

**SOLID WASTE RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
JUNE 24, 2010**

PRESENT: Councillors: Peter Lund, Chair
Sue Uteck, Vice Chair
Darren Fisher
Lorelei Nicoll
Tim Outhit
Bill Karsten

REGRETS: Mayor Peter Kelly, ex-officio
Councillors: Debbie Hum
Reg Rankin

STAFF: Mr. Gord Helm, Manager, Solid Waste Resources
Mr. Robert Orr, Collection & Processing Coordinator,
Solid Waste Resources
Ms. Laurie Lewis, Diversion Planning Coordinator, Solid Waste
Resources
Ms. Krista Tidgwell, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:04 p.m. in the Halifax Hall, City Hall.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - May 14, 2010

MOVED by Councillor Uteck, seconded by Councillor Fisher, that the minutes of May 14, 2010 be approved, as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Addition:

- 9.1 Resource Recovery Fund Board's Funding Mechanisms to Promote Reduction of Solid Waste to Achieve Provincially Set Targets

MOVED by Councillor Uteck, seconded by Councillor Karsten, that the Order of Business be approved, as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4.1 Discussion re: Recycling Theft at Curbside

Councillor Uteck noted that Halifax Regional Police encourages residents to report a person's license plate number if they are removing recyclables from the curb with the use of a motorized vehicle.

Tanya Phillips, Manager, By-Law Services, Community Projects, Halifax Regional Police, provided an update to the Committee. Highlights were as follows:

- a charge has been laid against an individual respecting a similar situation
- staff will be reviewing Section 16 of By-law S-600 to make the rules stronger; By-law Enforcement Officers have assumed greater responsibility to address alleged recycling theft at curbside
- HRP will be responsible for enforcement between the hours of 2 a.m. and 6 a.m.
- By-Law Enforcement & HRP are addressing situations where individuals are slashing open bags and leaving a mess during the removal of recycling, as well as, using motorized vehicles to transport the recyclables from curbside
- there has been one successful prosecution respecting a similar charge laid by By-Law Enforcement; no additional charges have been laid within the last 6-12 months

Mr. Helm indicated that the projected revenue lost from recycling theft at curbside is estimated to be over \$200,000 per year.

Councillor Karsten suggested that staff review the various forms of best practices within other municipalities and how they are addressing this type of theft. He expressed concern regarding the priority level of this form of theft.

Councillor Karsten commented that the Environmental Depots are aware of the individuals who drop off recycling on a regular basis.

In response to a question raised by Councillor Lund, Ms. Phillips indicated that the By-law currently applies to any person(s) who searches through recyclables that have been placed at curbside. The By-law does not differentiate between individuals who operate the theft as a business (ie. with the use of a motorized vehicle) compared to individuals walk around collecting recyclables.

Mr. Helm advised that the ability to legally persecute an individual that is less fortunate is very small because often those residents do not have an address. He has asked HRP to look into ways to address this type of theft. HRP has suggested that residents who witness this act of theft take a picture of the individual's license plate and report it to HRP. There is no way to determine that those materials were taken from the curb without proof (ie. photo or HRP directly witnessing an act of theft). HRP has not indicated what steps should be taken once the individual has left the premises.

Councillor Nicoll entered the meeting at 2:14 p.m.

Ms. Phillips indicated that Regional Council has discussed this type of theft, which is sensitive in nature. The appropriate business units need to form a strategy that will address some of the key concern addressed in today's meeting. She further commented that the language is clear in HRM's legislation that theft of recycling at curbside is not permitted.

Following a brief discussion it was **MOVED by Councillor Uteck, seconded by Councillor Nicoll, that the Solid Waste Resources Advisory Committee direct By-Law Enforcement staff and Legal to review By-law 600 - Solid Waste Collection & Disposal and determine whether legal authority can be implemented respecting recycling theft at curbside. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Martin Ward, General Counsel, Legal Services, commented that it would be difficult for a Court to convict a less fortunate person collecting recyclables; however, there may be a better opportunity for a conviction respecting the use of motorized vehicles to remove recyclables from curbside.

4.2 Solid Waste Resources - Operations (*verbal update*)

Mr. Gord Helm, Manager, Solid Waste Resources, provided an update to the Committee. Highlights were as follows:

- the Waste Stabilization facility's roof replacement project is progressing; the facility has been emptied and preparation has begun to demolish the roof; staff has identified an interior sealant that is certified for use in Canada and the project's cost is being finalized; the project's completion date is set for November 2010
- the New Era contract has been signed
- the Mirror contract is still undergoing a cost review; negotiations will commence for the second renewal term; a Request for Proposal regarding the compost assessment test has been issued and staff is reviewing the responses

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

5.1 Correspondence from Environment Minister Sterling Belliveau re: 1998 Organics Landfill Ban and 2006 Compost Facility Guidelines

This matter was discussed under Item 9.1 - Resource Recovery Fund Board's Funding Mechanisms to Promote Reduction of Solid Waste to Achieve Provincially Set Targets. See page 8.

5.2 Discussion re: Big Belly Units

Mr. Don Pellerine, Superintendent - Streets, Municipal Operations, provided an update to the Committee. Highlights were as follows:

- staff is conducting a trial run on two Big Belly units to determine what benefits HRM would gain from the installation of these units
- the results from the pilot tests indicate that the recycling component (paper, cans and bottles) is not filling up prior to staff servicing the garbage component
- the units' locking mechanisms are secure
- each component of the units are 80-100% contamination free with the exception of a few materials that are not recyclable (ie. disposable coffee cups)
- a unit has been placed on Spring Garden Road near the MacDonalds food chain store; after the first eight days staff emptied the unit with 92 pounds of refuse collected; to date approximately 30-50 pounds of refuse is being collected from the unit on a regular basis
- the second unit has been placed near the entrance to the Halifax Ferry Terminal
- both units' test results are exceeding staff's expectations
- both units are three stream component units; Big Belly's manufacturer is fabricating a fourth composting component that will be attached to both units within the next 5-6 weeks
- Big Belly's manufacturer has estimated that HRM could save approximately \$1,600 in staff/equipment costs (\$60 per hour) ; however, HRM staff estimates a cost savings of \$15-20 per hour

The Committee entered into a discussion, with staff responding to questions. The following points were noted by staff:

- HRM has various types of waste units that range from \$150 to \$750 each and therefore, it is difficult to determine an exact cost saving for each waste receptacle HRM presently owns compared to the cost if they were replaced by a Big Belly unit
- once staff has completed its trial run of the Big Belly units, a report will be provided to the Committee

Councillor Karsten referred to a report prepared by the Province of Nova Scotia regarding McDonalds food chain stores. He commented that McDonalds used to be a leading food chain with regard to installing three/four stream waste diversion receptacles in their stores. He expressed concern that many McDonalds' stores today are only installing one stream waste units and indicated that he would provide this information to Mr. Pellerine for review.

Councillor Karsten further expressed concern that it was his understanding that staff would prepare a business case for the Committee's review prior to purchasing Big Belly units.

Further points noted by staff were as follows:

- there are approximately 400 waste bins throughout HRM's capital district that are emptied one to two times per day
- the Capital District Business Commission (CDBC) has been attempting to get a standardized waste bins throughout the capital district
- the CDBC has indicated that there should be three waste receptacles per block; HRM staff views this quantity as excessive
- HRM's present waste receptacles, if replaced by Big Belly units, would be relocated throughout other areas of HRM; they would not be discarded
- there are waste receptacles within HRM that are not compliant under HRM's By-law (ie. pole mounted, single component units and three stream bins); staff is attempting to develop a plan that will enable HRM to implement a system that is compliant with HRM's By-law and is consistent across HRM
- education for residents is a key part of the staff's preliminary discussions
- there are approximately 1,200 different types of waste units in HRM facilities
- staff are reviewing Federal funding programs that are available for special waste management projects
- staff worked with a manufacture to develop a new waste receptacle; the new receptacle is a 16 gallon translucent green mesh mounted bin that is similar to bins already in place in downtown Dartmouth; the bin has the ability to be locked into the place; bins are being circulated throughout HRM's capital district to replace receptacles that have been damaged; each bin costs approximately \$160

- most HRM Councillors have requested additional bins for their districts

Councillor Nicoll expressed concern regarding residents using the pole mounted bins to dispose of their dog's feces.

In response to a questions raised by Councillor Outhit, Mr. Pellerine advised that he could not confirm whether it is part of Metro Transit's mandate to have a waste receptacle at each bus stop. Metro Transit will provide a certain amount of waste receptacles throughout areas of HRM where they have advertising contracts (ie. bus stop benches with attached waste bins). Most of the advertisement benches are two stream units. Mr. Pellerine further noted that waste bins are placed at bus stops were there is high volume pedestrian traffic and mixed use businesses.

Further points noted by staff:

- HRM has not encountered any bear related incidences respecting HRM's waste receptacles; this concern can be reviewed/included within the waste management study
- the Big Belly units' refuse is self-contained within the unit
- staff is reviewing the option of a large scale deployment of Big Belly units
- staff is working directly with the Big Belly manufacturers

Councillor Karsten expressed concern regarding staff's predetermination of the deployment of Big Belly units throughout HRM. He urged staff to prepare a business case for the Committee/Council's review prior to the deployment of Big Belly units.

5.3 Consideration of September 23, 2010 due to Scheduling Conflict

A copy of the Approved 2010 Meeting Schedule, accompanied by a list of potential dates was before the Committee for their consideration.

Following a brief discussion, the Committee agreed to hold their next meeting on September 23, 2010 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. and requested the Clerk contact the FCM Advisory Committee to determine whether FCM's meeting time could be rescheduled from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

- 6. PRESENTATIONS - NONE**
- 7. REPORTS - NONE**
- 8. CORRESPONDENCE - NONE**

9. ADDED ITEMS

9.1 Resource Recovery Fund Board's Funding Mechanisms to Promote Reduction of Solid Waste to Achieve Provincially Set Targets

The following was before the Committee for review:

A letter dated December 9, 2009 from Environment Minister Sterling Belliveau regarding the 1998 Organics Landfill and 2006 Compost Facility Guidelines to Councillor Karsten, Chair of the Solid Waste Resources Committee.

Correspondence from Mayor Kelly to William (Bill) Ring, Resource Recovery Fund Board (RRFB), dated June 21, 2010 respecting the SWRAC's recommendation to Regional Council as reflected in the May 27, 2010 SWRAC Report.

The Committee entered into discussion. Highlights were as follows:

- concern with HRM not achieving the 300 kg per capita disposal target by 2015
- the Chair of the Resource Recovery Fund Board (RRFB) has indicated that any decisions respecting adjustments to the disposal target rate is the responsibility of the Nova Scotia Department of Environment

Councillors Lund and Uteck suggested the Committee meet with the Deputy Minister of Environment to review the 300 kg disposal target and HRM's position.

Councillor Karsen asked how significant the consequences would be to HRM if the disposal target rate was not met by 2015, as well as, what those consequences would be for HRM.

In response to concern raised by Councillor Karsten, Mr. Helm clarified that there has been no change in the formula regarding the RRBF's diversion credit rates; however, the percentage of funds for the formula to be executed has changed. There are a number of factors that has affected the decrease of the diversion amount that HRM receives:

- the cost HRM receives from marketing the materials
- the cost of operating the RRFB program
- the percentage that the RRFB gives back to the Province for their programing

Mr. Helm clarified that the diversion incentive program is fundamentally flawed because the program is treating all Regions equally. As well, the RRFB is not acknowledging that the 300kg per capita disposal target is a Provincial target, not a Regional target. He noted that HRM needs to go back to the Province to seek further clarification.

Councillor Nicoll suggested the following information be provided with the Committee's agenda during each meeting:

- RRFB Minutes
- Regional Chairs Minutes

She commented that information from those meetings should be provided to the Committee on a regular basis. Mr. Helm indicated that those minutes could be provided to the Committee as information items.

Following further Committee discussion, it was **MOVED by Councillor Uteck, seconded by Councillor Outhit, that the Solid Waste Resources Advisory Committee direct staff to seek further clarification from the Province respecting the Resource Recovery Fund Board's funding mechanisms to promote reduction of solid waste to achieve provincially set targets. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

10. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public came forward at this time.

11. NEXT MEETING DATE - September 23, 2010

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Krista Tidgwell
Legislative Assistant

INFORMATION ITEMS
JUNE 24, 2010

1. Correspondence from Wade MacDonald of Mineville, NS dated June 19, 2010 re: recycling bins.