

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

ENERGY AND UNDERGROUND SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

October 26, 2007

MINUTES

PRESENT: Councillor Andrew Younger, Chair
Councillor Sheila Fougere
Councillor Jim Smith
Councillor Debbie Hum
Deputy Mayor Sue Uteck

REGRETS: Councillor Stephen Adams, Vice Chair
Councillor Steve Streach
Councillor Linda Mosher

STAFF: Mr. Phil Frances, Right-of-Way Engineering Manager, Traffic &
Right-of-Way
Mr. Stephen King, Manager, Environmental Performance (Air &
Land)
Ms. Mary Ellen Donovan, Municipal Solicitor
Ms. Cathie O'Toole, Director, Infrastructure and Asset
Management
Ms. Jennifer Weagle, Legislative Assistant

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1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:12 a.m. in Halifax Hall, City Hall **without quorum**.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

This item was dealt with later in the meeting when quorum was achieved. See page 6.

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

This item was dealt with later in the meeting when quorum was achieved. See page 6.

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

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

5.1 **Nova Scotia Power Pole Permit Application - Distribution Line on Hammonds Plains Road - Presentation**

- An Information Brief of the presentation was before the Committee.

Mr. Phil Frances, Right-of-Way Engineering Manager, Traffic & Right-of-Way, addressed the Committee, noting the following:

- Nova Scotia Power Inc. are requesting to install a new power line along the south side of Hammonds Plains Road to service increased development in the area;
- Staff have some reservations with installing a new line on the opposite side of the road as the existing lines, and would prefer if the new line were installed on existing poles;
- NSPI have indicated that it would only be feasible for them to install the line on the south side;
- Staff are seeking advice on the placement of the new line from the Committee.

Mr. Frances reviewed with the Committee a photo of the existing north side of Hammonds Plains Road.

Mr. Tim Leopold, and Mr. Perry Mason, Nova Scotia Power Inc. presented to the Committee, reviewing the following:

- The proposal is for 2.2 km of distribution line from the corner of Kearney Lake Road to Lucasville Road;
- The area is currently electrically supplied by two substations, which are becoming overloaded because of high growth in the area over the past few years;
- A new supply substation is being established in Hammonds Plains near Kingswood Drive;

- There are currently poles on both sides of the road; however these are not the correct poles required.

Mr. Mason reviewed the options with the Committee, as follows:

- Option 1 - Construct New - Cost of \$197,000 - Minimal construction required around energized conductors;
- Option 2 - Modify Existing - Cost of \$493,000 - All work completed under live line conditions;
- Option 3 - Underground - Cost of \$1,650,000 - Based on previous underground unit rates
- NSPI wish to proceed with Option 1, pending HRM permit approval.

Mr. Mason reviewed a map of the area with the Committee.

Mr. Mason and Mr. Leopold responded to questions from the Committee, clarifying the following:

- The proposal would be built to accommodate a second circuit and telecommunication space;
- There will be approximately 45 poles, of a 45-50 foot height, depending on topography;
- NSPI have consulted with affected residents, and have not received any concerns;
- Underground lines typically costs five to ten times the cost of above ground lines, due to rock excavation, concrete ducts, topography, etc.;
- NSPI wish to have the proposal completed this year before winter;
- NSPI staff do not consider a three circuit structure safe and have concerns with "Hendrix cables" as they are not truly insulated or grounded, and are just a coated cable;
- NSPI staff cannot work around existing lines without disrupting service to residents;
- When conductors are bundled, poles typically need to be placed closer together because of weight.

Ms. Mary Ellen Donovan, Municipal Solicitor, noted that from a municipal perspective, there are potential problems with the visual impacts of wires criss-crossing the road. She suggested that NSPI explore the installation of a Hendrix system as a fourth option.

Ms. Cathi O'Toole advised that she and Ms. Donovan will be meeting with senior executives of NSPI next week to discuss opportunities for coordination between HRM and NSPI, to minimize future disruptions to residents.

Ms. Donovan and Ms. O'Toole left the meeting at 9:45 a.m.

Committee members discussed the proposal and options, noting the following:

- The importance of coordinating efforts between HRM and NSPI, with regard to future bike lanes and sidewalks;
- The need to consider life cycle costs;

- Concern that a potential future widening of Hammonds Plains Road would require the poles to be moved again in the near future.

Councillor Gary Meade joined the meeting at 10:00 a.m., and the Committee briefly reviewed the proposal with him, as area Councillor. Councillor Meade noted concern with possible outages in the area and the timely reconnection of power to residents.

Deputy Mayor Uteck arrived at 10:03 a.m., at which time **quorum was achieved**.

MOVED by Councillor Fougere, seconded by Councillor Smith, that the Energy and Underground Services Advisory Committee request Nova Scotia Power to proceed with Option 2 - Modify Existing Structure, with regard to the Hammonds Plains Road distribution line. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Councillor Meade left the meeting at this time.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED by Councillor Fougere, seconded by Councillor Smith, that the minutes of September 28, 2007 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

MOVED by Councillor Fougere, seconded by Councillor Smith, to approve the Order of Business. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Councillor Hum left at 10:10 a.m., at which time **quorum was lost**.

The Committee moved to In Camera at 10:12 a.m.

The Committee resumed the regular agenda at 10:24 a.m.

5.2 Community Energy Plan - Presentation

- A copy of the CEP Report Briefing and Presentation was before the Committee.
- A copy of Appendix A - Shortlist of Actions was before the Committee.

Mr. Steve King, Manager, Environmental Performance, HRM Sustainable Environment Management Office, addressed the Committee regarding the Community Energy Plan (CEP), noting that this is a functional plan of the Regional Plan, and it is supported by the Regional Plan Advisory Committee and senior management staff. He noted that the CEP will be presented to Council in December 2007.

Mr. David Lea, Consultant, CBCL, provided a presentation on the Community Energy Plan, a copy of which is on file. Mr. Lea reviewed the following with the Committee:

- Setting the Context - the problem;

- HRM Mean Temperature in Halifax - Historical and Projected Levels to 2100;
- HRM's Response;
- CEP's main goals;
- CEP's Deliverables;
- CEP's Expected Outcomes;
- HRM Corporate Energy Summary;
- HRM Corporate Emissions Summary;
- Corporate Energy Cost Summary;
- True Cost of Energy;
- Estimated 2007 Annual Pollution Cost to HRM Community;
- CEP Implementation Actions;
- Community Energy Plan Evaluation Criteria;
- Shortlist of Actions - Examples.

Mr. King and Mr. Lea responded to questions from members of the Committee.

The Committee thanked Mr. King and Mr. Lea for the presentation.

Ms. Donovan and Ms. O'Toole returned to the meeting at this time.

6. ADDED ITEMS - None

7. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled for November 16, 2007 in Halifax Hall, 2nd Floor, City Hall.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The Committee moved to the In Camera agenda at 11:01 a.m., at which time the regular meeting adjourned.

Jennifer Weagle
Legislative Assistant