

**SOLID WASTE RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

January 25, 2007

PRESENT:

**Councillor Bill Karsten, Chair
Councillor David Hendsbee
Councillor Mary Wile
Councillor Reg Rankin
Councillor Debbie Hum
Councillor Gary Martin
Councillor Krista Snow**

REGRETS:

Councillor Steve Stretch

STAFF:

**Mr. Jim Bauld, Manager, Solid Waste Resources
Ms. Laurie Lewis, Diversion Planning Coordinator,
Solid Waste Resources
Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant
Ms. Chrissy White, Legislative Assistant**

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m in Halifax Hall, City Hall.

2. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS, ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

Additions:

- 9.1 Garbage at Canada Post Mailbox Sites- Councillor Snow
- 9.2 Complaints: District 2 Garbage and Recyclables Pick-Up- Councillor Snow
- 9.3 Disposal of Hard Oil Containers for Service Stations and Car Dealerships- Councillor Snow
- 9.4 Waste/Resource System Mass Balance- Councillor Rankin
- 9.5 New Disposal Rate Target Proposal- Jim Bauld
- 9.6 Terms of Reference: Free Flow of Waste Between Municipal Units- Jim Bauld

MOVED by Councillor Snow, seconded by Councillor Martin that the Order of Business be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - December 4, 2006

MOVED by Councillor Snow, seconded by Councillor Martin, that the minutes of December 4, 2006 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OR DEFERRED BUSINESS- NONE

4.1 Information Report - December 4, 2006 SWRAC Requested Update -Various

- A report dated January 16, 2007 was submitted.

Mr. Jim Bauld, Manager, Solid Waste Resources presented the report, and responded to questions:

In response to Councillor Hendsbee's concern with the recycling of aerosol cans, Mr. Bauld advised that item 6 on page 6 of the staff report indicates that there is a study that will be conducted in 2007 in Cumberland County on this issue. The study will consist of a Pilot Program, and HRM will monitor the results. The Resource Recovery Fund will fund this project at a 50% cost share ratio.

Councillor Hendsbee suggested that staff should meet with SC Johnson representatives the next time they are in town. Mr. Bauld advised that he would be pleased to do so.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Don Mason, Executive Director of The Community Monitoring Committee made a brief presentation on the above noted topic. Some important points were as follows:

- At the January 24th, 2006 Board Meeting of the Community Monitoring Committee, the Board decided to write a letter to the Minister on the above noted report. The letter will be sent on January 26th after input is received by the Solid Waste Advisory Board.

At this time, the Committee agreed to move item 9.6 up on the agenda from Added Items.

9.6 Terms of Reference-Assessment of the Free Flow of Waste Between Municipal Units

Mr. Jim Bauld presented the "Assessment of the Impact of the Free Flow of Waste Between Municipal Units Terms of Reference" report, dated December 18, 2006. Some highlights were as follows:

- The Province has engaged a consultant to gather information to verify and quantify the financial and environmental implications (pros and cons) of allowing commercial waste to flow freely across Nova Scotias borders. In 1996, the Province created seven waste management regions and each region was to be economically viable and self sustainable and managed by the Council of that area. The Province has made it clear that it is the job of municipalities to police the movement of waste.
- HRM developed a By-Law in 2002 that prohibits the trucking of waste outside HRM's boundaries_for disposal. The By-Law was struck down in September 2006 and the appeal is set for February 13, 2007. The appeal will determine if there is authority within the MGA for HRM to have adopted that By-law.
- The Province is not a participant in the court proceedings.

Following upon questions from Committee Members, Mr. Bauld advised:

- The tipping fees within Halifax Regional Municipality are not the highest and not the lowest. The Provincial study will gather information on a range of tipping fee rates.
- Councillor Hendsbee suggested a regionalized rate so that all municipalities have

- to operate under the same guidelines.
- Councillor Rankin expressed concern with the intent of the Provincial study and the Terms of Reference document. He suggested that HRM needs clarification from the Minister on the legislation as well as their position and intent.

MOVED by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Martin that the Solid Waste Advisory Committee recommend that staff draft a letter to the Minister for the signature of the Chair and the Mayor stating:

- 1. the Committee's concerns with The Terms of Reference document on the Assessment of the Impact of the Free flow of Waste Between Municipal units;**
- 2. the intent and commitment of the Province if HRM's appeal is denied.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Further discussion on this matter was held, with the following concerns noted:

- Councillor Karsten questioned the Ministers level of commitment if HRM's appeal is denied.
- Councillor Martin expressed concern around the amount of money this issue is costing Tax Payers, and feels that the Province should take control.
- Councillor Rankin expressed concern about exposing the cons of this study.
- Councillor Hendsbee advised that garbage has now become a commodity and suggested regulating garbage as a utility. He believes if the free flow of garbage is permitted, then the foundation of the strategies in place will crumble.

6. REPORTS

7. REQUESTS / CORRESPONDENCE

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 SWR Round Table - Diversion Opportunities - Presentation at Committee of the Whole on February 13, 2007 (verbal)

Mr. Jim Bauld gave a verbal report on the above noted item, highlighting the following:

- The date for Committee of the Whole has been booked for February 13, 2007.
- The presentation will include a history of the solid waste strategy linked with the eight opportunities identified at the Solid Waste Resource Round Table.

9. ADDED ITEMS

9.1 Garbage at Canada Post Mailbox Sites

Councillor Snow expressed concern about the amount of garbage that is accumulating at Canada Post mailbox sites, and requested an update on when the garbage receptacles will be removed.

Ms. Laurie Lewis, Diversion Planning Coordinator, Solid Waste Resources provided a verbal update on the above noted topic. She advised that:

She approached Canada Post (CP) in September with a request to work together to remedy the problem with the accumulation of garbage at CP mailbox sites. Ms. Lewis helped Canada Post edit a public information piece that was supposed to be sent out to customers. At this point Canada Post is in the process of finding a contractor to remove the receptacles.

Councillor Snow expressed concern with the amount of time it is taking Canada Post to remove the receptacles. She is concerned that the garbage is in HRM right-of- ways and is a hazard to residents as well as an eye sore.

In response to Councillor Hendsbee's question about jurisdiction over the garbage receptacles, Councillor Martin advised that after meeting with the Mayor, CAO and Canada Post on a separate issue concerning graffiti, it was determined that the Federal Government has jurisdiction over the receptacles. He added that after there was media attention, Canada Post decided to partner with HRM on the graffiti issue, and suggested involving the media again.

Councillor Snow advised that HRM has the authority to stop garbage receptacles and suggested using that approach.

Mr. Bauld offered to draft a letter in the signature of the Chair requesting a specific time line on each phase of the plan to remove Canada Post garbage receptacles.

Councillor Snow asked staff to research any policies the Federal Government may have on jurisdiction over Canada Post garbage cans in HRM right-of- ways.

Mr. Bauld said that he would follow up with Legal Services and get back to the Committee.

9.2 Complaints: District 2 Garbage and Recyclables Pick-Up

Councillor Snow informed the Committee that she has received a large amount of complaints from Residents in District 2 about garbage and recyclables not being collected. Councillor Snow has forwarded the complaints to Mr. Robert Orr, Collection & Processing

Coordinator, Solid Waste Resources but she is still receiving complaints. Mr. Bauld advised that he would follow up with Mr. Orr on this issue.

Councillor Hendsbee suggested HRM become responsible for removing debris from HRM right-of-ways.

9.3 Disposal of Hard Oil Containers at Service Stations and Car Dealerships

Councillor Snow informed the committee that car dealerships and service stations are being told they can not recycle oil containers until they are properly cleaned. Most businesses are uneducated on how to properly go about doing this and do not have the proper tools to clean oil containers at their business.

Councillor Snow expressed concern about the amount of #2 plastic that is going into landfills and suggested HRM take control of this situation. Mr. Bauld advised that #2 oil containers can not be included in the blue bag because they will contaminate other items in the bag with oil residue. Some Provinces have programs in place where facilities are provided to properly clean oil containers, and Mr. Bauld informed the committee that the Minister of Environment has stated that this is being explored as part of a long term plan for Nova Scotia.

Responding to Councillor Snow's concerns, Mr. Bauld advised:

- There is an initiative in place by the Province to study the issue of environmental implications of plastics. The results are set to be released in April 2009.
- There are possible cost implications involved with HRM taking over the disposal of plastics unless the government imposes non-voluntary stewardship regulations that mandate that costs are owned by the producer or distributor of the plastic, and not the municipality.

Councillor Hendsbee noted that he feels HRM has a responsibility to make it easier for citizens to dispose of oil products.

9.4 WASTE/RESOURCE MASS BALANCE REPORTS

The following three reports were submitted to the Committee:

- Waste/Resource System Mass Balance- December
- Waste/Resource System Mass Balance- YTD 01 April 2006- 31 December 2006
- Waste/Resource System Mass Balance- 01 January 2006- 31 December 2006

The following points were noted:

- Councillor Rankin expressed concern with the degree of tonnage reductions in the commercial sector in comparison with the residential sector.
- Councillor Rankin raised questions on leakage and requested reports from the carriers of waste management.
- Councillor Rankin believes that a 5% reduction is not a good trend in comparison with other areas.

In response to Councillor Rankin's concerns, Mr. Bauld advised:

- Through HRM's Waste Diversion Officer, Waste Management has seen higher compliance with respect to commercial organics and recycling.
- Solid Waste monitors all deliveries to Otter Lake on a weekly basis.
- In 2006 the commercial waste was down 2.4% for the year.
- GTI did not dispose at Otter Lake for the month of October. GTI has now returned and it is the expectation that the tonnage levels will rise.

In response to Councillor Hendsbee, Mr. Bauld advised that in 2002 after a series of public consultation, all 19 Land Use By-laws were amended to create new zoning for C&D 1, C&D 2 and C&D 3.

There are 2 companies that are licenced under HRM By-law to operate a C&D transfer, disposal and processing facility. For any company wishing to establish they have to go through the application process with the Development Office and ensure the site they selected meets the zoning requirements. If they are not approved they will have to go through a public hearing to amend the land use.

Councillor Karsten informed the committee that he sits as the Regional Chair of The Nova Scotia Solid Waste Resource Management Committee and will be bringing issues forward that he believes would be of interest to the committee.

9.5 New Disposal Rate Target Proposal

Mr. Bauld presented an update on the above noted item. Some highlights were as follows:

- This document is proof that the Province has taken initiative to set a new target disposal rate of 300 kg per person by the year of 2015. The document also speaks to extended producer responsibility. This was announced without any municipal consultation, but is a step in the right direction. This is proof of commitment from the Province when it comes to solid waste issues.
- 10 years ago the solid waste per capita was approx 800 kg per person and it has decreased to approximately 500 kg per person waste disposed per year.
- Solid waste disposed at Otter Lake in the last 12 months consisted of 161,430

- tonnes of commercial waste and 69,231 tonnes of residential waste.
- Everything going to the Landfill is included in the disposal rate.
- There will be opportunity for municipal staff to discuss this rate but no date has been set as of yet.

Prior to adjourning, Mr. Mason invited the Solid Waste Advisory Committee Members on a tour of facilities, and intends to notify the Chair with a date.

10. NEXT MEETING DATE - February 22, 2007

11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:22 pm.

Chrissy White
Legislative Assistant