

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

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HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
MINUTES

May 5, 2009

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

REGRETS: Councillor Jim Smith

STAFF: Mr. Wayne Anstey, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer  
Ms. Mary Ellen Donovan, Municipal Solicitor  
Ms. Julia Horncastle, Acting Municipal Clerk  
Ms. Shawnee Gregory, Legislative Assistant  
Ms. Chris Newson, Legislative Assistant

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 1:20 p.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - NONE**

**3. EXPANDED RURAL TRANSIT OPTIONS**

- An extract of the draft Committee of the Whole minutes dated April 21, 2009 was before Council.
- A Power Point presentation was before Council.
- A staff report dated April 7, 2009 was before Council.

The Clerk stated that the current motion on the floor from the previous meeting was as follows:

**MOVED BY Councillor Adams, seconded by Councillor Walker that Halifax Regional Council direct staff to:**

- 1. Proceed with introducing the Sambro Loop Rural Transit route in 2009/10 on a “pilot” basis using the MetroX vehicles and expansion funding provided by the fare increase.**
- 2. Defer any requests for the additions of any new Rural Transit Services not currently in the 5-Year Approach to Transit Enhancements until a plan is in place to pay for the expanded services.**
- 3. Develop Rural Transit Service Standards, and return to Council in September 2009 as part of the updated Operational Plan, with an outline approach and a financial plan to introduce Rural Transit Services, including recommendations to help Council determine under what conditions rural service should be expanded, and in what order of priority, recommendations regarding operational issues, service design and required changes to the 5 year Capital Plan, as well as the necessary adjustments required to the current approved 5 Year Approach to Transit Enhancements.**

Mr. Mike Labrecque, Director of Transportation and Public Works, provided a brief introduction. He stated that rural transit was not in the 5 year Transit Plan with the exception of the MetroX rural express project. He advised that there was still some work to be done regarding the Sambro pilot project, however, it could still move forward. Mr. Labrecque also noted that the operating gaps were still not fully funded.

Councillor Rankin requested that MetroX vehicles be removed from the motion as he was concerned that they would be unable to meet the demands in Districts 22 and 23 and that there would be a service gap as a result.

**MOVED BY Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Lund, that MetroX vehicles be removed from the motion. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

The motion now reads:

**MOVED BY Councillor Adams, seconded by Councillor Walker that Halifax Regional Council direct staff to:**

- 1. Proceed with introducing the Sambro Loop Rural Transit route in 2009/10 on a “pilot” basis using available vehicles and funding provided by the fare increase.**
- 2. Defer any requests for the additions of any new Rural Transit Services not currently in the 5-Year Approach to Transit Enhancements until a plan is in place to pay for the expanded services.**
- 3. Develop Rural Transit Service Standards, and return to Council in September 2009 as part of the updated Operational Plan, with an outline approach and a financial plan to introduce Rural Transit Services, including recommendations to help Council determine under what conditions rural service should be expanded, and in what order of priority, recommendations regarding operational issues, service design and required changes to the 5 year Capital Plan, as well as the necessary adjustments required to the current approved 5 Year Approach to Transit Enhancements.**

Discussion on the motion resumed with staff responding to questions. The following points were noted:

- Staff would be returning to Council in September, 2009, for the approval of service standards prior to beginning the pilot project;
- Staff would then use the standards set out by Council to rate the success of the pilot at the end of the 12 month testing period;
- Council could choose whether or not to continue the Sambro service at this point;
- The size of the MetroX buses would be similar to an Access-a-Bus;
- The cost of the pilot project would be approximately \$300,000 and would be partially funded by the transit fare increase.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

The meeting recessed at 2:32 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 2:40 p.m.

#### **4. INDOOR TURF FACILITY - SOCCER NOVA SCOTIA AGREEMENT**

- A report dated March 12, 2009 was before Council.

Mr. Peter Bigelow, Manager, Real Property Planning, Infrastructure and Asset Management, presented the report.

**MOVED BY Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Hum that Halifax Regional Council approve the terms of the Agreement between the Soccer Nova Scotia and the Halifax Regional Municipality as attached to the report dated March 12, 2009.**

Mr. Bigelow and Mr. George Athanasiou, Chief Executive Officer, Soccer Nova Scotia (SNS), responded to questions of Council as follows:

- Every soccer club wanted to build a facility at some point, however; the reality is that a turf facility cannot be built overnight. The clubs came to an agreement that the best option from a business and feasibility position would be to address the shortage of indoor facilities in HRM. This facility would be the first step and the model by which to proceed.
- The next step would be to build regional facilities in the Dartmouth / Cole Harbour / Bedford / Sackville areas as soon as possible.
- 100% of the Soccer Clubs have endorsed the process in regard to time schedules at the facility until additional facilities are built in other areas.
- The Needs Assessment Facility study indicated that nine (9) facilities were needed.
- The scheduling has been prioritized so that the youth would have use of the facility from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. with the older groups having access in the later hours.
- There will be four (4) pads for the clubs to share.
- Information will be provided to Council in regard to the tax exempt status for the facility until substantially complete.
- Ensuring that other sport groups do receive 15% scheduling time at the facility would be monitored through the annual report to HRM.
- The original provisions did not include the 15% allotment for other sport clubs. Soccer Nova Scotia requested that other sports be able to utilize the facility and there may be opportunities to grow the 15%.

Councillor Johns requested that the Weir Field in Middle Sackville be a priority on the field replacement list.

Councillor Watts requested that public water fountains be prominent throughout the building.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**5. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

Ms. Julia Horncastle  
Acting Municipal Clerk