

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL MINUTES MARCH 9, 1999

PRESENT: Deputy Mayor Larry Uteck
Councillors: Bill Dooks
Gordon R. Snow
David Hendsbee
Ron Cooper
Harry McInroy
Jack Greenough
Condo Sarto
Bruce Hetherington
Clint Schofield
John Cunningham
Graham L. Downey
Sheila Fougere
Russell Walker
Bill Stone
Stephen D. Adams
Barry Barnet
Robert P. Harvey
Peter J. Kelly
Reg Rankin
Jack Mitchell

ABSENT WITH
REGRETS: His Worship Mayor Walter Fitzgerald
Councillor Jerry S. Blumenthal

STAFF MEMBERS: Mr. Ken Meech, Chief Administrative Officer
Mr. Wayne Anstey, Municipal Solicitor
Ms. Vi Carmichael, Municipal Clerk
Ms. Karen Swim, Assistant Municipal Clerk

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1. INVOCATION

The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:00 p.m. by Deputy Mayor Larry Uteck. Councillor Mitchell, at the Chair's request, led his colleagues in the recitation of the invocation.

1A. His Worship Mayor Walter Fitzgerald

Deputy Mayor Uteck read a message from Mayor Walter Fitzgerald, noting that His Worship now recuperating at home from his recent operation and is expected to be back in the office within 6-8 weeks.

2. PROCLAMATIONS

2.1 International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

Councillor Ron Cooper, on behalf of His Worship Mayor Walter Fitzgerald read from a proclamation designating **Sunday, March 21, 1999** as *International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination* in the Halifax Regional Municipality.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED by Councillor Hetherington, seconded by Councillor Greenough that the Minutes from the regular meeting of Halifax Regional Council, held on Tuesday, March 2, 1999, be approved as circulated. THE MOTION WAS PUT AND PASSED.

4. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

The following items were added to the agenda:

- 13.1 Councillor Barnet - Interest Rate on Betterment Charges and Notification of Due Date
- 13.2 Legal Matter - Sable Gas
- 13.3 Personnel Matter - Ocean View Manor
- 13.4 Appointments - Boards and Committees
- 13.5 Carmichael v. HRM - Motor Vehicle Accident
- 13.6 Councillor Walker - Petition (Ramsgate Lane at Purcell's Cove Road)

MOVED by Councillor Hetherington, seconded by Councillor Stone that the Order of Business, as amended, be approved. THE MOTION WAS PUT AND PASSED.

5. **BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - NONE**

6. **MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION - NONE**

7. **MOTIONS OF RESCISSION - NONE**

8. **CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS**

8.1 **Charges for Street Improvements - 1999/2000**

This matter had been deferred from a regular meeting of Halifax Regional Council held on Tuesday, March 2.

- A supplementary staff report dated March 4, 1999 and entitled *Charges for Street Improvements, 1999/2000* was submitted under the signature of Mr. Dan English, Acting Chief Administrative Officer.

Councillor Barnet referred to Schedule "A" of the March 4 supplementary report and expressed concern with the philosophy on which the collection of betterment charges within the core area of HRM is founded. The Councillor went on to point out that, by basing these charges on standards rather than actuals, the Municipality charges abutters a higher rate than would otherwise be necessary. As a result, many of the responses received concerning proposals for new paving are in the negative, possibly because abutters feel they cannot afford to pay for these street improvements, no matter how badly they might be needed. Councillor Barnet alluded to the fact that Council had committed to reviewing this policy and suggested that the time is now opportune, given the fact that construction costs appear to be decreasing.

Mr. Kulvinder Dhillon, Director of Engineering and Transportation Services, responded to questions from various members of Council.

Following a brief discussion, **it was MOVED by Councillor Barnet, seconded by Councillor Kelly that the costs listed in Schedule "A" of By-Law Number S-400, Respecting Charges for Street Improvements, be amended to reflect actual average costs (based on the actuals from the previous two years) for all types of street improvements listed in that Schedule.**

THE MOTION WAS PUT AND DEFEATED.

MOVED by Councillor Cooper, seconded by Councillor Hetherington that the current standard costs under Schedule "A" of By-Law Number S-400, Respecting Charges for Street Improvements, remain the same for 1999-2000. THE MOTION WAS PUT AND PASSED.

Note: A Notice of Motion of Reconsideration was put forward by Councillor Barnet with respect to this item at a latter point in the meeting's agenda (see Agenda Item 14.3).

9. PUBLIC HEARINGS

9.1 1260 Blenheim Terrace - Deregistration of Lot 2E-3

- A report dated March 4, 1999 and entitled *Deregistration - 1260 Blenheim Terrace, Lot 2E-3* (attaching a staff report dated January 19, 1999), was submitted under the signature of Mr. Paul Erickson, Chairman of the Heritage Advisory Committee.

Ms. Thea Langille-Hanna, a Planner with the Planning Services Division (using site plans and photographs of the residence in question), provided Council with a brief overview of the proposal.

Deputy Mayor Uteck called for members of the public wishing to speak either for or against the proposal.

Mr. Peter Whalen, a resident of 14 Ravenrock Lane, Halifax, briefly addressed Council in support of the deregistration proposal.

As there were no further speakers wishing to address Council, **it was moved by Councillor Hetherington, seconded by Councillor Cunningham that the public hearing be closed. THE MOTION WAS PUT AND PASSED.**

MOVED by Councillor Downey, seconded by Councillor Hetherington that, as recommended by staff and the Heritage Advisory Committee, Halifax Regional Council take steps to deregister Lot 2E-3 (as shown on the map attached to the staff report dated January 19, 1999), in accordance with the approved Heritage Agreement and Section 16 of the Heritage Property Act. THE MOTION WAS PUT AND PASSED.

9.2 Second Reading: By-Law B-400, Respecting Burglary, Robbery and Fire Alarm Systems

- A report dated February 1, 1999 and entitled *Alarm By-Law for HRM* was submitted under the signatures of Mr. K. R. Meech, Chief Administrative Officer, and Mr. Dan English, Deputy CAO.
- Correspondence dated February 16, 1999 was received from Mr. A. H. Hislop, Atlantic Chapter President, Canadian Alarm and Security Association (CANSA).

First Reading regarding the proposed by-law had been approved by Halifax Regional Council during a regular meeting held on Tuesday, February 23, 1999.

Staff Sergeant David Porter, Police Services, with the aid of overheads, provided Council with a comprehensive overview of staff's proposal to implement an Alarm Bylaw. During his presentation, the Sergeant emphasized that the number of false alarms appears to be increasing dramatically (from a total of 12,377 in 1997 to a total of 17,596 in 1998), a situation which, in staff's view, poses serious implications for the effectiveness of the Municipality's police and fire personnel and for the overall safety of the general public. He went on to note that the cost of each police response to a false alarm costs the Municipality approximately \$117.00, with the cost increasing to \$206.22 if the alarm is answered by personnel from Fire Services.

Having provided the details of the proposed registration process and the fine structure, Sergeant Porter and Mr. Reg Ridgley, Acting Director of Finance, responded to questions from various members of Council.

With reference to a question from Councillor Kelly regarding the projections used in the proposed 1999/2000 Operating Budget, Mr. Ridgley advised that staff have estimated that roughly 12,300 alarm systems will be registered at a cost of \$50.00 per unit for a total of \$615,000. Based on statistics obtained over the past several years, it is also anticipated that there will be approximately 7,400 second false alarms which, under the proposed bylaw, would each incur a fine of \$100 for a total of \$740,000, and a grand total (including revenues from both registration fees and penalties) of roughly \$1.3 million. Mr. Ridgley pointed out, however, that because of the reductions in false alarms that the adoption of this by-law will hopefully achieve, staff had felt it more realistic to budget on the basis of \$1.1 million in revenues.

In response to a further question from Councillor Kelly, Mr. Ridgley advised that the anticipated \$1.1 million in revenues would be distributed as follows: \$225,000 - Fire Services; \$437,500 - Police Services; and \$437,500 - Finance (General Revenue).

With reference to a question from Councillor Dooks, Ms. Sandy Vidito, General Manager (Fire Services), advised that notification of the proposed by-law had been forwarded to all HRM Fire Chiefs for review and comment. She went on to note that the only suggestion received in response was that the by-law should be as easy as possible to administer.

Responding to a further question from Councillor Dooks, Mr. Wayne Anstey, Municipal Solicitor, advised that the fines proposed by the new Alarm By-Law will not be applicable to either the Federal Government or to the Province of Nova Scotia in their capacity as owners of such Crown properties as government buildings, hospitals and universities.

Councillor Dooks acknowledged that the Municipality receives payments in lieu of taxes from both levels of government, but indicated that, in his view, they should also be encouraged to contribute directly to the cost of municipal services. More specifically, the Councillor recommended that the senior levels of government be held responsible for the payment of fines relevant to false alarms originating with government-owned facilities.

With reference to a question from Councillor Walker, Mr. Ridgley noted that the registration fee of \$50 was felt to be reasonable, given the administrative work that will be necessary in order to develop and maintain a comprehensive registry of every property on which an alarm has been installed, and to ensure that any unpaid fines are identified as lienable charges, should that property change hands.

Responding to a question from Councillor Walker, Ms. Cathie Osborne, Team Leader, General Revenue, advised that approximately 10,000 properties from the former City of Halifax and the Town of Bedford had already been registered under arrangements with those former municipal units. She went on to emphasize, however, that those owners will be requested to re-register their properties, given that the information currently on file will have to be verified and that certain other details (such as information relating to third party callers and emergency contacts) are now being requested. Ms. Osborne noted that the information obtained from these registration forms will be distributed for use by Fire and Police Services.

With reference to a further question from Councillor Walker, Ms. Osborne advised an "alarm response" form will be completed for each incident requiring a response from either police or fire personnel. If the alarm is determined to be false, the report will be forwarded to the Finance Division who will then check the identity of the property against the information contained in their registry. Should the property be found not to have been registered, a bylaw enforcement officer will be directed to contact the owner who then has the option of voluntarily paying the \$100 fine or pursuing the matter through the courts (in this context, Ms. Osborne noted that the courts can impose a fine ranging from \$100 to \$5,000).

In response to concerns put forward by Councillor Walker, Ms. Osborne emphasized that staff are proposing an extensive public awareness campaign including notifications to accompany tax and water bills, announcements in local newspapers, and information to be made available at all HRM customer service centres.

Councillor Cooper strongly recommended that the registration form also provide information as to the installer of the alarm system for the property in question. The Councillor suggested that, in this way, the registry (used in conjunction with the "alarm response" forms) could help to pinpoint those companies whose workmanship is below standard, and, in turn, protect the property owner from repeated fines.

Councillor Fougere concurred with the need for a comprehensive public awareness program and also suggested that information should be made available as to how property owners might take steps to avoid the setting off of false alarms.

Ms. Osborne suggested that staff could liaise with alarm suppliers to develop the kind of information suggested by Councillor Fougere, the material to be distributed when the property is registered and/or when the first false alarm is reported.

In response to advice received from the Municipal Solicitor, **it was MOVED by Councillor Hetherington, seconded by Councillor Greenough that the words *and shall pay the prescribed fee* be added to Section 3(2) of the proposed by-law. THE MOTION WAS PUT AND PASSED.**

Responding to a question from Councillor Kelly, Ms. Osborne advised that staff are prepared to waive the \$50 registration fee for those owners who had previously registered their properties with the former Town of Bedford. In this context, it was noted that approximately 470 such owners had registered their properties, each paying a fee of \$20.00.

In reference to a question put forward by Councillor Harvey, Ms. Osborne emphasized that the information provided on previous registration forms is not as extensive as that proposed to be obtained through the form proposed in conjunction with By-Law B-400. Under the circumstances, therefore, staff have recommended that all property owners using alarm systems be required to complete the HRM registration form, regardless of whether they had previously registered with a former municipal unit.

MOVED by Councillor Kelly, seconded by Councillor Rankin that the \$50.00 registration fee proposed in conjunction with By-Law B-400 be waived for those owners who had previously registered their properties with the former Town of Bedford. THE MOTION WAS PUT AND DEFEATED.

MOVED by Councillor Kelly, seconded by Councillor Barnet that the registration fee with respect to By-Law B-400 for those property owners who had previously registered with the former Town of Bedford be \$30 (i.e., the difference between the \$50 registration fee proposed in conjunction with By-Law B-400 and the \$20.00 registration fee previously imposed by the Town of Bedford). THE MOTION WAS PUT AND PASSED.

The Chair then called for members of the public wishing to speak either in support of or in opposition to the proposed by-law. Hearing none, the following motion was placed before Council:

MOVED by Councillor Hetherington, seconded by Councillor Mitchell that the Public Hearing be closed. THE MOTION WAS PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Hetherington that By-Law B-400, Respecting Burglary, Robbery and Fire Alarm System (as attached to the staff report dated February 1, 1999 and with the amendment previously approved for Section 3(2)) be given Second Reading. THE MOTION WAS PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

With reference to the \$50 registration fee currently proposed by staff, Councillor Cunningham expressed concern that many property owners (particularly the owners of residential properties) may view this as a disincentive to registering. He suggested instead that a differential be established between residential and commercial properties, the registration fee for residential uses being \$20 and that for commercial properties being \$50. In this same context, the Councillor suggested that the fine for false alarms on residential property be \$50, with \$100 being charged for commercial property violations.

Responding to a question put forward by Councillor Walker concerning new property owners, Mr. Ridgley pointed out that the \$50 registration fee is being proposed as a "one-time" fee only, the registration to be attached to the property regardless of whether there are subsequent changes in its ownership.

Noting that he would not be supporting the adoption of this by-law as it is presently written, Councillor Downey indicated that he is very much against the proposal to attach the outstanding fines resulting from false alarms to the taxes owing on any given property.

In reference to a question from Councillor Hendsbee, the Municipal Solicitor advised that a Notice of Motion will be given at a later point in the meeting's agenda with regard to the adoption of an Administrative Order which will set out the registration fee proposed for By-Law B-400.

Councillor Hendsbee noted that he concurred with the suggestion put forward by the Canadian Alarm and Security Association in their letter of February 16; namely, that a differentiated fine structure be implemented for residential and commercial properties.

It was subsequently MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Cunningham that the fine to residential property owners for a second offense be \$50, while the fine for a second offense to commercial property owners be \$100; and further, that those amounts be doubled for third and subsequent offenses. THE MOTION WAS PUT AND DEFEATED.

MOVED by Councillor Greenough, seconded by Councillor Rankin that By-Law B-400, Respecting Burglary, Robbery and Fire Alarm System, as attached to the staff report dated February 1, 1999 and with the following amendment to Section 3(2), be given Third Reading:

Section 3(2) An applicant for an alarm system permit shall apply to the Treasurer on a form as described in Schedule "A" attached hereto and shall pay the prescribed fee.

THE MOTION WAS PUT AND PASSED.

**9.3 Presentation - Ms. Kate Carmichael,
Downtown Halifax Business Commission**

Ms. Kate Carmichael, representing the Downtown Halifax Business Commission, addressed Council to express concern regarding the implications the proposed 1999/2000 Operating Budget will hold for development, particularly in terms of projects proposed for the core area of downtown Halifax.

In her remarks, Ms. Carmichael made reference to the fact that because planning schedules cover most of the City's downtown, very little development can take place as of right but instead must be included within a development agreement. She noted that even under normal circumstances the development agreement process can take as long as 6½ months, but given existing backlogs and the increasing demands on staff proposed by the coming year's Operating Budget, the Business Commission is concerned that still greater delays will occur. Ms. Carmichael emphasized that it is extremely important that development be encouraged at this point in time, given the low interest rates and the high degree of confidence developers currently have in the downtown area.

To that end, Ms. Carmichael asked that staff be directed to work with the Business Commission in an attempt both to streamline the existing development agreement process and to relieve some of the backlog of development projects currently awaiting review. In putting forward this request, she pointed out that improvements thus made will be beneficial not only to the downtown area of Halifax but to other parts of HRM to which planning schedules currently pertain. She concluded her remarks by emphasizing that, in her view, these improvements could be accomplished without any additional expenditure of money or increases in staff.

Deputy Mayor Uteck thanked Ms. Carmichael for her presentation.

9.4 Presentation - Mr. Rob Cohn Re: Buskers Festival

Mr. Rob Cohn briefly addressed Council to express concern that the proposed municipal budget for 1999/2000 anticipates reductions in funding for festivals and cultural events, and, in particular, the annual Buskers Festival.

In his remarks, Mr. Cohn suggested that HRM has a responsibility to continue its support to the Buskers, especially given the fact that the Province of Nova Scotia has now withdrawn its funding. He went on to indicate that, in his view, the Municipality does not take sufficient interest in the importance of cultural events, pointing to the fact that HRM appears to be encouraging its Millennium Committee to sponsor events in direct competition with other, long-established festivals.

While expressing appreciation for Mr. Cohn's interest in this matter, Councillor Greenough pointed out that while the Operating Budget proposes to reduce HRM's cash contribution to the Buskers Festival, the Municipality is still committed to contributing approximately \$25,000 in services to that event.

Deputy Mayor Uteck thanked Mr. Cohn for his presentation.

10. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS

10.1 Permission to Conduct Fly Overs (Nova Scotia International Air Show)

- Correspondence dated March 2, 1999 was submitted from Mr. Rodger Sorsdahl, Executive Director, Nova Scotia International Air Show.

MOVED by Councillor Hetherington, seconded by Councillor McInroy that Halifax Regional Council provide written permission to the organizers of the Nova Scotia International Air Show regarding flyovers of the Canadian Forces "Snowbirds" and the United States "Navy Blue Angel" Aerobatic flight teams over populated areas of HRM on Saturday and Sunday, September 11 and 12, 1999. THE MOTION WAS PUT AND PASSED.

Councillor Hendsbee strongly recommended that, given the date of the proposed flyovers, verification be sought that there will be no Y2K compliancy problems attached to these airplanes.

THE MOTION WAS PUT AND PASSED.

10.2 Petitions

**10.2.1 Petition Councillor Walker Re:
Street Improvements - Cavendish Road**

Councillor Walker submitted a petition containing the signatures of approximately 72 residents of the Cavendish Road area asking that various improvements be made to that street.

The Councillor asked that the petition be forwarded to the appropriate members of staff for a report on the steps that can be taken to address these concerns.

11. REPORTS

11.1 MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

11.1.1 Councillor Cunningham - Canadian Women's Curling Championships

MOVED by Councillor Cunningham, seconded by Councillor Schofield that a letter be forwarded on behalf of Halifax Regional Council to the Mayflower Rink, the new Canadian Women's Curling Champions, congratulating them on their recent win; and further, that sincere best wishes be conveyed for their success during the forthcoming World Championship event. THE MOTION WAS PUT AND PASSED.

11.2 POINT PLEASANT PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE

11.2.1 Consultation Process - Point Pleasant Park

- A report dated March 9, 1999 was submitted under the signature of Ms. Diana Lee Dalton, Chair of the Point Pleasant Park Advisory Committee.

Mr. Wade Brown, a member of the Point Pleasant Park Advisory Committee, presented the report on Ms. Dalton's behalf, and responded to questions from various members of Council.

Deputy Mayor Uteck thanked Mr. Brown and the Committee for their valuable contribution to this initiative.

11.3 CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

11.3.1 Consideration of Approval - 1999/2000 Operating Budget

- A staff report dated March 5, 1999 and entitled *Approval of 1999-2000 Operating Budget and General Tax Rate* was submitted under the signature of Mr. Dan R. English, Acting Chief Administrative Officer.

- Correspondence dated March 5, 1999 was received from Mr. Hank Stackhouse, Regional Vice President (Operations), Delta Barrington Hotel.
- A memorandum dated March 8, 1999 and entitled *Number of HRPS Police Officers* was submitted under the signature of the Honourable Alan Abraham, Chair, Board of Police Commissioners.

MOVED by Councillor Greenough, seconded by Councillor McInroy that Halifax Regional Council approve the resolution pertaining to the 1999/2000 Operating Budget (as attached to the staff report dated March 5, 1999), except for section (e) of that resolution which finalizes area tax rates, and section (f) pertaining to supplementary education.

Councillor Cooper expressed concern that no effort had been made during this year's budget review process to realign the Municipality's tax boundaries. The Councillor went on to emphasize that, until these adjustments are made, it was his view that residents are being charged for services they do not receive.

Concurring with the remarks put forward by Councillor Cooper, Councillor Adams made reference to the Ferguson's Cove area of District 18 which is currently taxed as an "urban" area, despite its obvious similarities to Herring Cove which is considered to be "suburban." The Councillor strongly recommended that the positioning of tax boundaries be revisited as quickly as possible.

Deputy Mayor Uteck suggested that, given that the matter of tax boundaries is of concern to a number of Councillors, any further action on this subject should best be handled through a Notice of Motion.

Noting that Council has yet to deal with the matter of supplementary education funding, Councillor Walker recommended that two separate motions on the subject be brought forward, one pertaining to the funding for the former City of Dartmouth, the second pertaining to the former City of Halifax.

Appreciation was extended to His Worship Mayor Walter Fitzgerald for his continued championship of a balanced budget with no tax increases, and to staff for their contribution to this year's budget exercise.

THE MOTION WAS PUT AND PASSED.

11.3.2 Tender #98-127 (Sections 1 and 2): Janitorial Services For Transit Facility, 200 Ilsley Avenue

- A staff report dated February 26, 1999 and entitled *Tender #98-127 (Section 1 & 2) - Janitorial Services For Transit Facility, 200 Ilsley Avenue*, was submitted under the signatures of Mr. K. R. Meech, Chief Administrative Officer, and Mr. Dan English, Deputy CAO.

MOVED by Councillor Sarto, seconded by Councillor Greenough that Halifax Regional Council authorize the award of Tender #98-127 to the lowest responsible bidder, Modern Building Cleaning Inc., at a cost of \$44,085.14 per year plus applicable taxes for a two (2) year period. THE MOTION WAS PUT AND PASSED.

11.3.3 Request for Proposals #98-073: Purchase of Fire Response Vehicles and Related Optional Equipment for Rural Fire Departments

- A report dated February 23, 1999 and entitled *Request for Proposals #98-073 - Purchase of Fire Response Vehicles and Related Optional Equipment for Rural Fire Departments* was submitted under the signatures of Mr. K. R. Meech, Chief Administrative Officer, and Mr. Dan English, Deputy CAO.

MOVED by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Mitchell that Halifax Regional Council authorize the award of Request for Proposals #98-073 Re: Fire Response Vehicles (Rural Fire Departments) as follows:

<u>Fire Department</u>	<u>Successful Proponent</u>	<u>Cost (HST extra @ 15%)</u>
Harrietsfield	Superior Emergency Vehicles Ltd.	\$224,083.00
Hammonds Plains	Superior Emergency Vehicles Ltd.	\$227,959.00
Bay Road	Fort Garry Fire Trucks	\$183,739.00

THE MOTION WAS PUT AND PASSED.

11.3.4 Case 00058: Application by Lamont Fader To Extend Time Frame for Implementation of Development Agreement (Ingramport)

- A staff report dated March 2, 1999 and entitled *Case 00058: Application by Lamont Fader To Extend Time Frame for Implementation of Development Agreement at Ingramport* was submitted under the signatures of Mr. K. R. Meech, Chief Administrative Officer, and Mr. Dan English, Deputy CAO.

MOVED by Councillor Mitchell, seconded by Councillor Adams that the time frame for implementation of a development agreement entered into between Halifax County Municipality and Lamont and Kathleen Fader to allow for tourist cabins and related facilities on the Fader property in Ingraumont be extended until December 31, 2002. THE MOTION WAS PUT AND PASSED.

11.3.5 Case 00127: Amendments to the Dartmouth Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-Law Respecting Billboard Signs

- A staff report dated March 4, 1999 and entitled *Case 00127 - Amendments to the Dartmouth Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-Law Respecting Billboard Signs* was submitted under the signature of Mr. Dan English, Acting Chief Administrative Officer. **Note:** Also submitted was a draft MPS Policy and Land Use By-Law Regulations pertaining to this matter.
- Correspondence dated March 8, 1999 was received from Mr. Herman S. Dykeman, Operations/Real Estate Manager (Maritimes), Mediacom.

MOVED by Councillor Cunningham, seconded by Councillor Greenough that Halifax Regional Council:

- (1) authorize staff to undertake amendments to the Dartmouth Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS) and Land Use By-Law to incorporate regulations concerning the location, size and height of billboard signs; and**
- (2) approve the public participation process as outlined on Page 2 of the staff report dated March 4, 1999.**

Responding to concerns put forward by Councillor Stone, Ms. Donna Davis-Lohnes, General Manager, Planning Services, advised that the amendment in question pertains to a specific issue, one that was overlooked in the formulation of the existing Dartmouth by-law. She went on to point out that work on this particular initiative will have no impact on plans to proceed with a Sign By-Law for the entire Municipality, a project that has been identified as a priority and one that will be discussed with the Program and Service Review Committee at a forthcoming meeting.

THE MOTION WAS PUT AND PASSED.

11.3.6 Amendment of Administrative Order 10 Respecting Residential Tax Exemption

- A supplementary staff report, dated March 3, 1999 and entitled *Amendment of Administrative Order 10* was submitted under the signatures of Mr. K. R. Meech, Chief Administrative Officer, and Mr. Dan English, Deputy CAO.

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Mitchell that Halifax Regional Council approve the amendments to Administrative Order 10 as outlined in Appendix I of the supplementary staff report dated March 3, 1999 to:

- (1) add an application deadline of December 31 in each year;
- (2) reduce the income ceiling of \$26,000.00 to \$20,000.00, and delete the benefits for households with incomes over \$20,000.00; and
- (3) reduce the benefits for successful applicants where incomes are between \$14,000 and \$20,000 to \$200 where taxes are less than \$1,500 and to \$275 where taxes are over \$1,500.

THE MOTION WAS PUT AND PASSED.

12. MOTIONS - NONE

13. ADDED ITEMS

13.1 Councillor Barnet - Interest Rate on Betterment Charges and Notification of Due Date

Councillor Barnet made reference to a number of complaints he has received over the past several weeks from constituents who are only now receiving betterment charge bills for work that was completed prior to the time of amalgamation. He noted that these individuals are particularly concerned about the interest rate (4 percent above prime) being charged, given the fact that this rate would have been considerably lower if the bills had been sent out in a more timely manner. The Councillor went on to suggest that 4 percent above prime is normally used for "high-risk" borrowers, a situation that would not seem to apply in this context.

MOVED by Councillor Barnet, seconded by Councillor Mitchell that staff be asked to comment (in the form of a report) on the rationale for applying the 4 percent above prime as interest on betterment charges, as well as on the feasibility of extending the time frame for the payment of these bills. THE MOTION WAS PUT AND PASSED.

13.2 Legal Matter - Sable Gas

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Councillor Rankin declared a conflict of interest, owing to his association with Irving Oil, and retired from the discussion.

This matter had been discussed during an In Camera meeting of Halifax Regional Council held earlier in the day.

MOVED by Councillor Adams, seconded by Councillor Fougere that Halifax Regional Council authorize the Sable Gas Committee to negotiate with the gas distribution companies within the parameters discussed during the In Camera meeting of Council held earlier in the day. THE MOTION WAS PUT AND PASSED.

Councillor Rankin returned to the meeting.

13.3 Personnel Matter - Ocean View Manor

This matter had been discussed during an In Camera meeting of Halifax Regional Council held earlier in the day.

MOVED by Councillor Greenough, seconded by Councillor Sarto that the recommendation adopted during the In Camera meeting held earlier in the day be ratified. THE MOTION WAS PUT AND PASSED.

13.4 Appointments - Boards and Committees

This matter had been discussed during an In Camera meeting of Halifax Regional Council held earlier in the day.

MOVED by Councillor Sarto, seconded by Councillor Cunningham that the following appointments be approved by Halifax Regional Council:

- (a) Councillor Clint Schofield to the Board of Atlantic Winter Fair (for a two-year term effective March 1999);**
- (b) Councillor Clint Schofield to the Program and Service Review Committee; and**
- (c) Councillor Russell Walker and two citizens, Mary Lyn Saturley and Anne Murray, to the Community Monitoring Committee.**

THE MOTION WAS PUT AND PASSED.

13.5 Carmichael v. HRM - Motor Vehicle Accident

This matter had been discussed during an In Camera meeting of Halifax Regional Council held earlier in the day.

MOVED by Councillor Stone, seconded by Councillor Barnet that the recommendation adopted during the In Camera meeting held earlier in the day be ratified. THE MOTION WAS PUT AND PASSED.

13.6 Councillor Walker - Petition (Ramsgate Lane at Purcell's Cove Road)

- An Information Report dated March 3, 1999 and entitled *Petition - Ramsgate Lane at Purcell's Cove Road* was submitted under the signatures of Mr. K. S. Dhillon, Director of Engineering and Transportation Services, and Mr. David McCusker, Manager of Traffic and Transportation Services.

The Councillor made reference to page 3 of the March 3 Information Report (in particular, the notation that "reducing travel speeds on Purcell's Cove Road would be beneficial and staff will consider opportunities to achieve this objective through enforcement traffic calming measures") and asked for clarification in the form of a further staff report.

14. NOTICES OF MOTION

14.1 Councillor Hetherington Re: Supplementary Education Funding

Councillor Hetherington gave Notice of Motion that, at the next regular meeting of Halifax Regional Council to be held on Tuesday, March 23, 1999, he proposes to introduce a motion to reduce the supplementary school funding in Dartmouth by ten (10) percent.

14.2 Councillor Stone Re: Administrative Order No. 15, the License Fee Administrative Order

Councillor Stone gave Notice of Motion that, at the next regular meeting of Halifax Regional Council to be held on Tuesday, March 23, 1999, he proposes to place before Council for adoption Administrative Order No. 15, the License Fee Administrative Order, the immediate purpose of which is to adopt a fee for licenses issued under the proposed Alarm By-Law, B-400, and in addition will provide a vehicle by which to facilitate the adoption and amendment of license fees pursuant to other By-Laws.

**14.3 Councillor Barnet: Notice of Motion of Reconsideration Re:
Re: Agenda Item 8.1, Charges for Street Improvements - 1999/2000**

Councillor Barnet gave Notice of Motion that, at the next regular meeting of Halifax Regional Council scheduled for Tuesday, March 23, 1999, he proposes to introduce a Motion of Reconsideration with regard to the motion approved by Council earlier in the meeting pertaining to Item 8.1, Charges for Street Improvements - 1999/2000.

14.4 Councillor Adams Re: Designation of Suburban Zones

Councillor Adams gave Notice of Motion that, at the next regular meeting of Halifax Regional Council to be held on Tuesday, March 23, 1999, he proposes to introduce a motion that will request staff to revisit the "suburban zone" designation, the intent being to explore Ferguson's Cove, Kinsac, Upper Sackville, Beaver Bank, Hammonds Plains Road, Kearney Lake Road, and Montague Road, and to provide costing analyses and objective reasons (supporting and contrary to) a new designation.

15. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Councillor Greenough, seconded by Councillor Hetherington that the meeting adjourn at approximately 9:30 p.m. THE MOTION WAS PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Vi Carmichael
MUNICIPAL CLERK**

