

ENERGY AND UNDERGROUND SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

January 22, 2010

MINUTES

- PRESENT: Councillor Sue Uteck, Chair
Councillor Jennifer Watts
Councillor Barry Dalrymple
Councillor Darren Fisher
Councillor Jackie Barkhouse
- ABSENT: Councillor Debbie Hum, Vice Chair (regrets)
Councillor Stephen Adams
- STAFF: Mr. Angus Doyle, Manager of Utilities Coordination
Mr. Richard MacLellan, Acting Manager, Sustainable
Environmental Office
Ms. Mary Ellen Donovan, Municipal Solicitor
Mr. Phil Francis, Engineering Manager, Right-of Way Services
Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. in Halifax Hall, City Hall.

The Chair advised that Ms. Mary Ellen Donovan, Municipal Solicitor, was on her way to the meeting and requested that the Committee not deal with the approval of the order of business until she was able to be present, as she wanted to speak to an agenda item which was being proposed to be deferred.

The Chair advised that the Committee would begin with item 5.1.2.

5. REPORTS:

5.1 Staff:

5.1.2 LED Street Lights Pilot Project

Mr. Angus Doyle provided a presentation on the LED Street Lights Pilot Project.

In his remarks Mr. Doyle noted that the street light pilot project resulted in energy savings of 189 MWH/year and an annual reduction of greenhouse gas emissions of 145 tonnes. He explained the difference between the LED lights and the HPS (high pressure sodium), advising that the LED light produces more white light, over a wider area, and without the glare that is usual with the HPS lights. Mr. Doyle also pointed out that the LED lights used in this project were made in Nova Scotia and have resulted in a 55 percent energy reduction. The LED lights also reduce the amount of light pollution, over the traditional HPS lights.

5.1.3 LED Street Lights Project

Mr. Doyle advised that, given the positive results of the pilot project, staff are prepared to ask Regional Council to approve 2200 LED fixtures to replace HPS lights. He added that the cost would be approximately \$1.9 million and staff are pursuing it with a report to Council next week. He pointed out there was some urgency in getting Council approval as there is an opportunity to apply for funding through eco Nova Scotia but the deadline is for the end of January.

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Barkhouse that the Energy and Underground Services Advisory Committee endorse staff's recommendation to purchase 2200 LED fixtures.

Mr. Doyle responded to questions. He clarified the following points:

- there are no issues concerning snow and ice with the LED lights.
- HRM owns 13,000 light fixtures; and there are 40,000 light fixtures within HRM
- NSP is participating in the pilot project
- staff are anticipating 50 percent funding from ecoNova Scotia

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Mr. Doyle responded to further questions. He noted the following points:

- the expectation is that there is virtually no maintenance for 20 years with LED lights
- the supplier of the lights is local and given that the technology is new and that the actual lifespan is not known, staff requested a warranty period that would cover off the payback time. The supplier has agreed to a six year warranty, and this is satisfactory to staff
- with regard to the efficiency of the LED lights, the LED provides up to 80 lumens per watts vs. 45-50 lumens per watt with the HPS lights.

The Committee then returned to deal with the items at the beginning of the agenda.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Dalrymple that the minutes of November 20, 2009 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. APPROVAL OF ORDER OF BUSINESS / ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

Addition:

6.1 Green Thermal Energy (GTU) Opportunities

Request for Deferral:

5.1.1 Energy Efficiency Revision to ByLaw A-200, Respecting Automatic Machines

The Chair noted that some Committee members were contacted by a representative of Refreshments Canada with a request that this item be deferred, and that they be given the opportunity to provide a presentation to the Committee before the Committee makes a decision.

Mr. Richard MacLellan noted that staff met with representatives from Coke and Pepsi in December, however, within the last week a new representative from Coke contacted him with a concern. He explained that there seems to be some confusion as the representative felt that staff were recommending only the Vending Miser product. In addition there were some concerns expressed about the timeline for implementation.

Ms. Mary Ellen Donovan, Municipal Solicitor, advised that the proposal is not to promote one product, as that would be inappropriate, but the intent of the bylaw revision is to set a standard. If there are variations on the product put forward and they hit at least 90 percent of the characteristics of the Vending Miser product, that would be fine. She added that in conversation with representatives from Coke and Pepsi, their product seemed satisfactory so this concern should not be an issue for either company.

Ms. Donovan suggested that perhaps their reasoning for delay of this matter is to delay the cost implications of delivering either their own or another product. She added that if this was the case, the Municipality needs to consider whether it is going to be the leader or is it going to match industry's timetable.

The Chair advised that she would like to hear the presentation, and see what the timetable is, before the Committee makes a decision.

Councillor Dalrymple advised that he would support a deferral but on the condition it would only be for one month.

Councillor Watts advised that there was no need to delay this matter. She added that she did not see how there could be confusion, as it was very clear that the intent was in regard to performance standards, and not about a particular product.

The Chair advised that she supported deferring the matter and providing the representative the opportunity to speak to the Committee, as there appears to be some confusion; however, it would be made clear that there would be no further delays after that.

MOVED by Councillor Fisher, seconded by Councillor Dalrymple that this matter be deferred for one month. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

5. REPORTS:

5.1 Staff:

5.1.1 Energy Efficiency Revision to ByLaw A-200, Respecting Automatic Machines

This item was dealt with earlier. It was deferred for one month.

5.1.2 LED Street Lights Pilot Project

This item was dealt with earlier in the meeting. See page 3.

5.1.3 LED Street Lights Project

This item was dealt with earlier in the meeting. See page 3.

5.1.4 Update (verbal) - Undergrounding Hollis/Morris

This item was dealt with later in the meeting. See page 7.

5.2 Committee Members: None.

At this time, the Committee dealt with the added item:

6. ADDED ITEMS

6.1 Green Thermal Energy (GTU) Opportunities

- A staff report dated January 7, 2010 was submitted.

Ms. Mary Ellen Donovan, Municipal Solicitor provided a presentation in regard to a new district energy opportunity in Bedford and Dartmouth. In her remarks she advised that Provident Development Inc. is going to construct a 180,000 sq. ft residential and commercial property in Bedford, and has expressed a strong interest in purchasing thermal energy from the adjacent sewage treatment plant in Mill Cove. She noted that they have executed a Memorandum of Understanding, a copy of which was attached to the staff report. Ms. Donovan advised that the Dartmouth opportunity was a district energy contract that had been 'parked' with the owner of Queen Square until the Alderney 5 project was completed.

Ms. Donovan advised that the preliminary estimated cost associated with the Bedford project was \$3 million which involved retrofitting the Mill Cove facility to recover waste heat. The Dartmouth project was estimated at \$1.5 million. She reviewed the financing aspects of these projects and noted that staff would be returning to Council with more details on the financial package when the Dillon Report has been concluded, in early spring. The Dillon Report will identify technical options and related cost to confirm both technical and financial feasibility.

Ms. Donovan responded to questions.

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Fisher that the Energy and Underground Services Advisory Committee

- 1. Approve in principle the concept of a Green Thermal Utility (GTU) subject to financial feasibility and funding.**
- 2. Endorse a preliminary governance structure of a HRM/HW owned and operated GTU, subject to subsequent detailed risk analysis (technical, financial, regulatory).**
- 3. Endorse continued governance development as between HRM and HW.**
- 4. Approve the execution of an MOU with Provident Development Inc.**
- 5. Approve the filing of an application to the UARB to confirm jurisdiction.**
- 6. Approve the submission of an Eco Trust application in support of the project.**

Ms. Donovan and Mr. Carl Yates, General Manager, Halifax Water, responded to further questions.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5.1.4 Update (verbal) - Undergrounding Hollis/Morris

Mr. Phil Francis, Right-of-Way Engineering Manager provided an update with regard to the undergrounding of wires in the development proposed for the Hollis/Morris Streets area.

Mr. Francis advised that the construction of the development has begun and under the current plan the only wiring being removed is that which will impact the construction, i.e. wiring along Hollis Street and, unfortunately, most of the unsightly wiring will remain. Mr. Francis added that staff have discussed options with Nova Scotia Power of removing the wiring in a phased basis, and would involve HRM, Nova Scotia Power, and the development in cost sharing. He advised that staff had requested in the 2010/11 budget approximately \$750,000, however, due to an internal budget cut of 30 percent, the funding for this request has been removed. Mr. Francis added, therefore, nothing further can be done at this location with regard to undergrounding.

A brief discussion ensued with staff responding to questions.

6. ADDED ITEMS

Added Items were dealt with earlier. See page 6.

7. NEXT MEETING DATE

- Memo from Legislative Assistant - Proposed Meeting Dates for 2010

The Chair noted that the next scheduled meeting was February 19, 2010. She asked anyone who was not able to attend this meeting to notify the Legislative Assistant as soon as possible, as staff will be setting up a presentation for the representative of Refreshment Canada for this meeting.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Sheilagh Edmonds
Legislative Assistant