

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES

November 18, 2008

PRESENT: Mayor Peter Kelly
Deputy Mayor Stephen D. Adams
Councillors: Steve Streach
Barry Dalrymple
David Hendsbee
Lorelei Nicoll
Gloria McCluskey
Andrew Younger
Bill Karsten
Jackie Barkhouse
Jim Smith
Mary Wile
Jerry Blumenthal
Dawn Sloane
Sue Uteck
Jennifer Watts
Russell Walker
Debbie Hum
Linda Mosher
Brad Johns
Robert Harvey
Tim Outhit
Reg Rankin

STAFF: Mr. Dan English, Chief Administrative Officer
Mr. Wayne Anstey, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. Mary Ellen Donovan, Municipal Solicitor
Ms. Karen Brown, Solicitor
Ms. Julia Horncastle, Acting Municipal Clerk
Ms. Melody Campbell, Legislative Assistant
Ms. Shawnee Gregory, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:45 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - September 23 & 30, 2008

MOVED BY Councillor Wile, seconded by Councillor McCluskey, that the minutes of September 23 & 30, 2008 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. 2011 CANADA WINTER GAMES

C A report dated October 22, 2008 was before Council.

Mr. Paul Dunphy, Director of Community Development, and Mr. JP Deveau, President and Chair of the 2011 Canada Games Host Society provided a presentation updating the 2011 Canada Winter Games.

Following the presentation, the following points were raised by Council:

Councillor McCluskey questioned that if there were to be a deficit, would HRM be responsible. Council was advised that staff working on the Canada Games are using due diligence. There is a risk assessment team and quarterly report monitoring of the budget. There is a new funding formula this year which will work well.

Councillor Uteck raised concern about bottom line figures being used two years in advance of the games. Mr. Dunphy advised that the Canada Winter Games has a different funding formula, and all decisions are being made in the public forum with continuing reports to Council. The Commonwealth Games required facilities to be built, the Canada Winter Games do not need to have infrastructure built and added that facilities will only require improvements to make them ready.

Councillor Hendsbee advised he was concerned about transparency issues. He questioned, if there is a surplus, would there be a legacy or endowment fund. Mr. Dunphy advised that in its forty-one year history there has never been a deficit for the Canada Games. He advised that any surplus will contribute to a legacy or endowment fund, if that is where the surplus is determined to go. The Society determines where the surplus is disbursed. He added a surplus could be used for facility improvements or the possibility of a future Canada Summer Games. Mr. Dunphy noted that a legacy fund would benefit all sports in Nova Scotia. In response to the transparency issue, Mr. Dunphy advised that the Society and staff have

adopted HRM procurement policy to ensure transparency.

Councillor Blumenthal questioned whether the sponsorship programs could be in jeopardy with the possibility of a recession. Staff advised that sponsorships are quite firm and they have not heard of anyone dropping off the list adding that companies get great value for their contribution. Staff are comfortable that the necessary funds will be raised. Staff advised Council that the Games will be monitored and changes can be made as plans move forward in order to remain fiscally responsible.

Councillor Hum added that there is a growing excitement as the Canada Games approaches. She stated that the Society and staff are using due diligence as they move forward. She thanked staff for their efforts adding that this is important to the City, the Province and the athletes.

Councillor Harvey advised that the team must be cognizant of the economy and the talk of a recession as the planning process moves forward.

Councillor Younger stated that the Canada Games has no history of coming in over budget and has a strong team with great leadership.

Councillor Sloane noted that the Games have to move forward. The Canada Winter Games will be great for the City, the Province and the sport community.

MOVED BY Councillor Wile, seconded by Councillor Blumenthal that Halifax Regional Council authorize the Mayor and Municipal Clerk to execute the Multi-Party Agreement for the 2011 Canada Winter Games attached to the staff report dated October 22, 2008. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. TRANSIT - OVERVIEW

Ms. Patricia Soanes, General Manager, Metro Transit, provided a presentation to Council.

Committee of the Whole recessed at 12:05 p.m.

Committee of the Whole reconvened at 2:09 p.m.

MOVED BY Councillor McCluskey, seconded by Councillor Karsten, that Halifax Regional Council, in recognition that closing the operating funding gap is necessary to grow service direct staff to develop funding options and return to Council in January.

A discussion on the motion ensued with Ms. Soanes, Ms. Cathie O'Toole, Director of

Infrastructure and Asset Management, Mr. Eddie Robar, Manager of Planning and Product Development for Metro Transit, and Mr. Dave McCusker, Manager of Regional Transportation, responding to questions. The following points were noted:

- C The new Dartmouth Terminal will be included in the RFP for the Dartmouth Common Plan which would be going to Council for award.

Mayor Kelly left the meeting at 2:30 p.m. Deputy Mayor Adams assumed the Chair.

- C All new busses will have bike racks;
- C Ferries are being considered and included in the analysis currently being done by the Bridge Commission;
- C A new Lacewood Terminal is being looked at and is part of the ongoing strategy with a portion of the 2011 transit funds going towards its implementation;
- C Staff will be reviewing the criteria required to use the Access - A - Bus service and will be returning to Council with a recommendation;
- C A single pass that may be used on busses, ferries and bridges was suggested;
- C Staff have been in discussions and have come up with a preliminary agreement for a provincial program to assist with service in rural and under serviced areas.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Council recessed at 3:23 p.m.

Council reconvened at 3:39 p.m.

5. PROVINCIAL AND MUNICIPAL LAND TRANSACTIONS - QEH

- C A report dated November 6, 2008 was before Council.

Mr. Peter Bigelow, Manager of Real Property Planning, Mr. Peter Stickings, Manager of Real Property, and Mr. Rudy Vodicka, Coordinator of Real Property Policy provided the presentation on the Provincial and Municipal Land Transactions. The following highlights were noted:

- C The exchange involves four main areas: The Legislative District, the Infirmary Campus, Spring Garden Road and the VG Campus;
- C In the Legislative District, the Truscan site would become provincially owned;
- C If the CBC properties ever became available, plans would be extended into those areas;
- C The QEH properties will remain public space even if it is not in the form of a hospital;
- C Current setbacks need to be respected and new ones established. The area beyond

- setbacks will become green space;
- C The Capital District Health Authority requires new buildings prior to old ones being torn down so as not to disrupt service;
- C The CDHA can provide green space within their campus for both HRM residents as well as patients.

MOVED BY Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Uteck, that Halifax Regional Council:

- 1. Reinstate the deferred school building portion of the QEH property as part of the approved "Provincial and Municipal Land Transactions" as per the Budget Implications Section of the report dated November 6, 2008;**
- 2. As a condition of sale, approve the key Urban Design Principles and Site Planning Guidelines for the former QEH and VG Parking Lot lands, as outlined in the report dated November 6, 2008, to serve as the framework of a Memorandum of Understanding between Halifax Regional Municipality and Capital District Health Authority, and further authorize the Mayor and Clerk to enter into such agreement on behalf of HRM;**
- 3. Authorize the Mayor and Municipal Clerk to enter into Agreement of Purchase and Sale contract (s) and supporting Joint MOU for the acquisition and disposal of the public properties outlined in the report dated November 6, 2008; and**
- 4. Approve a capital project for the acquisition of Provincial land and an unbudgeted reserve withdrawal from the Sale of Capital Asset Reserve Q101 and the Strategic Fund Reserve Q126 as per the Budget Implications section of the report dated November 6, 2008.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Councillor Harvey advised that he had hoped that when Victoria Park was extended that it would include the whole lot. He noted that Council should be given a solid reason as to why this could not be done as an internal area would not be much use to the general public.

Mr. Stickings advised that the deal would not be closed until all parties had entered into a memorandum of understanding.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Julia Horncastle
Acting Municipal Clerk