

ENERGY AND UNDERGROUND SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
May 18, 2007

MINUTES

- PRESENT:** Councillor Andrew Younger, Chair
Councillor Stephen Adams, Vice Chair
Deputy Mayor Sue Uteck
Councillor Jim Smith
Councillor Becky Kent
Councillor Sheila Fougere
Councillor Linda Mosher
- REGRETS:** Councillor Debbie Hum
Councillor Steve Streach
- STAFF:** Mr. Michael Kroger, Acting Project Manager,
Harbour Solutions Project
Mr. Steve King, Manager, Sustainable Environmental Management
Office
Ms. Mary Ellen Donovan, Municipal Solicitor
Mr. Julian Boyle, Energy Auditor, Transportation and Public Works
Mr. Phil Francis, Manager, Right of Way Services
Mr. Martin Ward, Senior Solicitor, Legal Services
Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. in Halifax Hall, City Hall.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Uteck, seconded by Councillor Adams that the minutes of February 16, 2007 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Addition:

6.1 Village Road Pumping Station - Councillor Adams

At the request of Councillor Adams, the Committee agreed to permit Dr. John Smith of the Herring Cove Liaison Committee to speak on this issue.

The Committee also agreed to move this item up on the agenda to be dealt with as the first order of business.

MOVED by Councillor Adams, seconded by Councillor Kent that the agenda, as amended, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

6. ADDED ITEMS:

6.1 Village Road Pumping Station

This item was added to the agenda at the request of Councillor Adams.

An information report dated May 18, 2007 was submitted.

Councillor Adams advised that he requested the addition of this item to the agenda because the Herring Cove Community Liaison Committee is concerned about the design of the pumping station and how it will fit into the community. He introduced Dr. John Smith, a member of the Community Liaison Committee (CLC).

Dr. Smith addressed the Committee and advised that the area in question is an upscale area made up of mostly oceanfront properties, and the introduction of a sewage treatment plant has serious economic consequences. Dr. Smith added that when the project was initiated, Harbour Solutions promised Herring Cove that the sewage treatment plant and pumping station would be in keeping with the aesthetics of the neighbourhood.

At 10:10 a.m. Councillor Fougere entered the meeting.

Dr. Smith noted that the proposed pumping station is massive and it will not be in keeping with the area and other than redesign of the building, the only way he believed it could be addressed would be either to bury the station into the bedrock, or camouflage it by landscaping. He emphasized that the community was promised that it would be in keeping with the area, and the residents are extremely upset and feel this is a Harbour Solutions issue to resolve.

At 10:13 a.m. Councillor Linda Mosher entered the meeting.

Mr. Mike Kroger, Acting Project Manager, Harbour Solutions Project, and Mr. Marcel Deveaux, representing the contractor responded to the issue.

Mr. Deveaux advised that the CLC would like the pumping station design to represent something in relation to the fishing tradition of Herring Cove. He reviewed the history of the contracts for the Harbour Solutions Project, pointing out that there was no contract requirement for Dexter to obtain input or acceptance from any Community Liaison Committee in regard to the design of the pumping stations.

Mr. Deveaux explained that the CLC has put forward recommendations concerning the design of the pumping station, a number of which staff indicated could be incorporated. However, Dexter has indicated that the request for a peaked roof involves design and construction issues and estimates that it would be an additional \$250,000. He added that the contract does not include this and Dexter would be entitled to extra payment if the change was made. Mr. Deveaux advised that the Herring Cove CLC is firm in its position and Dexter has already begun excavation, so the Harbour Solutions team was here today to seek advice. Mr. Deveaux pointed out that staff is concerned that the contingency account for Harbour Solutions is very low and there is not enough money to handle the projected cost of a peaked roof.

Deputy Mayor Uteck pointed out that in her district, she has had three pumping stations constructed and with no compensation. She added that, in her view, if the community wanted a peaked roof then this was something that the community should pay for, and that she could not justify this coming from the Harbour Solutions Contingency Fund.

Mr. Kroger and Mr. Deveaux responded to questions.

Dr. Smith addressed the Committee once again to clarify the position of the Community Liaison Committee. He indicated that the issue was not as much about a peaked roof, as it was about mitigating the impact of the building on the community. Dr. Smith added that, upon seeing the blueprint of the building—which illustrates a massive building—a peaked roof will only make it look that much larger. He suggested that the solution may lie rather in robust landscaping to camouflage the building. Dr. Smith circulated copies of photographs (submission dated May 18, 2007) of the properties located along Village Road and of various pumping stations in Halifax and Dartmouth.

Councillor Smith made reference to the photos of the three pumping stations in Dartmouth and suggested that work needed to be done to these buildings as well to have them fit in with the surrounding community.

Councillor Kent indicated that she did not support the idea of putting more money into this and that landscaping would be the more appropriate way to address the issue.

Councillor Mosher also indicated that she preferred the issue be addressed through aggressive landscaping.

Councillor Fougere noted that the purpose of the community integration funds was to assist the community in helping to integrate the pumping station in the area, and she questioned why the CLC would not use these funds.

In response, Councillor Adams advised that the CLC's understanding was that the pumping station would be integrated without the use of the integration money.

Councillor Adams referred to Dr. Smith's comments to clarify his position, and indicated that since that the roof was a non-issue at this point, perhaps the way to move forward was to ask the landscape architect (Dexter) and the affected Councillors to meet and discuss appropriate landscaping to help with the Herring Cove plant and the Dartmouth plants as well.

Deputy Mayor Uteck advised that she would support a motion in this regard as long as it was understood it did not involve any additional funding.

MOVED by Councillor Adams, seconded by Deputy Mayor Uteck that Dexter proceed with the building as noted on the last pages of the May 18, 2007 submission; and that Dexter, the affected Councillors, and staff meet to discuss landscaping options for this and the other treatment plants, at no net change to the Harbour Solutions project. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES/DEFERRED ITEMS:** None

5. **NEW BUSINESS:**

5.1 **Natural Gas to the Halifax Peninsula**

An Information Report dated May 9, 2007 was submitted.

Mr. Phil Francis, Manager, Right of Way Services, presented a brief overview of the information report, which provided details on the plans by Heritage Gas to expand its operation to the Halifax Peninsula in 2007.

MOVED by Councillor Uteck, seconded by Councillor Kent that on behalf of the Energy and Underground Services Committee, the Chair forward a letter expressing disappointment with the recent announcement concerning the creation of a Green Trust and the short-sightedness of this in regard to the District Energy Plan. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Ms. Donovan referred to the Halifax Development Year 2007 Proposed Build-out Plan

attached to the report and noted that staff are still discussing whether the pipe will come down Spring Garden Road and if there will be an associated under-grounding project.

In response to a question by Deputy Mayor Uteck, Ms. Donovan advised that there is money from last year's budget of approximately \$750,000 that will be transferred over to the current budget for the purpose of under-grounding according to the criteria approved by Regional Council. In measuring the project against the criteria, it would be at the top of the list.

On a motion MOVED by Deputy Mayor Uteck, seconded by Councillor Fougere, the meeting moved In Camera to deal with item 5.2 Heritage Gas - Future Plans and 5.3 NSPI Hearing - Fuel Adjustment Mechanism. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5.4 Community Energy Plan - Short Listing Criteria

A staff report dated May 8, 2007 was submitted.

Mr. Stephen King, Manager, HRM's Sustainable Environment Management Office, along with Mr. David Lea and Mr. Wayne Lewis of CBCL presented the report which detailed the general evaluation criteria to be used to short list more than 150 long list actions for the HRM Community Energy Plan, and responded to questions.

The Chair noted that a workshop on the Community Energy Plan will be held on June 11 and the Committee can send three people. He indicated that he would follow-up with an e-mail to Committee members.

MOVED by Councillor Fougere, seconded by Councillor Kent that the Energy and Underground Services Advisory Committee support in principle the concept and general evaluation criteria, as described in the May 8, 2007 staff report, that is to be used to short list more than 150 long list actions for the HRM Community Energy Plan. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

6. ADDED ITEMS

6.1 Village Road Pumping Station

This matter was dealt with earlier in the meeting.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Sheilagh Edmonds
Legislative Assistant

INFORMATION ITEMS

The following item was submitted for information:

- Active Transportation Summary & Guidelines (*follow-up from Feb. 16/07 meeting*)