

HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
MINUTES  
February 13, 2007

PRESENT: Mayor Peter Kelly  
Deputy Mayor Sue Uteck  
Steve Streach  
David Hendsbee  
Harry McInroy  
Gloria McCluskey  
Andrew Younger  
Bill Karsten  
Becky Kent  
Jim Smith  
Mary Wile  
Patrick Murphy  
Dawn Sloane  
Sheila Fougere  
Russell Walker  
Debbie Hum  
Linda Mosher  
Stephen Adams  
Brad Johns  
Bob Harvey  
Gary Meade  
Reg Rankin

REGRETS: Councillor Krista Snow  
Gary Martin

STAFF: Mr. Dan English, Chief Administrative Officer  
Ms. Mary Ellen Donovan, Municipal Solicitor  
Ms. Jan Gibson, Municipal Clerk  
Ms. Chris Newson, Legislative Assistant

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 1:09 p.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - January 30, 2007**

**MOVED BY Councillor Hum, seconded by Councillor McInroy that the minutes of January 30, 2007, as presented, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**3. EASTERN PASSAGE WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY - EXPANSION AND UPGRADE**

- A Staff Report dated January 31, 2007 was before Council.
- A copy of the PowerPoint presentation was before Council.

Mr. Brad Anguish, Director, Environmental Management Services, introduced Mr. John Sheppard, Manager, Environmental Engineering Services, who presented the report.

Mr. Sheppard advised that the Eastern Passage Wastewater Treatment Facility (EPT) is non-compliant on a regular basis and HRM is at risk for being charged by the Provincial Regulators who could also prevent further growth within the sewershed service boundary. Upgrade/expansion of the Eastern Passage Wastewater Treatment Facility is now a Priority 1 matter as per the priority rating process previously approved by Council.

Councillor Rankin entered the meeting at 1:16 PM.

Mr. Sheppard further advised that:

- the total project cost of \$30.0 million (exclusive of interest) would require \$20.4 million through debt financing. The debt would be repaid in twenty years by revenue generated from the proposed increase to the Environmental Protection Charge (EPC) of \$0.045 per cubic metre. Once the debt is repaid, the EPC rate would be reduced by \$0.045 per cubic metre.
- if approved by Council, \$7.4 million could be recaptured through the proposed By-law for a Capital Cost Charge for Wastewater Treatment Facilities. The report on the proposed By-Law will be before Council in March 2007. If this recommended approach is not approved, the \$7.4 million would come from another funding source, such as the EPC rate supported by an additional increase.
- only \$2.2 million would be allocated from the 2007/08 Capital Capacity for Stormwater/Wastewater so as not to deplete that fund.
- using a design-build approach requires that all funding be available prior to the

commencement of the project.

Councillor Mosher entered the meeting at 1:19 pm.

Councillor Sloane entered the meeting at 1:23 pm.

In response to Councillor Hendsbee, Mr. Sheppard explained that staff take their directive from the Regional Plan and there are no plans to extend the Eastern Passage sewage treatment services to include the Main Street/Westphal expansion area of Dartmouth.

Mr. Dan English, CAO, responded to Council's concerns in regard to going outside the debt policy explaining that; perhaps the debt policy should be re-written so that it does not apply to projects such as this where there is a dedicated revenue source for repayment (EPC rate increase of \$0.045 per cubic metre) such that it does not impact the tax payer.

Councillor Johns entered the meeting at 1:35 pm.

Councillor Fougere entered the meeting at 1:38 pm.

Ms. Cathie O'Toole, Acting Director, Finance Services added that wastewater is a user pay service and users pay for it through the water rates. Use of capital capacity from other programs would mean the general tax rate would be subsidizing wastewater.

Mr. Brad Anguish, Director, Environmental Management Services, responded to concerns raised by Council in regard to funding indicating that:

- legislation is currently in place to permit implementation of Capital Cost Charges for the Eastern Passage wastewater treatment facility.
- the EPT is an expansion of the Harbour Solutions Project (HSP) and while work is progressing on the HSP, existing assets are going out of compliance.
- more time will be required for staff to consider other areas of the budget to fund this project. Budget presentations will soon be coming forward.
- staff require direction from Council in regard to the funding plan.
- if Council directs, staff could plan outside the Regional Plan guides; however, capacity at the EPT would be filled faster.
- an interim rate will be required for a design/build solution as there must be an identified source of income before commencing the project; then the bid process will commence and the rates could be finalized.
- this matter could wait one month until the proposed By-law for Capital Charge Contributions for wastewater has been before Council (March 2007).

During the ensuing discussion on the matter, members of Council encouraged staff to come to the most prudent options in regard to funding as there are serious implications for people

who pay the bills (user fees). Staff were also encouraged to re-examine funding the project from gas revenue and perhaps re-prioritize projects as this project cannot be delayed. This is a quality of life issue for Eastern Passage. Staff are requested to search for any funding that may be available from the Federal Government for such a project. Council requested additional information including a breakdown of the amounts and justification for the proposed funding plan and the proposed rate increase.

**MOVED BY Councillor Kent, seconded by Councillor Younger that further discussion on this matter be deferred to the March 20, 2007 Committee of the Whole session. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**4. SOLID WASTE / RESOURCES MANAGEMENT SYSTEM - DIVERSION OPPORTUNITIES**

- A copy of the Halifax Integrated Waste/Resources System PowerPoint presentation was before Council.
- A copy of the SWR Round Table Issues Review Papers was before Council.
- A staff report dated February 1, 2007 was before Council.

Mr. Jim Bauld, Manager, Solid Waste Resources, Environmental Management Services, presented the report. Mr. Bauld advised that HRM has not reached its goal of 60% compliance in regard to solid waste diversion. Staff are recommending changes, as outlined in the staff report dated February 1, 2007, that will ensure more compliance such as the introduction of a six (6) bag limit, the use of clear bags versus dark bags, and amendments to By-Law S-600 in regard to signage and source separation of organic/recyclables. The cost per landfill cell is \$15 million and, at the current rate, a cell reaches capacity in three (3) years. The Otter Lake facility has an approximate seventeen (17) year capacity. The Regional Plan recognizes that there will be demand for a new regional landfill, or extension of new technology, prior to the end of the twenty-five (25) year Regional Plan.

**MOVED BY Councillor Mosher, seconded by Councillor Wile that the Committee of the Whole recommend that Regional Council authorize staff to;**

- 1. Initiate the process to amend By-Law S-600, setting a limit of six (6) bags/containers for residential bi-weekly collection, effective August 20, 2007;**
- 2. Proceed with an amendment to By-Law S-600 to prohibit the mixing of source separated organics and recyclables with refuse at ICI properties; and**
- 3. Proceed with amendment to By-Law S-600 to require signage on commercial organics and recycling bins.**

Members of Council expressed concern with the August 20, 2007 start due to:

- the large transient student population arriving at that time making it a very busy period for landlords and students.
- the short timeframe for educating the public.

**MOVED by Councillor Fougere, seconded by Deputy Mayor Uteck that recommendation # 1 be amended to change the effective date to January 1, 2008. MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND DEFEATED.**

Referring to the main motion, it was **MOVED by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Sloane that the motion be amended to include recommendation #2, as presented in the staff report dated January 26, 2007, to proceed with a Clear Residential Bag Pilot Program commencing in the Spring of 2008.**

Councillor Hendsbee suggested one dark bag (for personal hygiene items, dog/cat litter) be permitted with the introduction of clear bags.

Councillors Smith and Hum volunteered their districts for a clear bags pilot program.

**MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND DEFEATED.**

Discussion continued on the main motion that was **MOVED BY Councillor Mosher, seconded by Councillor Wile that the Committee of the Whole recommend that Regional Council authorize staff to;**

1. **Initiate the process to amend By-Law S-600, setting a limit of six (6) bags/containers for residential bi-weekly collection, effective August 20, 2007;**
2. **Proceed with an amendment to By-Law S-600 to prohibit the mixing of source separated organics and recyclables with refuse at ICI properties; and**
3. **Proceed with amendment to By-Law S-600 to require signage on commercial organics and recycling bins.**

Deputy Mayor Uteck suggested the matter be deferred for one month pending the outcome of the current court case.

During the ensuing discussion on the matter, the following comments/concerns were expressed:

- that the six (6) bag limit be introduced now with advance notice of a further reduction to four (4) bags in two years.
- due to wildlife issues, weekly organic pick-up (in the summer) should occur in the rural areas as well.
- have a dual Construction & Demolition (C&D) permitting process in place so that one

- permit would go to the (waste) collector for tracking purposes.  
• provide competition with a second final C&D disposal area facility.

Councillor Adams entered the meeting at 3:07 pm.

Councillor Streach entered the meeting at 3:46 pm.

Due to time constraints, further discussion on this matter was deferred to the next Committee of the Whole session.

## **5. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:54 p.m.

Jan Gibson  
Municipal Clerk