

# **HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY**

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## **HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL MINUTES APRIL 20, 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  
Jerry S. Blumenthal  
Graham L. Downey  
Sheila Fougere  
Russell Walker  
Bill Stone  
Graham Read  
Stephen D. Adams  
Barry Barnet  
Robert P. Harvey  
Reg Rankin  
Jack Mitchell

**ABSENT WITH  
REGRETS:**

His Worship Mayor Walter Fitzgerald  
Councillor John Cunningham  
Councillor Peter J. Kelly

**STAFF MEMBERS:**

Mr. Dan English, Acting Chief Administrative Officer  
Mr. Wayne Anstey, Municipal Solicitor  
Ms. Barbara Moar, Acting 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.

The Chair advised that Councillor Peter Kelly would not be able to be in attendance at tonight's meeting as he was receiving a Leadership Award from the Metro Food Bank Society as well as attending a community meeting dealing with the new Corrections/Forensic facility in Bedford.

**2. PROCLAMATIONS**

**2.1 1999 Volunteer Week**

Councillor Greenough, on behalf of the Deputy Mayor, proclaimed the week of April 18-24, 1999 as *1999 Volunteer Week* in the Halifax Regional Municipality.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOVED by Councillor Mitchell, seconded by Councillor Blumenthal that the Minutes from the regular meeting of Halifax Regional Council, held on Tuesday, April 13, 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:

- 12.1 Councillor Blumenthal: Amendments to Ordinance No. 166 Respecting Signs, Billboards, and Advertising Structures
- 12.2 Councillor Schofield: Street Closure - India Road
- 12.3 Councillor Adams: School Closures and Impact on HRM Budget
- 12.4 Councillor Barnet: Millwood Commons
- 12.5 Councillor Adams: Report: Community Integration Funds (Herring Cove Area)
- 12.6 Halifax County Regional Rehabilitation Centre - New Collective Agreement (CUPE 1028)

12.7 Legal Matter - Water Service to Upper Hammonds Plains

At the Deputy Mayor's suggestion, **it was agreed that** Items 9.2.1 ("Mexican Community Alliance") and 9.2.2 ("Shipbuilding Policy for Canada") be considered as the next two items on the meeting's agenda.

**MOVED by Councillor Downey, seconded by Councillor Walker 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**

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

**Councillor Dooks declared a conflict of interest, given his business association with the development industry, and removed himself from the discussion.**

6.1 **Councillor Hendsbee Re: Amendments to Existing Subdivision By-Laws of the Former City of Halifax and Dartmouth, Halifax County, and Town of Bedford**

Notice of Motion of Reconsideration had been given by Councillor Hendsbee during the April 13, 1999 regular meeting of Halifax Regional Council with regard to the following motion: "That Council approve the amendments to the existing Subdivision By-Laws of the former City of Halifax and Dartmouth, Halifax County, and Town of Bedford, as outlined within the staff report dated February 8, 1999 and Appendix "A" attached to that report. "

**MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Schofield that Council's motion of April 13, 1999 with regard to this matter be reconsidered.**

In putting forward this motion, Councillor Hendsbee expressed concern that the direction Council had taken during its April 13 meeting had been based solely on information received from Mr. Barry Zwicker, local President of the Urban Development Institute, and from Mr. Earle B. Richardson of Clayton Developments Limited without an opportunity for staff comment. The Councillor went on to advise that, in his view, a more comprehensive analysis should have been undertaken as to the implications these changes held for development, and that both the findings of this analysis and the proposed fee structure should have been referred to the Program and Service Review Committee for debate before a recommendation was submitted to Council.

THE MOTION WAS PUT AND DEFEATED with Councillors Hetherington and Barnet abstaining from the vote given their absence from the April 13 meeting at which this matter was initiated.

Councillor Dooks returned to the meeting.

7. MOTIONS OF RESCISSION - NONE

8. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS- NONE

9. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS - NONE

9.1 Correspondence

9.1.1 Request for Street Name Change - Point Pleasant Park

- Correspondence dated April 12, 1999 was received from Commodore (Retired) H. A. Cooper, President, Nova Scotia Naval Officers Association.

**MOVED by Councillor Hetherington, seconded by Councillor Sarto that the request received from the Nova Scotia Naval Officers Association (i.e., to rename Shore Road, Halifax as *Sailor's Memorial Way*) be referred to staff and to the Point Pleasant Park Advisory Committee for review and recommendation. THE MOTION WAS PUT AND PASSED.**

9.2 Presentations

9.2.1 Mexican Community Alliance

Dr. John Kirk and Ms. Gloria Banks provided members of Council with an overview of the initiatives undertaken by the Halifax-Mexico Community Alliance, including the February 1999 mission to Campeche and the follow-up which has succeeded it. Also provided was a summary of the responses received to a survey distributed to Alliance members evaluating the Campeche visit and the potential for business opportunities.

As a member of the February mission, Deputy Mayor Uteck expressed his sincere appreciation to the Alliance for their efforts in this regard and wished them every success in their future endeavors.

9.2.2 Shipbuilding Policy for Canada

- Correspondence dated February 25, 1999 was received from Mr. Les Holloway, Executive Director, Marine Workers' Federation.

Mr. Holloway addressed Council to emphasize the need for an ongoing dialogue between the Federal Government and industry representatives so that the further demise of Canada's shipbuilding can be halted. He therefore called on Council not only to endorse the resolution appended to the February 25 correspondence, but also to take a proactive approach by sending letters supporting the Federation's objectives to the Federal Government.

**MOVED by Councillor Blumenthal, seconded by Councillor Hetherington that Halifax Regional Council endorse the *Shipbuilding Policy Resolution* as attached to Mr. Holloway's letter of February 25, 1999; and further, that a letter of support be prepared to accompany this resolution.**

A discussion ensued as to whether the proposed endorsement of the Federation's resolution should be forwarded to staff for comment; however, in light of the importance of the shipbuilding industry to the Halifax Regional Municipality, it was agreed that this step would be waived.

**THE MOTION WAS PUT AND PASSED.**

## **10. REPORTS**

### **10.1 REGIONAL HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

#### **10.1.1 Preventing Demolition of Municipally Registered Heritage Properties: A Procedure for Public Participation**

- A report dated April 8, 1999 and entitled *Preventing Demolition of Municipally Registered Heritage Properties: A Procedure for Public Participation* was submitted under the signature of Mr. Paul A. Erickson, Chair of the Heritage Advisory Committee.

Mr. Erickson provided Members of Council with a brief overview of the Committee's recommendation, noting, in particular, that in designing its proposal the HAC has attempted to make more productive use of the 12-month time frame between the receipt of a demolition application and the actual destruction of a heritage building.

**MOVED by Councillor Hetherington, seconded by Councillor Greenough that the following recommendations as put forward by the Heritage Advisory Committee be forwarded to staff for review and comment, with a request that a report be returned to Council as quickly as possible:**

*That Halifax Regional Council create a public participation process that begins upon receipt of an application for the demolition of a registered heritage property. The process consists of six steps:*

- (1) the creation and maintenance of a database of individuals, companies and groups interested in occupancy of a heritage building;*
- (2) public notice of the receipt of an application to demolish a registered heritage property, including a photograph of the property, placed in local newspapers within 30 days of receipt of application;*
- (3) the preparation of a basic feasibility study by the Municipality (with a maximum cost of \$2000) that examines the building condition and reuse options in order to determine the most appropriate and cost-effective alternatives to demolition;*
- (4) the holding of a community meeting under the auspices of the Heritage Advisory Committee that invites the community and key stakeholder groups to discuss all possible reuse options;*
- (5) the introduction of facilitated mediation; and*
- (6) where possible, the development of Heritage Agreements to tie municipal financial assistance to permanent protection against demolition.*

Responding to a question put forward by Councillor Schofield, Mr. English advised that staff are currently in the process of preparing a policy which will provide municipal financial assistance as protection against the demolition of heritage properties. He added that reference to that policy intent would be contained in the staff report to be returned to Council pertaining to the item now under discussion.

Councillor Harvey spoke in support of the recommendations put forward by the Heritage Advisory Committee, but indicated that there are various other aspects of heritage preservation that should be addressed such as changes to the Provincial Heritage Act and the fostering of partnerships with the owners of heritage buildings. In putting these thoughts forward, the Councillor expressed the hope that the recommendations before Council this evening represent the first of many such recommendations that will be forthcoming from the HAC.

Speaking in support of the HAC proposal, Councillor Hendsbee made specific reference to Recommendation #2, suggesting that the notification process should also include members of Council as well as an advertisement placed in the local newspapers.

Councillor Read indicated that, while he fully supported the HAC's proposal, he hoped to see additional recommendations come forward that would put "more teeth" in the Municipality's policies and regulations -- ones that would make applications for demolition less likely in the first place. The Councillor went on to state that, in his view, it is always a shame to lose a useful building, especially when the decision to demolish is based on



the fact that a more intensive use is desirable for the site. He added, however, that when a heritage building is lost in this way, the City as a whole loses a valuable asset.

**THE MOTION WAS PUT AND PASSED WITH UNANIMOUS SUPPORT.**

### **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Councillor Greenough advised that because one of the properties affected by the amendments proposed under Items 10.2.1, 10.2.2 and 10.2.3 is owned by a family member, he was declaring a conflict of interest and removing himself from the discussion.

## **10.2 HARBOUR EAST COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

### **10.2.1 Case 00096 - Harbour East Commercial Policy Review - Phase 1A - Cole Harbour Road and Caldwell Road (First Reading/Set Date for Public Hearing)**

- A report dated April 14, 1999 and entitled *Case 00096 - Harbour East Commercial Policy Review (Phase 1A - Cole Harbour Road and Caldwell Road)* was submitted under the signature of Councillor Bruce Hetherington, Chair, Harbour East Community Council.

**MOVED by Councillor Hetherington, seconded by Councillor McInroy that Halifax Regional Council give First Reading to the amendments proposed to the Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-Law for Cole Harbour/Westphal, as contained in Appendices "A" and "B" of the supplementary staff report dated April 14, 1999; and further, that Tuesday, May 11, 1999 be confirmed as the date for a public hearing to consider these amendments. THE MOTION WAS PUT AND PASSED.**

### **10.2.2 Project 00096: Harbour East Commercial Policy Review - Phase 1B - Portland Valley (First Reading/Set Date for Public Hearing)**

- A report dated April 15, 1999 and entitled *Case 00096 - Harbour East Commercial Policy Review (Phase 1B - Portland Valley)* was submitted under the signature of Councillor Bruce Hetherington, Chair, Harbour East Community Council.

**MOVED by Councillor Hetherington, seconded by Councillor McInroy that Halifax Regional Council give First Reading to the amendments proposed to the Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-Law for Dartmouth, as contained in Appendices "A" and "B" attached to the supplementary staff report dated April 14, 1999; and**

further, that Tuesday, May 11, 1999 be confirmed as the date for a public hearing to consider these amendments. **THE MOTION WAS PUT AND PASSED.**

**10.2.3 Case 00111: Proposed Amendments to Dartmouth Municipal Planning Strategy - Home Depot (First Reading/Set Date for Public Hearing)**

- A report dated April 14, 1999 and entitled *Case 00111 - Proposed Amendments to the Dartmouth Municipal Planning Strategy (Home Depot)* was submitted under the signature of Councillor Bruce Hetherington, Chair, Harbour East Community Council. **MOVED by Councillor Hetherington, seconded by Councillor McInroy that Halifax Regional Council give First Reading to the amendments proposed to the Dartmouth Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-Law by (a) redesignating a portion of land owned by W. Eric Whebby Ltd. (PID #40131419 and 406856653), Baker Drive Extension, Dartmouth from “Residential” to “Commercial”; and (b) adding policy statements containing criteria on which Council will consider by development agreement development of this land, all as presented in Appendices “A” and “B” of the staff report dated March 31, 1999; and further, that Tuesday, May 11, 1999 be confirmed as the date for a public hearing to consider these amendments. THE MOTION WAS PUT AND PASSED.**

Councillor Greenough returned to the meeting.

**10.3 CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

**10.3.1 Tender 99-020R Animal Control Services and Operation of Animal Pound**

- A staff report dated April 15, 1999 and entitled *Tender 99-020R: Animal Control Services and Operation of Animal Pound* was submitted under the signature of Mr. Dan English, Acting Chief Administrative Officer.
- Correspondence dated April 20, 1999 was received from Mr. Peter O'Brien, Vice-President (Atlantic), Canadian Federation of Independent Business.
- Correspondence dated April 20, 1999 was received from Messrs. Ron Abrahams, Gerry Solomon and Ted Ryan, Harbour Cities Veterinary Hospital.
- Correspondence dated July 24, 1998 was received from Mr. Ward Blatch, Lyle Tilley Davidson (to Mr. Bob McKenney, Nova Scotia Society for the Prevention of Cruelty).

Councillor Schofield observed that there appears to be some contention as to whether the NS Society for the Prevention of Cruelty (SPC) is exempt from the payment of HST and that it is being recommended for the contract with HRM on that basis.

Given that there are other aspects of the staff report on which clarification is needed, **it was moved by Councillor Schofield, seconded by Councillor Barnet that the matter be deferred to the next regular meeting of Halifax Regional Council (scheduled for Tuesday, April 27, 1999), pending receipt of further information from staff.**

Councillor Dooks asked for clarification as to the response times to be expected in District One, should the contract be awarded to the SPC, and whether, in fact, it is anticipated that an animal pound be established to service that area.

Councillor Barnet made reference to the tables contained in the April 15 staff report, noting that, given the inconsistencies in the figures, it would appear that two separate companies bid on two separate documents (e.g., one company has based its prices on the total number of prospective calls, the other on whether or not an animal pound is to be included). The Councillor asked for clarification on the numbers provided (including appropriate totals), adding that, superficially at least, it would seem that the bid received from Harbour Cities/Stealth is far lower than its competitor despite the additional \$119,000 that has been included for the provision of a pound.

Councillor Hetherington commented that the fact that HRM provides the SPC with a 50 percent tax reduction on its residential property should be considered during the tender award process in order that "a level playing field" might be maintained for all bidders.

Councillor Adams suggested that a "monopoly" in terms of animal control services may not be in the Municipality's best interests at this time, and asked for information from staff as to the costs that would apply should animal control continue to be provided by two separate agencies.

**THE MOTION TO DEFER WAS PUT AND PASSED.**

### **10.3.2 Business Planning Process**

- A staff report dated April 15, 1999 and entitled *Business Planning Process* was submitted under the signatures of Mr. Dan R. English, Acting Chief Administrative Officer, and Mr. George McLellan, Deputy CAO.

Mr. George McLellan, Deputy CAO, and Ms. Betty MacDonald, General Manager, Financial Analysis Services, with the aid of overheads, provided Council with a brief overview of the April 15 report.

**MOVED by Councillor Greenough, seconded by Councillor Fougere that a *Business Strategies Forum* be held in May (to be tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, May 18, Wednesday, May 19, and Friday, May 21) to identify goals and objectives for the HRM. This forum will include Council and senior management, along with any other interests deemed by Council as helpful to this process.**

Councillor Cooper expressed concern that the Halifax Regional Municipality is still lacking a "vision" -- an idea of what is important to residents and the manner in which they feel their community should be evolving. In this context, he made reference to meetings which had been held with Councillors and various interest groups shortly after amalgamation at which time these issues had been discussed and various recommendations put forward. The Councillor emphasized, however, that this initiative appears to have been forgotten and that while he endorsed the concept that the Municipality needs sound business processes, he has a great deal of concern that the staff report of April 15 targets only the "money" aspects of providing municipal services, rather than factoring in what the community is actually looking for.

In response to Councillor Cooper's concerns, Mr. Dan English, Acting Chief Administrative Officer, noted that another project that will be coming to Council shortly is the Regional Planning initiative dealing primarily with growth strategies for HRM. Mr. English emphasized that while neither this initiative nor the multi-year financial strategy referred to by Mr. McLellan specifically addresses the concerns put forward by Councillor Cooper, the development of a "vision statement" could well be the link that is necessary to tie the two together. Mr. English therefore undertook to direct staff to prepare a report outlining how the development of an HRM "vision" can be factored in to the overall planning process.

Councillor Walker recommended that the first session of the proposed Forum be scheduled for the **morning** of Tuesday, May 18, given that a regular meeting of Council (and possibly an In Camera session) has been set for later in the day.

**THE MOTION WAS PUT AND PASSED.**

**NOTE:** Councillor Cooper later gave a Notice of Motion regarding this matter (see Item 13.2).

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

**Councillor McInroy declared a conflict of interest, given his employment with the Provincial Assessment Division, and retired from the discussion.**

**10.3.3 Interest on Refund of Overpaid Taxes on Assessment Appeals**

- A staff report dated April 9, 1999 and entitled *Interest on Refund of Overpaid Taxes on Assessment Appeals* was submitted under the signatures of Mr. Dan English, Acting Chief Administrative Officer, and Mr. George M. McLellan, Deputy CAO.

**MOVED by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Mitchell that:**

- (1) the rate of interest to be applied to refunds of overpaid taxes be the rate of interest earned by the Municipality on its short-term investment portfolio less 2%, the interest rate and amount to be calculated monthly but not compounded;
- (2) the above provisions form part of an Administrative Order to be brought to Council pertaining to the various fees and charges for Municipal Services.

Councillor Barnet addressed Council in opposition to the motion, emphasizing that, in his view, Alternative #2 represented a more equitable approach to the matter.

**It was therefore moved by Councillor Barnet, seconded by Councillor Rankin that the original motion be amended to read as follows: “(1) the rate of interest to be applied to refunds of overpaid taxes be the rate of interest earned by the Municipality on its short-term investment portfolio, the interest rate and amount to be calculated monthly but not compounded.”**

Mr. Reg Ridgley, Acting Director of Finance, and Mr. Derek Tynski, Team Leader, Cash Management, responded to questions from various members of Council.

**THE AMENDMENT TO THE MOTION WAS PUT AND PASSED.**

**THE MAIN MOTION, AS AMENDED, WAS PUT AND PASSED.**

**Councillor McInroy returned to the meeting.**

#### **10.3.4 Best Practices Guide for Municipal Infrastructure**

- A staff report dated April 15, 1999 and entitled *“Best Practices” Guide for Municipal Infrastructure* was submitted under the signature of Mr. Dan English, Acting Chief Administrative Officer.

**MOVED by Councillor Stone, seconded by Councillor Downey that Halifax Regional Council support the development of the National Technical Guide for Municipal Infrastructure, and endorse the following resolution:-**

**WHEREAS** Canadian municipal governments spend upwards of \$12-billion dollars annually on municipal infrastructure;

**WHEREAS** there is no central source of information in Canada to guide municipal governments in infrastructure long-term planning, assets management, costs control, maintenance and repair;

**WHEREAS** the National Research Council of Canada (NRC), in response to the needs of municipal infrastructure stakeholder, has proposed the development of a national technical guide for municipal infrastructure (Guide) to be based on proven best practices in infrastructure long-term planning, assets management, costs control, maintenance and repair;

**WHEREAS** it is estimated that the use of the Guide could save in excess of \$1-billion annually to Canadian municipalities (\$600,000 for a municipality of 20,000 people);

**WHEREAS** the Government of Canada has committed \$10-million and the Province of Quebec has committed \$1-million to the proposed \$20-million (\$15-million cash, \$5-million in kind), five-year project;

**WHEREAS** infrastructure stakeholders, public and private, will contribute \$5 million in in-kind services to the development of the Guide;

**WHEREAS** input into the national guide will be regionally based, thereby giving provincial and territorial interests a greater role and responsibility in its development; and

**WHEREAS** the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), of which the Halifax Regional Municipality is an active member, strongly supports the technical guide project;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Halifax Regional Municipality supports the development of the National Technical Guide for Municipal Infrastructure;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Halifax Regional Municipality requests the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities (UNSM) to support the National Technical Guide for Municipal Infrastructure.

**THE MOTION WAS PUT AND PASSED.**

**11. MOTIONS**

**11.1 Motion Councillor Adams Re: Policing Services  
(Former District 5 Area of District 18)**

Notice of Motion concerning this matter had been given by Councillor Adams during the April 13 meeting of Halifax Regional Council.

**MOVED by Councillor Adams, seconded by Councillor Mitchell that this matter (i.e., the feasibility of directing Regional Police Services to assume responsibility for policing services in the former District 5 area of District 18) be referred for further discussion to an In Camera meeting of Halifax Regional Council scheduled for Tuesday, April 27, 1999. THE MOTION WAS PUT AND PASSED.**

**12. ADDED ITEMS**

**12.1 Councillor Blumenthal: Amendment of Ordinance Number 166 Respecting Signs, Billboards and Advertising Structures**

Councillor Blumenthal expressed concern regarding the proliferation of billboards throughout HRM, a situation which, he suggested, is rapidly turning the Municipality into a "billboard jungle." Adding that he had already been advised that an immediate moratorium on billboard permits is not permissible under the provisions of the new *Municipal Government Act*, the Councillor suggested that staff should instead be directed to investigate methods by which the erection of this signage could be better controlled by the Municipality.

Deputy Mayor Uteck reminded Council that a report of this nature had been requested over six months ago, but owing to budgetary constraints, staff had been forced to postpone work on this project.

**It was therefore moved by Councillor Blumenthal, seconded by Councillor Stone that staff be authorized to allocate resources to the preparation of a new municipal bylaw to contain more stringent controls for billboards, signs and other advertising structures.**

In seconding the motion, Councillor Stone emphasized that billboards erected on commercially-zoned sites have become a very serious problem for the owners of abutting residential properties. He went on to point out that in several cases the presence of this signage not only represents an unwelcome intrusion into residential neighborhoods but has also served to impede views and, in some cases, served as a distraction to drivers.

Concurring with the comments put forward by Councillor Blumenthal, Councillor Stone emphasized that steps must be taken to curb what he termed "this sea of billboards" and, in that context, asked for information from staff as to (1) the criteria on which approval for the erection of this signage is currently based; and (2) whether, in staff's view, the signs

which have recently been erected along the Bedford Highway are legally in place. Referring, in particular, to a sign currently being installed behind the Wedgewood Motel at the corner of the Bedford Highway and Kearney Lake Road, the Councillor asked for information as to whether height restrictions are applicable to that site and expressed the hope that steps could be taken to have the sign either lowered or removed completely.

Councillor Adams noted that he too has been receiving billboard-related complaints from residents of his District, adding that he has counted a total of 19 such signs now in place on or visible from Herring Cove Road. With regard to the proposed enhancements to the signage bylaw, the Councillor asked that staff consider adding specifications relating to lighting, noting that some residents have complained that their sleep is being disturbed by the bright light emanating from certain of these signs.

Responding to a question from Councillor Harvey, Ms. Donna Davis-Lohnes, General Manager, Planning Services, advised that the new signage bylaw will encompass the concerns raised about billboards, mobile signs, etc. throughout the Municipality. She went on to note that a Divisional work plan including provision for the allocation of resources to the signage bylaw amendments will be submitted to the Program and Service Review Committee on Wednesday, May 5.

Councillor Schofield suggested that the new bylaw also include a provision allowing the Municipality to revoke a billboard's permit, should it subsequently be determined that the presence of that signage represents a safety hazard, for instance, or some other detriment to the community.

Councillor Dooks strongly recommended that, in the development of the bylaw amendments, Council should ensure that input is received from those in the signage industry.

Councillor Mitchell concurred with the concerns put forward by Councillor Adams, referring specifically to large brightly-lit signs erected on corners which, in his opinion, represent a particular hazard to motorists.

**THE MOTION WAS PUT AND PASSED.**

## **12.2 Councillor Schofield: Street Closure - India Road**

Councillor Schofield made reference to a matter raised with Council some months ago concerning a street line which runs through a residence on India Road (Dartmouth). The Councillor went on to advise that the owner wishes to dispose of his property and is therefore looking for some kind of easement that would ameliorate the difficulties



surrounding the siting of the street line. He added that when this matter was previously brought to Council's attention, staff had suggested that provisions in the new *Municipal Government Act* would be useful in addressing this problem.

Given that the *Municipal Government Act* has now been enacted, **it was moved by Councillor Schofield, seconded by Councillor Dooks that staff be requested to prepare a report as to how the repositioning of the street line on India Road, Dartmouth might be addressed. THE MOTION WAS PUT AND PASSED.**

### **12.3 Councillor Adams: School Closures and Impact on HRM Budget**

Councillor Adams made reference to a recent decision by the Halifax Regional School Board to close three local schools (i.e., Tower Road, C. A. Beckett, and Holly Drive) and expressed concern that this action will constitute an increase in expenditure for the Halifax Regional Municipality.

In this context, **it was moved by Councillor Adams, seconded by Councillor Read that the following information be provided:**

- (a) assuming these schools are turned over to the Municipality as surplus facilities, the cost to HRM of maintenance (e.g., heat, water, etc.);**
- (b) the uses that could be envisioned for these buildings (in this context the Councillor noted that because Tower Road School is a heritage property, restrictions would presumably be placed on its redevelopment);**
- (c) the cost of accommodating student travel (e.g., busing, improved lighting at intersections, etc.);**
- (d) the options available to HRM either to offset these costs or to keep the facilities open.**

With particular reference to Part (c) of his motion, Councillor Adams noted that the children who will relocate from the Holly Drive School have the option of attending school in Spryfield. He emphasized, however, that to access that facility the children will have to travel two kilometres along the Herring Cove Road, a street which averages 9,000+ cars daily moving at approximately 70 kph. The Councillor pointed out that the situation is exacerbated by the fact that the portion of Herring Cove Road in question has no sidewalks, a situation which (particularly during the winter months) could prove perilous.

On another but related matter, Councillor Adams made reference to the fact that students at the Holly Drive School benefit from supplementary education funding, while those at the William King School in Herring Cove do not. Should these students relocate to William King, the Councillor asked to be advised as to how their parents will be reimbursed for the monies they have already paid for supplementary education programs.

In closing, Councillor Adams indicated that, according to information released by the Regional School Board, the closure of the three schools in question is estimated to save approximately \$141,000. The Councillor expressed the view that the resulting costs to HRM will far exceed those savings to the School Board.

In seconding the motion, Councillor Read suggested that any savings to be realized by the School Board through the closure of school facilities will merely be transferred in terms of additional expenditures to the Municipality.

**THE MOTION WAS PUT AND PASSED.**

**NOTE:** Councillor Adams later gave a Notice of Motion regarding this matter (see Item 13.3).

**12.4 Councillor Barnet: Millwood Commons**

Councillor Barnet advised that in 1992 the former County of Halifax entered into a development agreement with the Nova Scotia Department of Housing for, among other things, the construction of the Millwood Commons. In 1997, at the urging of the District Councillor, residents of the Millwood community and municipal staff, the Department transferred a substantial amount of money and guaranteed services in kind to the Municipality for the continuation of this project.

Councillor Barnet went on to emphasize, however, that since that time very little work has been undertaken by HRM to complete the Commons, despite the fact that in 1997 municipal staff were assigned the task of designing and constructing this project. In this context, the Councillor pointed to the unfinished landscaping, the basketball court with no hoops, backboards or net, and the unfinished tennis court with no nets, fencing or lines. He added that he has received numerous expressions of concern from residents over the last two years but noted that, despite his repeated requests to staff, the site remains unfinished and, in his view, an "embarrassment." both to the Millwood community and to the Department of Housing.

**It was therefore MOVED by Councillor Barnet, seconded by Councillor Harvey that staff be directed to prepare a report (to be submitted to the April 27 meeting of**

Council) indicating the status of the Millwood Commons project, the date it is expected to be completed, and any expenditures or work that has been completed to date.

**THE MOTION WAS PUT AND PASSED.**

**12.5 Report - Community Integration Funds (Herring Cove Area)**

- A staff report dated April 19, 1999 and entitled *Community Integration Funds -- Herring Cove Area* was submitted under the signature of Mr. Dan English, Acting Chief Administrative Officer.

**MOVED by Councillor Adams, seconded by Councillor Walker that Council:**

- (1) approve, in principle, that the \$5m community integration fund be moved to Phase 1 of the Halifax Harbour Solutions Project;**
- (2) direct the Director of Engineering and Transportation Services to begin discussions with the Halifax Regional Water Commission with respect to the design of the water extension;**
- (3) direct the Project Manager for the Halifax Harbour Solutions Project to begin communication with the community with the view of establishing the location for the future wastewater treatment plant.**

**THE MOTION WAS PUT AND PASSED.**

**12.6      Halifax County Regional Rehabilitation Centre -  
New Collective Agreement (CUPE Local 1028)**

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

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

**12.7      Legal Matter - Water Service to Upper Hammonds Plains**

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

**MOVED by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Mitchell that, based on the availability of current funding and subject to Provincial participation, the Municipality is prepared to proceed with Phase 1 of the total project (i.e., "Water Service to Upper Hammonds Plains") consisting of three phases; specifically, Norman Boulevard to the White Hills Run at \$24 per frontage foot subject to petition. This undertaking will reflect funding from the Provincial and Municipal governments lent on a prorated basis, and the understanding that subsequent phases (Phase 2 - Upper Hammonds Plains; and Phase 3 - Pockwock Road to English Corner) are not possible without the construction of the Phase 1 connection to Pockwock Road. THE MOTION WAS PUT AND PASSED.**

**13.        NOTICES OF MOTION**

**13.1      Notice of Motion Councillor Greenough Re:  
Administrative Order 17**

Councillor Greenough gave Notice of Motion that at the next regular meeting of Halifax Regional Council, scheduled for Tuesday, April 27, 1999, he proposes to introduce for adoption, as a policy pursuant to Section 23 of the Municipal Government Act, Administrative Order 17, the purpose of which is to formally adopt by policy the rules respecting remuneration for the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors, and which were approved in principle by Council at a meeting held on April 13, 1999.

**13.2      Notice of Motion Councillor Cooper Re:  
Vision Statement - Halifax Regional Municipality**

Councillor Cooper gave Notice of Motion that at the next regular meeting of Halifax Regional Council, scheduled for Tuesday, April 27, 1999, he proposes to introduce a motion that staff be directed to develop a vision for the Halifax Regional Municipality through community consultation by June 1, 2000; and further, that staff deliver a plan to achieve the same by June 1, 1999.

**13.3      Notice of Motion Councillor Adams Re:  
Supplementary Education Funding**

Councillor Adams gave Notice of Motion that at the next regular meeting of Halifax Regional Council, scheduled for Tuesday, April 27, 1999, he proposes to introduce a motion that the HRM hold back \$142,000 from its commitment to supplementary education funding and apply the monies instead directly to the Holly Drive, C. A. Beckett and Tower Road Schools. The intent of this motion would be to allow these schools to remain open, and to help alleviate costs which would be incurred by HRM to accommodate these closures.

**14.            ADJOURNMENT**

**MOVED by Councillor Blumenthal, seconded by Councillor Schofield that the meeting adjourn at approximately 9:05 p.m. THE MOTION WAS PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Barbara Moar  
ACTING MUNICIPAL CLERK**