was originally discussed at the June 15, 2006 Budget meeting, at which time it was deferred due to time constraints.

Council continued its discussion on the Transportation and Public Works budget. Mike Labrecque, Director, and staff responded to questions. The following points were noted:

Councillor Wile asked for staff to look into the idea of providing sidewalks in Bayers Lake Business Park, and sidewalks on Chain Lake Drive and report back on what can be done for next year's budget.

Councillor Sloane entered the meeting at 2:39 p.m.

In response to a question by Councillor Younger concerning the reason for the increase in insurance premiums, Mr. Labrecque advised that he would report back to Council on this matter.

Councillor Snow entered the meeting at 2:42 p.m.

Councillor Kent requested that staff provide her with information on the plans for the Woodside Ferry Terminal before the end of budget deliberations.

In response to a question, Mr. Paul McDaniel, General Manager, Metro Transit, advised that, if the budget is approved, there are plans to increase the service of route 60 for peak hour service, and would be in effect by November.

In response to a question by Councillor Sloane in regard to a status on the Cogswell Street Interchange Report, Mr. Labrecque advised that he would get back to the Councillor on this matter.

Mr. Labrecque cautioned Council in regard to the concept of a neighbourhood bus, noting that it depends on feasibility.

Councillor Linda Mosher entered the meeting at 2:56 p.m.

Councillor Hendsbee advised that previously, there was community transit in the East Preston Porter's Lake area and summer service on Saturdays in July and August (an area-rated service and cost recovered the following year). He asked staff to look into re-establishing the Saturday service for the months of July and August.

Councillor Hendsbee requested staff to report back to him on where Metro Transit Terminal sites will be situated along the Eastern region, and whether it includes Hubley and Fall River.

In response to a question, Mr. Ken Reashor, Manager, Traffic and Right of Way Services, advised that there are currently no plans for traffic lights on Woodland Avenue in regard to the Dartmouth Crossing.

Staff advised that they will investigate the possibility of an additional noon-time transit route in the Hammonds Plains area.

MOVED by Councillor Meade, seconded by Councillor Sloane that \$100,000 be placed in the parking lot for paving of Buckingham Drive. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Councillor Meade, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee that Abbey Drive be included on the list of projects to be carried out, if other projects come in under tender. MOTION PUT AND DEFEATED.

Staff was asked to consider a left turn lane on Lancaster Drive, as shortcutting through other streets may result due to the Dartmouth Crossing project.

In response to a request, Mr. Labrecque advised that staff will provide specifics in regard to

deliverables and time frames of the following transit matters as contained in the Regional Plan: Rapid Transit; Rural Express transit service; and Rural Service.

4. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Councillor Younger, seconded by Councillor McCluskey that Council reconvene budget deliberations Monday, June 19, 2006 at 9:30 - 11:45 and 2:15 p.m. to 3:30. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Jan Gibson
Municipal Clerk