

Halifax Regional Municipality

HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL

June 7, 1996

PRESENT:

Deputy Mayor Greenough
Councillors: Bill Dooks
Gordon R. Snow
Ron Cooper
Harry McInroy
Bruce Hetherington
Condo Sarto
Clint Schofield
John Cunningham
Graham L. Downey
Jerry Blumenthal
Larry Uteck
Howard Epstein
Russell Walker
Bill Stone
Ron Hanson
Stephen Adams
Barry Barnet
Bob Harvey
Peter Kelly
Reg Rankin
Jack Mitchell

ABSENT:

Mayor Walter Fitzgerald
Councillors: David Hendsbee

STAFF MEMBERS:

Mr. K. R. Meech, Chief Administrative Officer
Mr. Wayne Anstey, Municipal Solicitor
Mr. Larry Corrigan, Commissioner, Corporate Services
Ms. Vi Carmichael, Municipal Clerk
Ms. Julia Horncastle, Assistant Municipal Clerk

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Deputy Mayor Greenough called the meeting to order.

1.0 CAPITAL BUDGET DISCUSSIONS

Mr. Corrigan updated Council on approvals and changes resulting from the Thursday, June 6, 1996 meeting.

Councillor Hetherington gave a presentation regarding the Lucasville Road Watermain Project. He informed Council that it is being suggested this project be funded by the Regional Water Commission; however, although it is a water line, it was not related to the Halifax County Water Utility, but rather a separate item requested and approved in the Capital Budget of the former Halifax County.

Councillor McInroy arrived at 3:20 p.m.

Ms. Kate Carmichael, Executive Director, Downtown Business Commission made a presentation to Council with regards to budget line item "Municipal Parking Area - Surface lot construction, design services, pedway feasibility, landscaping, \$830,000". Copies of her presentation were provided to Council.

Councillor Blumenthal informed Council that approval of the project had been conditional on the sale of the Sheraton.

Mr. Corrigan confirmed the funding was being proposed from the "Sale of Land" account and that the project would only take place if it can be funded through reserves.

Councillor Walker arrived at 3:40 p.m.

In response to a question from Councillor Downey, Mr. Anstey informed Council paperwork regarding the development is expected to be completed by the end of June.

In response to a question from Councillor Schofield, Mr. Corrigan informed Council the entire project would come from the "Sale of Land" account.

In response to a question from Councillor Kelly regarding the item Communication System

(line item #2, Fire Services, \$680,000), Council was informed the amount includes a dispatch system and upgrades to all mobiles and portables within the core departments. Council was informed that it also includes a dispatch and communications system for regional operations as well as a dispatch for emergency operations centre located at the police station.

In response to a question from Councillor Kelly regarding the item Opticom Signalization System (line item #6, Fire Services), Council was informed this is a control of signal lights system for emergency vehicles.

Councillor Barnet referenced Hartland Village Playground (line item #3, Community Services, \$9,000.00) and informed Council that \$20,000.00 of Landfill funds had been allocated to develop a neighbourhood playground in this area.

MOVED by Councillor Barnet and Kelly that the amount of \$9,000.00 designated Hartland Village Playground, line item #3 under Community Services, be transferred to Millwood. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

In response to a question from Councillor Kelly regarding line item #2, Office Equipment, Mr. Meech informed Council leasing had been explored as an option.

In response to a question from Councillor Kelly regarding line item #16, Collection Upgrade, Council was informed this was referencing renovations to Acadia School in Sackville. She advised line item #19, Security System, was for all branches.

In response to Councillor Stone, Mr. Corrigan clarified that no transition funding for the library had been identified by the amalgamation coordinator.

Councillor Hetherington stated he would like to know what portion of the Capital and Operating Budgets is as a direct result of amalgamation. Mr. Meech informed Council that transitional costs were approximately +/- \$20 million.

Mr. Kitz made a presentation to Council regarding the Thomas Raddall Public Library.

Councillor Kelly noted, regarding line items #16, 18 and 19 that there should be some understanding of why all this is being done, how the money is spent and what will be achieved in order to see if there is an alternative with either the universities or schools who are going through a similar amalgamation process.

Councillor Harvey informed Council security systems were effective in protecting the taxpayers dollars by reducing losses.

In response to Councillor Stone, Council was informed the Thomas Raddall Public Library is used by and would benefit the residents of the whole region.

Councillor Stone informed Council this item has been on hold for four years and if the Library becomes an item for the future, space may not be available.

Mr. Kitz said when the space was taken for this facility the plan was to extend it to the second floor, providing 16,500 square feet. He informed Council that commitments had been made for this project on a yearly basis.

**MOVED by Councillor Stone and Downey that the amount of \$550,000.00 for the Thomas Raddall Public Library be added to the “wish list” for this current year.
MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Councillor Kelly asked what the status was with respect to the take over of streets. In response, Mr. Quinn informed Council the Province of Nova Scotia did agree to extend their maintenance of the exchange roads to June 15, 1996. He stated his department has identified 29 employees who would be offered positions subject to the agreement being ratified by Regional Council. He informed Council a preliminary meeting to discuss various aspects of employment has been held. He noted the final agreement needs minor changes and clarifications after which time copies will be distributed to Council.

Councillor Barnet referenced Catchpit cleaner and Vacuum Flusher/Sewer Jet (line items #2, \$200,000.00 and 21, \$250,000.00 Regional Operations) and asked if it was conceivable for these pieces of equipment to be obtained in this current year as they would have to be custom designed. Mr. Quinn informed Council that if they were ordered immediately, delivery would be in November.

It was agreed Council would meet on Monday, June 10, 1996 at 3:00 p.m. and, if needed, Tuesday, June 11, 1996 at 3:00 p.m.

Councillor Epstein requested staff provide information as to why Ocean View Manor is a County owned and operated facility.

Council agreed to defer the Lucasville Road Water project to Monday, June 10, 1996.

Councillor Barnet referenced line item #4, Industrial Parks, Lot “For Sale” Signage, \$25,000.00 and asked if this would be a duplication of signage which would be located on a lot by a broker. Mr. Rath informed Council that some of the industrial parks do not have any signage and large signs are required as the lots are large expanses of land set back from the street.

In response to a question from Councillor Schofield regarding Enchanted Lake Remediation (line item #1, Industrial Parks, \$50,000.00), Mr. Rath informed Council the project is to look at a pollution problem.

Councillor Blumenthal referenced line item #4 and #7 under Industrial Parks and noted that the Regional Municipality had its own signage department and informed Council he felt this was a high amount to pay for these items. In response to a question, Mr. Rath informed Council these items would be tendered out at which time the HRM signage department would have an opportunity to submit a proposal. Mr. Rath informed Council the \$30,000.00 was for overall design of park signage in the five parks that are the responsibility of the Municipality.

MOVED by Councillor Kelly and Blumenthal that the amount of \$30,000.00, line item #7, Industrial Parks, Identification Signage, Burnside, be moved to the wish list.

In response to a question from Councillor Stone, Mr. Rath informed Council the \$30,000.00 would be to take each of the business parks, look at the major entrance points and, where necessary, put in new signage that identifies the entrance points to the park. He stated the signs would be changed to reflect the change in name and provide a common visual element that refer to Halifax Regional Municipality.

MOTION PUT AND DEFEATED.

MOVED by Councillor Barnet and Adams that the amount of \$25,000.00, line item #4, Industrial Parks, Lot "For Sale" signage, be moved to the wish list. MOTION PUT AND DEFEATED.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Councillor Stone and Dooks that the meeting be adjourned. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

**Vi Carmichael
MUNICIPAL CLERK**

