

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

ENERGY AND UNDERGROUND SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

November 20, 2009

MINUTES

PRESENT: Councillor Sue Uteck, Chair
Councillor Debbie Hum, Vice Chair
Councillor Jennifer Watts
Councillor Barry Dalrymple
Councillor Jackie Barkhouse

ABSENT: Councillor Darren Fisher (regrets)
Councillor Stephen Adams

STAFF: Mr. Angus Doyle, Manager of Utilities Coordination
Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant

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1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. in Halifax Hall, City Hall.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOVED by Councillor Hum, seconded by Councillor Watts that the minutes of October 23, 2009 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Addition:

6.1 Biomass Education Opportunity - Councillor Watts

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

5. **REPORTS:**

5.1 **Staff:**

5.1.1 **Energy Efficiency Revision to By-law A 200 Respecting Vending Machines**

- A revised staff report dated November 5, 2009 was submitted
- A memorandum dated November 18, 2009 was submitted from Richard MacLellan, Acting Manager, Sustainable Environment Office

Mr. Richard MacLellan, Acting Manager, Sustainable Environment Management Office provided an overview of the staff report which recommended a revision to By-law A200 requiring the incorporation of energy efficient technology, equivalent to the performance characteristics fo the Vending Miser product, in Vending Machines licensed in Halifax Regional Municipality. In his remarks, Mr. MacLellan advised that approximately 5000 tonnes of greenhouse gas would be reduced per year with the incorporation of the VendingMiser device on vending machines in HRM.

Mr. MacLellan noted that the current license fee of \$55 would increase to \$200 - \$250 but that this would be a one time increase and include the product for installation. If a machine already had the technology incorporated then the licensing requirement would remain at \$55. He referred to his submitted memo regarding clarification on a minor matter in the Budget Implications section of the report and explained that the cost for the enforcement of the revised bylaw is expected to be approximately \$7,500 and would be recaptured through the increased license fee by \$3.75 per fee.

Mr. MacLellan responded to questions.

Councillor Hum emphasized that it was important for staff to dialogue with stakeholders

prior to implementation as the cost implications could be quite significant for some.

The Chair concurred with Councillor Hum and suggested that staff carry out community consultation in December and report back to the Committee, and then look at going to Regional Council in January.

Mr. MacLellan advised that staff would be able to do this.

MOVED by Councillor Hum, seconded by Councillor Barkhouse that the Energy and Underground Services Advisory Committee request that staff carry out community stakeholder consultation on the proposed revisions to ByLaw A-200 Respecting Automatic Machines during the month of December and report back to the Committee. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5.1.2 Undergrounding of Overhead Utilities - Hollis/Morris Streets Development (verbal)

Mr. Phil Francis, Right-of-Way Engineering Manager provided a verbal update regarding the undergrounding of overhead utilities at the Hollis/Morris Streets development. He noted that since his presentation to the Committee in September this development has been approved by Council. He pointed out that it is in the middle of the Capital District, and in the old pole-free area where a lot of underground has been done. Mr. Francis advised that the Development Agreement states the poles and wiring abutting the property on Hollis Street will be removed, but not on Morris Street.

Mr. Francis noted that Nova Scotia Power owns property within the area, and staff have contacted them and they are preparing some alternatives in regard to what would be required in order to remove some of the poles and wires. He added that, at the very least, staff would like to see the removal of poles and wires from the south side of Morris.

In response to a question, Mr. Francis noted that funding from both Nova Scotia Power and HRM is required to move forward with undergrounding of wires. He explained that years ago the Municipality had a 50/50 cost sharing arrangement with Nova Scotia Power in the old pole area; with the Municipality providing for the infrastructure and Nova Scotia Power removing the overhead wires.

In response to a question by Councillor Uteck with regard to funding, Ms. Mary Ellen Donovan, Municipal Solicitor, advised that for a few years there was approximately \$500,000 in the budget assigned to Undergrounding, but the money was not used; and it was rolled into the Streetscaping funding.

Further, Mr. Francis advised that in the near future staff will bring a report to the Committee recommending that a reserve account for Undergrounding be resumed. He added that at the next meeting staff will come back with a report on this particular project outlining what is required to carry out the undergrounding on Morris Street.

Councillor Uteck suggested that it would be prudent to have a separate reserve account, outside of the Streetscaping, for projects such as this.

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Hum that a report be requested from staff on whether there is an opportunity on a go forward basis to resume the undergrounding reserve account in order that HRM can take advantage of opportunities for undergrounding projects such as the Hollis/Morris Street.

Following a brief discussion, with staff responding to questions, the **MOTION WAS PUT AND PASSED.**

5.2 Committee Members: None.

6. ADDED ITEMS:

6.1 Biomass Educational Opportunity - Councillor Watts

Councillor Watts advised that an educational session on Biomass has been tentatively scheduled for December 16, 2009, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Agriculture College.

She explained that it is an opportunity for staff and Councillors to get an update on biomass, and part of the session will include a tour of the College's physical plant.

The Chair suggested to Councillor Watts that she send an e-mail to the Councillors and internal staff.

7. NEXT MEETING DATE - December 11, 2009

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:57 p.m.

Sheilagh Edmonds
Legislative Assistant