

## HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

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### DISTRICT BOUNDARY REVIEW COMMITTEE MINUTES

November 19, 2009

PRESENT: Mayor Peter Kelly, Chair  
Councillor Barry Dalrymple  
Councillor Gloria McCluskey  
Councillor Jerry Blumenthal  
Councillor Linda Mosher  
Councillor Reg Rankin  
Councillor Tim Outhit  
Mr. Wayne Anstey, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Operations

REGRETS:

STAFF: Mr. Paul Morgan, Senior Planner  
Ms. Sara Knight, Solicitor  
Ms. Cathy Mellett, Acting Manager/Clerk, Municipal Clerks Office  
Ms. Linda Grant, Administrative Clerk Assistant, Municipal  
Clerks Office  
Ms. Alva Robinson, BPIM Data Analyst  
Mr. Ken Lenihan, GIS Technician, GISS  
Ms. Krista Tidgwell, Legislative Assistant

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1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 1:07 p.m. in the Media Room, City Hall.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** - October 1, 2009

**MOVED BY Councillor McCluskey, seconded by Councillor Blumenthal, that the minutes of October 1, 2009, as presented, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

There were no changes to the Order of Business.

4. **BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES**

4.1 **Committee Logistics: Meeting Schedule and March 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

The Committee agreed to reschedule the March 18, 2010 meeting to March 25, 2010.

**MOVED BY Councillor Mosher, seconded by Councillor McCluskey, that the meeting schedule, as amended, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

5. **CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - NONE**

6. **CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS**

6.1 **Correspondence**

6.1.1 **HRM and Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board**

- Letters from Elaine Wagner, Chief Clerk of the Board, Nova Scotia and Utility Review Board, dated November 3, 2009 and November 9, 2009 was before the Committee.
- A letter to Elaine Wagner, Chief Clerk of the Board, Nova Scotia and Utility Review Board, dated November 4, 2009 was before the Committee.

The Committee reviewed the correspondence with no further action required.

6.2 **Petitions - None**

6.3 **Presentations - None**

## 7. REPORTS

### 7.1 Councillors Survey

- A Councillors Survey Briefing Form dated November 5, 2009 was before the Committee.
- An HRM Boundary Review Committee Councillor's Survey was before the Committee.

Following a brief discussion it was **MOVED BY Councillor Mosher, seconded by Councillor Dalrymple, that the District Boundary Review Committee direct staff to prepare a separate Councillors' support staff survey.**

The Committee noted the Councillors' support staff survey should include the following questions:

- As a Council Constituency Co-Ordinator, what is your role?
- How do different Councillors utilize your skills and knowledge?
- Do you believe your skills and knowledge are utilized appropriately?

### **MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**MOVED BY Councillor Mosher, seconded by Councillor Dalrymple, that the District Boundary Review Committee approve the Councillors Survey.**

During the ensuing discussion the Committee agreed to the approve the Councillors Survey with the following amendments:

- Comment lines should be added to each question.
- Question 1a of the Councillors Survey should read: *What, in your opinion, is the key role of an HRM Councillor?*
- Add a question to 5b: *On how many Community Committees do you currently sit?*
- Add comment lines to Question 7a, b and c and if checked yes, ask who by and for what purposes.
- Reword 7d to read: *How would you utilize additional HRM Staff Support if it was available?* Remove the yes and no from 7d and add lines for comments.

### **MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

The Committee requested staff update the Councillors Survey and bring it back for approval at December's meeting prior to e-mailing out the revised version.

## 7.2 HRM Survey

- An HRM Citizen Survey - Governance Questions Briefing Form dated November 13, 2009 was before the Committee.

Following a brief discussion, the Committee requested that:

- The Survey should be posed as questions rather than statements; and
- The Survey provide a place for overall comments.

## 7.3 Staff Presentation: Possible Scenarios and Governance Implications

- A copy of the presentation was before the Committee.
- Tables outlining the various district scenarios was circulated to the Committee.

Cathy Mellett, Alva Robinson, BPIM Data Analyst and Ken Lenihan, GIS Technician, GISS delivered the presentation to the Committee.

Councillor McCluskey requested staff provide a list with the population of each district.

Councillor Outhit expressed that the major concern he had with the efficiency of Council's decision making and how to address it through the Boundary Review process.

Councillor Mosher stated her preference that there should be a scenario provided increasing the number of Councillors.

Ms. Mellett advised that the Committee is required to review the governance structure first rather than boundary lines at this current stage. Ms. Mellett confirmed that staff is using the data from the 2006 census and will adjust the numbers once the 2009 and 2012 population data is available from the work being undertaken by HRM and Environics.

Ms. Alva Robinson advised that staff have engaged a consultant, Environics, to work with HRM to ensure the most accurate demographic information possible for 2009 and 2012 population projections. Ms. Mellett noted that the Elections Nova Scotia is very interested in using HRM's data in their boundary review process.

Councillor Outhit suggested an option of having a mix of Members at Large and Councillor Districts.

Mr. Wayne Anstey, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Operations, expressed concerns that Members at Large would not have enough profile to be elected.

Councillor Rankin requested staff develop a set of guiding principles to be discussed by the Committee prior to going to Regional Council. The principles would include living within the current cost envelope of Council and Council Support.

Councillor Mosher requested staff provide the Committee with an information piece which would indicate which municipalities are required to undertake a review of district boundaries. She asked whether the Board reviews all fifty-five (55) municipal units.

In response to concern raised by the Committee, Sara Knight, Solicitor, advised that all municipalities within the Province are mandated to carry out a review process. She advised the information for various municipalities would be provided to the Committee.

Ms. Knight expressed concern with the Committee going to the public with specific District numbers in Phase I of the consultation process. She noted that Phase I of the public consultation process is required to put the focus on governance rather than specific district boundaries.

In regard to the public consultation process, Councillor Blumenthal expressed concern with the number of residents that attended the last District Boundary Review public meeting.

Following a discussion, the Committee agreed to advance three models for possible public consultation. Two proposed Community Council based governance models with 15 districts and 18 districts. And the status quo with 23 districts.

The Committee discussed and agreed not to advance a board of governance model with a significant reduction in the number of Councillors as it does not support a Community Council governance model.

#### **7.4 Additional Data to be Collected (Direction to Staff)**

This matter was dealt with under Item 7.3 - Councillors Survey. See Page 5.

#### **8. ADDED ITEMS**

#### **9. NEXT MEETING DATE - December 3, 2009**

#### **10. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:04 p.m.

Krista Tidgwell  
Legislative Assistant