

HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
MINUTES  
January 9, 2007

PRESENT:

Mayor Peter Kelly  
Deputy Mayor Sue Uteck  
Steve Streach  
Krista Snow  
David Hendsbee  
Gloria McCluskey  
Andrew Younger  
Bill Karsten  
Becky Kent  
Jim Smith  
Mary Wile  
Patrick Murphy  
Sheila Fougere  
Russell Walker  
Debbie Hum  
Linda Mosher  
Stephen Adams  
Gary Martin  
Gary Meade

REGRETS:

Councillors: Harry McInroy  
Dawn Sloane  
Brad Johns  
Robert Harvey  
Reg Rankin

STAFF:

Ms. Geri Kaiser, Chief Administrative Officer  
Ms. Mary Ellen Donovan, Municipal Solicitor  
Ms. Jan Gibson, Municipal Clerk  
Ms. Julia Horncastle, Legislative Assistant

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - December 5, 2006**

**MOVED by Councillor McCluskey, seconded by Councillor Wile, that the minutes of December 5, 2006 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**3. VOTING OPTIONS - MUNICIPAL ELECTION 2008**

- A report dated December 4, 2006, on the above noted was before Council.

Ms. Geri Kaiser, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, introduced Ms. Cathy Mellett, Manager, Client Services, who outlined the options considered as well as the evaluation criteria used in considering those options.

**MOVED by Councillor Streach, seconded by Councillor Kent, that Council approve internet/phone voting option in addition to present voting system for advanced voting and status quo for election day for the 2008 Municipal and School Board election.**

During discussion on the matter, the following issues and concerns were noted by members of Council:

- The integrity of the system is very important,
- Is there a way to ensure that the person voting is the person named on the list,
- There was concern with the issuance of PIN numbers,
- Voters should be made aware of issues facing Council over the next four years,
- Concern with students passing on PIN numbers and one person voting for all,
- Concern that voters may have difficulty getting through on phone lines,

**MOVED by Deputy Mayor Uteck, seconded by Councillor Fougere, that an updated enumeration list be available twelve months prior to the election.**

Ms. Kaiser, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, advised that a cost analysis would have to be undertaken if there was to be an enumeration and staff would provide an information report.

**MOVED by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Snow, that the motion be referred to staff to provide a costing analysis. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Discussion on the main motion continued with the following further comments being made:

- There should be one database for Federal, Provincial and Municipal,
- The list should be based on civic address,
- The process should be voter driven and that there should not be an enumeration,
- There are certain districts that have a high number of students as well as those districts where there is development taking place,
- Proxy voting does not work,
- Have as many HRM staff as possible work the polls,
- Have more intense training of people who work the polls,
- This may not ensure increased voter participation,
- Concern was expressed with the confidentiality of the vote as PIN number can track who voted,
- Concern with computer hacking and viruses,
- Concern with what will be done with the voter information after the election,
- Would like to see the advance poll be as close to election day as possible,
- Allow the option of phone voting on election day,
- Would like to see a process whereby a person can vote at any poll location on election day,
- There needs to be a method of evaluating the vendors in terms of security and validity,
- How will we be able to confirm whether a person is a Canadian citizen,
- Need to have a backup for power outages,
- Concern with auditing procedures,
- There needs to be increased voter access,
- Would prefer the mail in ballot as a first step as there would be the ability to verify a mail in ballot,
- Concern with the ability to recount a phone/internet vote,
- Communication has to be the key,
- There needs to be a survey of nursing homes to ascertain how many have computers,
- If there is a recount have to confirm that the vendor would cover the cost.

**MAIN MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**4. COUNCIL FOCUS AREA - PUBLIC SAFETY**

Due to time constraints, this item was deferred to January 16, 2007.

**5. PRIVATE ROADS MAINTENANCE COSTS RECOVERY POLICY - BILL C-70**

Due to time constraints, this item was deferred to January 16, 2007.

**6.           ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Jan Gibson  
Municipal Clerk