

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

September 10, 2010

PRESENT: Mayor Peter Kelly, Chair
Councillor Peter Lund
Councillor Jerry Blumenthal
Councillor Darren Fisher
Councillor Reg Rankin
Mr. Wayne Anstey, A/Chief Administrative Officer

REGRETS: Deputy Mayor Brad Johns

STAFF: Mr. Barry Manuel, EMO Co-ordinator
Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. in the Media Room, City Hall.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED by Councillor Blumenthal, seconded by Councillor Fisher that the minutes of February 25, 2010 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS/ ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

4. REPORTS:

4.1 Training for Councillors during Emergencies

A draft document entitled, *Emergency Management for Elected Officials, Level 110 Workshop* was submitted.

Mr. Manuel reviewed the document advising that the workshop has been designed as a half-day training session to provide information to Councillors on how and where they can assist EMO during emergencies. He noted that upon completion of the workshop, each Councillor will receive their Emergency Management binder.

Mr. Manuel advised that he was intending to carry out the Councillors training on a Community Council basis, rather than individually or as one large group.

Mr. Manuel responded to questions.

MOVED by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Lund that staff proceed with the Emergency Management training for Councillors as outlined in the *Emergency Management for Elected Officials, Level 110 Workshop* and carry out the training over the next several months on a Community Council basis. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4.2 EOC Renovation Update

A memorandum dated September 7, 2010 was submitted.

Mr. Manuel advised that the renovations to the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) were almost complete and the only remaining piece to finish was the audio/visual component. He added that it is estimated to cost approximately \$45,000 however there is only \$30,000 remaining in the budget.

A discussion ensued concerning whether \$20,000 could be found in other budgets. Mr. Anstey, A/Chief Administrative Officer advised that he would follow up on this and was confident that funds could be found in order that the audio visual piece could be completed.

MOVED by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Lund that the EMO Advisory Committee endorse staff investigating existing resources to assist with the completion of the audio/visual component of the EOC renovations. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4.3 Hurricane Earl

Mayor Kelly asked the Councillors for their feedback concerning the recent Hurricane.

Councillor Blumenthal advised that he does not own a Blackberry, and without power, he received only one update during the event.

Mayor Kelly suggested that consideration could be given to using City Watch for information updates.

Councillor Fisher advised that he found the updates he received were good, however , the information regarding power outages was quite varied at times.

Councillor Lund advised that he was pleased with the reports he received and felt that he should be helping to get information to his residents but he did not want to send out any information which may be conflicting, so instead, he referred people to the sources of information like radio station 107.7 and the Nova Scotia Power information line. Councillor Lund added that a lot of the feedback he received from residents gave him the impression they do not know where to tune in to get updated information reports.

Mayor Kelly suggested that, annually, the Councillor's Newsletter is one place that emergency contact information could be printed.

Mr. Anstey noted that a publication like the HRM Online Calendar, will contain a lot of similar information and he would make sure the emergency contact information is contained in the publication.

Councillor Lund added that something like a fridge magnet containing emergency numbers would be also be helpful as it is something that people would keep nearby. He also noted that local papers were a good resource.

Councillor Rankin advised that he had no concerns about the information he received during the hurricane. He added that he supported further publicity of the 107.7 radio station, because the radio becomes the link for most people in emergency events like the hurricane.

Councillor Lund advised that last year at a Regional Council, the communication staff indicated they were going to compile a list of homeowners associations, recreation associations, etc. and he questioned the status of this.

Mayor Kelly updated the Committee on the impact the hurricane had on the Water Commission facilities. He noted that there are three wastewater treatment plants that do not have backup power supplies – Lakeside, Mill Cove, and Eastern Passage—and indicated that this was a priority issue for the Water Commission.

MOVED by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Blumenthal that the EMO Advisory Committee recommend the Halifax Water Commission develop a strategy to deal with future power outages at its treatment plants, particularly those plants without backup power sources. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5. ADDED ITEMS: None.

6. NEXT MEETING DATE:

The next meeting was scheduled for November 2010. The Chair requested that the date be set on a Tuesday, and that the meeting be scheduled around the Council meetings of the day.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Sheilagh Edmonds
Legislative Assistant