

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL MINUTES August 26, 1997

PRESENT:

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

REGRETS:

Councillor Ron Cooper

STAFF MEMBERS:

Mr. Ken Meech, Chief Administrative Officer
Mr. Barry Allen, Municipal Solicitor
Ms. Vi Carmichael, Municipal Clerk
Ms. Patti Halliday, Assistant Municipal Clerk

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1. **INVOCATION**

Mayor Fitzgerald called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the Invocation.

2. **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO HRM - CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS (YOUTH SERVICE PROJECT)**

Mayor Fitzgerald introduced the representatives from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Mr. Douglas Chu and Ms. Julia Smith. Mayor Fitzgerald acknowledged the efforts of Councillor Cooper with respect to the Youth Service Project. In an expression of thanks to HRM, with special thanks to Councillor Ron Cooper, Ms. Karen MacTavish and Mr. John Charles, Recreation and Leisure, Ms. Smith presented Mayor Fitzgerald with a book entitled "The Mission", detailing the history of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints,

3. **PROCLAMATIONS - None**

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES - None**

5. **APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS**

The Municipal Clerk requested the following items to be added to the agenda:

- 14.1 Councillor Adams - Harrietsfield Community Centre
- 14.2 Councillor Barnet - Betterment Charge Policy (Street Paving)
- 14.3 Councillor Harvey - Tax Bills
- 14.7 Recommendation from Committee of the Whole - Siting of Composting Facility

Members of Council requested the following items to be added to the agenda:

- 14.4 Councillor Walker - Fine Options Program
- 14.5 Councillor Walker - School Board Boundaries
- 14.6 Councillor Stone - Lacewood Drive Traffic Improvements

MOVED by Councillors Hetherington and Sarto that the Order of Business be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. **BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - None**

7. **MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION - None**

8. **MOTIONS OF RESCISSION - None**

9. **CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - None**

10. **REPORTS**

10.1 **MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

10.1.1 **Paving - Councillor Dooks**

- At the July 15, 1997 Council session, Councillor Dooks requested that the above item be deferred to the August 19, 1997 meeting. This item was again deferred on August 19 to August 26 due to Councillor Dooks' absence.

Councillor Dooks expressed concern with the lack of paving in District 1. He stated the District has approximately 980 kms of road, and will only receive 5 kms of paving this year. The Councillor raised concern with the following three specific roads in District 1: Hwy 224, Hwy 7 from Ship Harbour to Ecum Secum, and the stretch of road between Mooseland and Moose River.

With respect to Hwy 224, Councillor Dooks stated it is 20 years outdated and was designed to handle local traffic only. This road not only needs to be paved, but it needs to be redesigned to handle the heavier traffic utilizing it today.

Regarding Hwy 7 from Ship Harbour to Ecum Secum, Councillor Dooks stated this is the main highway for this area. The road is 25 years old and traffic has increased greatly since it was built. Due to the condition of the road, industry and tourism are being adversely affected.

The stretch of road between Mooseland and Moose River is paved on the south and north end, but there is an area of 7 kms of dirt road in between. This causes a lot of problems for both communities. This situation discourages industry because they cannot commute between the two communities. Since the road is not paved, the community is unable to get a route number for this highway to allow it to be posted on maps.

Councillor Dooks questioned the process of setting priorities for road paving stating District 1 needs every opportunity to enhance the community and to make and create employment opportunities for residents. Industry, tourism and community growth will not occur without having these roads paved. Councillor Dooks suggested the 100 Series roads should continue through to Antigonish or Canso.

Councillor Dooks also noted private roads maintained previously by the Province will no longer be maintained, causing safety problems.

In closing, Councillor Dooks stated the priority in District 1 is for the 7 kms between Mooseland and Moose River to be paved immediately, and that Hwys 224 and 7 be addressed in the spring.

MOVED by Councillors Dooks and Blumenthal that a letter be sent to the Minister of Transportation, copied to the Premier, reflecting the concerns expressed by Councillor Dooks regarding paving of roads in District 1.

Further to Councillor Dooks' comments, Councillor Hendsbee expressed concern with roads in his rural areas and stated he hopes all rural areas of HRM will get attention before the snow flies.

Councillor Adams suggested, in conjunction with the letter, it could be noted there are many concerns of rural Councillors with regard to paving and maintenance of private roads rather than just limiting it to District 1, but emphasis could be placed on District 1.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

At this point in the meeting, Deputy Mayor Greenough took the opportunity to congratulate the organizers of the 1997 World Canoe Championships recently held in Dartmouth. Deputy Mayor Greenough stated Mr. Martin Jones and the organizing committee, along with the assistance of hundreds of volunteers, did a tremendous job and staged a first class event, not only for Dartmouth, but for the municipality. Deputy Mayor Greenough extended thanks and appreciation to Mr. Jones and his committee and stated the residents of HRM are very proud of their efforts as well as the efforts of the participating athletes from Nova Scotia and Canada.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Greenough and Councillor Cunningham that a letter of congratulations be sent to Mr. Martin Jones and the organizing committee for the tremendous success they achieved in staging the 1997 World Canoe Championships in Dartmouth. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

10.2 CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

10.2.1 Regional Library Board

- a) Impacts - Regional Library Budget Reductions**
- b) Literacy Program**

- An information report prepared by Judith Hare, Chief Executive Officer, Halifax Regional Library Board, regarding the impacts of budget reductions on the Halifax Library System, was circulated to Council.

Ms. Hare reviewed her report for Council which included the following issues: Woodlawn Branch Library, employee layoffs, collection budget reductions, Just for Kids

Bookmobile, hours of service/staff hours, literacy program, miscellaneous reductions, fees for service and intangible effects of reductions. Ms. Hare's report recommended that the Halifax Regional Library Board be included in HRM funding of salary adjustment programs.

Councillor Schofield expressed concern with the cutting of the Just for Kids Bookmobile.

In response to questions from Councillor Epstein, Ms. Hare stated money for the central library was in the capital budget to conduct the architectural consultation study on the central library. There is no money in the operating budget for the central library. Money is currently being spent on the consultant's report to evaluate the Spring Garden Road Library to determine whether it should be repaired, moved, expanded or rebuilt. Once the report is completed, it will be presented to Council. Ms. Hare stated, in the near future, she will be inviting all members of Council on a tour of the Spring Garden Road Library.

Councillor Mitchell expressed thanks to Ms. Hare and the Library staff for their work.

Councillor Sarto thanked Ms. Hare and her staff for their recommendation to save the Woodlawn Branch Library. He also suggested a letter should be sent to the Annapolis Basin Group for their generous contribution of one year's free rent. Council agreed to this suggestion. Councillor Sarto expressed concern, however, with the layoff of staff.

Responding to a question from Councillor Barnet, Ms. Hare stated the decrease in provincial funding is approximately \$104,000. Councillor Barnet suggested a letter be sent to the Province stating this decrease in funding is unacceptable. With respect to the central library, Councillor Barnet expressed concern with taking money from libraries in other areas to fund this project causing them to close or cut services.

MOVED by Councillors Barnet and Mitchell that a letter be sent to the Province asking that they immediately examine the Library Board funding situation, advising that the provincial cuts to the Library Board are having a substantial impact; further, to advise the Province exactly what the additional \$104,000 would provide, as well as discourage any further cuts.

With respect to the usage of the Just for Kids Bookmobile, Ms. Hare noted this was declining. Councillor Harvey stated this would have been an opportunity for a corporate partner to come forward and sponsor this to keep it in service.

Councillor Downey expressed concern with the cut of the Literacy Program at the North Branch Library, noting its importance to the community.

Councillor Stone expressed concern with inequity in the reductions, noting some programs eliminated were only offered in the former City of Halifax. He stated reductions should be spread across all of HRM. Councillor Stone stated Council needs to make a concerted effort to make sure the Library system for all of HRM is supported in providing funding for the salary adjustment program.

Deputy Mayor Greenough concurred with Councillor Stone that cuts need to be spread across the entire region.

With respect to the literacy program cuts, Ms. Hare clarified the only program suspended at the moment is the computer literacy program for children, but alternate funding is currently being sought.

Councillor Sarto suggested charging reasonable membership fees be considered by the Board for next year.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Councillors Harvey and Stone that staff be requested to prepare a report to come to Council at the appropriate time on the recommendation provided in the School Board report, which states that the Halifax Regional Library Board be included in HRM funding of salary adjustment programs. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**10.2.2 First Reading By-law S-200 Respecting Smoking
Motion - Councillor Harvey - Move First Reading**

- A staff report prepared for Valerie Spencer, Commissioner, Priority and Policy Group, respecting a Clean Air "Smoking" by-law, was before Council for consideration.
- Correspondence from Linda Young, Director, Public Health Services, Central Regional Health Board; and, Maureen Baikie, Medical Officer of Health, Central Region, regarding By-Law S-200, Respecting Smoking, was circulated to Council.

MOVED by Councillors Harvey and Epstein that First Reading be given to By-law S-200 Respecting Smoking. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

10.2.3 Sale of Land Account

- A staff report prepared for Larry Corrigan, Acting Chief Administrative Officer, regarding the Sale of Land Account, was before Council for consideration. Staff was recommending all funds within the Sale of Land account be available

for any capital project within HRM, in accordance with the priorities approved by Council; further, that Council refer consideration of the signalization project at Wright Avenue and Ilsley Avenue in Burnside Industrial Park to the 1998-99 Capital Budget.

Councillor Schofield expressed concern with the staff report and requested that \$110,000 be taken from the Sale of Land Account for the signalization project at Wright Avenue and Ilsley Avenue in Burnside Industrial Park, noting it is a very dangerous intersection and needs to be rectified as soon as possible. Councillor Schofield noted this project was in the budget last year but was subsequently removed.

MOVED by Councillors Schofield and Hetherington that Council approve \$110,000 from the Sale of Land Account for the signalization project at Wright Avenue and Ilsley Avenue in Burnside Industrial Park.

Councillor Stone stressed the need of a Sale of Land Account for the business and industrial parks, stating the large assessment base of these parks keeps the municipality going, and businesses located there expect to see improvements. Councillor Stone stated priorities for the business parks are not priorities in the Capital Budget. The Councillor further stated there needs to be some recognition of the need for improvements in the business parks and the process needs to be examined.

Deputy Mayor Greenough spoke in support of the motion and in partial support of the staff report. With respect to Recommendation #1 of the report, Deputy Mayor Greenough proposed an amendment by the addition of the words "however, priority be given to required capital expenditures within the business/industrial parks."

Mr. Meech cautioned segregation of funds can create parochialism. He added that all projects Council approves as a priority in the industrial parks are charged back to the Sale of Land Account. With respect to setting priorities, there is a process; however, Council makes the final decision.

Councillor Hetherington spoke in favour of the motion stating this project was a priority for Dartmouth in 1995; and, in 1996, HRM staff considered it a priority by putting it in the Capital Budget.

Councillor Hanson stated capital work programs should be global and giving priority to the industrial parks is not the right thing to do. Although he did not have a problem with Councillor Schofield's request as it is a safety problem, Councillor Hanson noted there are other projects dealt with during the budget process that are dormant. The Councillor expressed concern that the construction season will not be able to meet the demand which will put these projects off for another year.

Councillor Cunningham spoke in favour of the motion. Councillor Uteck spoke in support of Mr. Meech's comments stating he believes the project can wait until next year. Councilor Adams spoke in support of the project, but noted this should have been dealt with during the budget process.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The following motion was then placed before Council:

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Greenough and Councillor Stone that all funds within the Sale of Land Account be available for any capital project within HRM, in accordance with the priorities approved by Council; however, priority be given to required capital expenditures within the business/industrial parks.

Councillor Uteck spoke against the motion, stating this sets a dangerous precedent.

MOTION DEFEATED.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Greenough and Councillor Walker that all funds within the Sale of Land Account be available for any capital project within HRM, in accordance with the priorities approved by Council.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Councillor Hetherington requested an update on the status of all capital street work that was approved in the capital budget. Mr. Meech replied there is a report circulated on a monthly basis but further commentary may be necessary. Mr. Corrigan added this information can be provided to Council.

10.2.4 Meals for Committees

- A staff report prepared for Larry Corrigan, Acting Chief Administrative Officer, regarding meals for committees was before Council for consideration.

Councillor Adams questioned why the previous motion passed by Council to reinstitute meals for committees was overturned during the budget process. He requested a report be prepared as to how this happened and how it can be addressed in the future.

MOVED by Councillors Adams and Walker that Council re-institute meals for those Committees of Council (citizen based), that are scheduled to meet over lunch (12 - 1 p.m.) and dinner (4 - 6 p.m.) hours. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

10.2.5 911 Dispatch Centre

- Performance record reports for July and August 1997 for the Halifax Regional 911 Communications Centre were circulated to Council.

Mr. Guy Uddenberg, Manager, Halifax Regional 911 Communications Center, presented the reports to Council.

Referencing an incident that occurred recently in Dartmouth, Councillor Hetherington expressed concern with the 911 system, in particular, with the number of rings before an answer was received at the 911 centre. Mr. Uddenberg replied this specific call was answered by the RCMP 911 dispatch and not the HRM dispatch. Councillor Hetherington questioned how this could happen when the call originated from Dartmouth, to which Mr. Uddenberg replied this particular situation is being investigated. Councillor Hetherington stated a lot of residents are not satisfied with the 911 system.

With respect to equipment, Councillor Hetherington inquired if HRM has the exact equipment required to interact with other services such as RCMP, Fire Services, Police Services and ambulance services. Mr. Uddenberg replied a RFP process has begun to integrate the computer dispatch systems. There is also a Radio Systems Committee within HRM that is evaluating the radio systems available. Councillor Hetherington stated someone working for HRM with the expertise to oversee the purchase of the equipment is needed. Mr. Uddenberg noted there are other suppliers, besides Motorola, that the Committee is investigating. The Councillor suggested the purchase of equipment should be delayed until Council has confidence in the system.

Councillor Blumenthal stated he has had two or three complaints, one dealing with slow response time to a seniors' complex.

Councillor Mitchell spoke in support of the 911 system stating many people feel comfortable with the system.

Councillor Adams inquired how assurances can be made that Fire Services will be dispatched on medical calls. Mr. Uddenberg replied there is an audit in place now to evaluate this process and to determine the best way to handle medical calls.

Councillor Barnet reported he received a number of calls relating to RCMP response times. He also received calls and letters from the local fire department in Beaver Bank, and there appears to be a flaw as it relates to dispatch to a community just outside of the municipality that is serviced by the Beaver Bank fire department. A recent call from this community was responded by East Hants which is 30-40 miles away. In response to the Councillor, Mr. Uddenberg replied situations such as this are addressed on a daily basis, and complete internal investigations are conducted to improve the service.

Responding to a question from Councillor Barnet regarding staffing, Mr. Uddenberg replied staffing has been adjusted on a weekly basis. An Executive Committee will be addressing budget, manning and service issues.

In response to Councillor Kelly's concerns with respect to the 490-5020 line, Mr. Uddenberg replied calls not requiring a dispatch are being transferred to the newly installed 490-5016 line, and this will alleviate some of the problem.

With respect to calls coming in from cellular phones, Mr. Uddenberg noted the difficulty with cellular phones is that immediate location information is not available, as is the case with a land line.

Councillor Hendsbee agreed with Councillor Hetherington's suggestion of HRM having an expert to advise them in the purchase of equipment. He also suggested the HRM communication strategy needs to be reviewed in tandem with the emergency measures organizations. Councillor Hendsbee expressed concern with street names, civic addresses and changes of postal codes and the confusion it causes.

Councillor Walker questioned why callers have to repeat information given to the 911 operator when transferred to other emergency services. Mr. Uddenberg replied the provincial protocol stipulating how medical calls are handled is under review to speed up the process.

Councillor Walker expressed concern with duplicate street names and cited an incident where a fire truck was dispatched to Dartmouth when it should have gone to Halifax. Mr Uddenberg replied the location of the call appears on a screen in front of the operator and it is repeated to the caller to ensure it is correct.

In response to a question from Councillor Snow regarding training, Mr. Uddenberg stated over 4600 hours of technical training for staff was completed. All employees have been through the 911 training system.

Mayor Fitzgerald thanked Mr. Uddenberg for his presentation and suggested Council may wish to invite him back in a few months for an update.

RECESS

A ten minute recess was taken at 8:40 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 8:50 p.m.

10.2.6 Selection of a Consultant to Facilitate a Program and Service Review

- A staff report prepared for Larry Corrigan, Acting Chief Administrative Officer, regarding the Selection of a Consultant to Facilitate a Program and Service Review, was before Council for consideration.

MOVED by Councillors Sarto and Hetherington that a Review Committee be formed consisting of the Audit Committee Councillors (Deputy Mayor Greenough, Councillors Walker, Rankin, and Schofield) and Commissioners Spencer, McLellan, and Corrigan. Dan Gautreau, Principal, Corporate Issues and Initiatives, will serve as a resource to the Committee.

Councillor Adams reiterated a previous request he made regarding examining the feasibility of an auditor general who would report directly to Council. He asked that staff bring this report forward when it is available.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

10.2.7 Paving - Kingswood Subdivision (request for deferral to Sept. 2/97)

- A staff report prepared for Kulvinder Dhillon, Acting Commissioner, Regional Operations, regarding paving of streets in the Kingswood Subdivision, was before Council for consideration.

MOVED by Councillors Hetherington and Sarto that Council defer this item to the September 2, 1997 Regional Council meeting, pending receipt of the staff report. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

10.2.8 Tender 97-253 - Booth Street Reconstruction

- A staff report prepared for Kulvinder Dhillon, Acting Commissioner of Regional Operations, regarding the award of Tender No. 97-253, Booth Street Reconstruction, was before Council for consideration.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Greenough and Councillor Dooks that Council award Tender No. 97-253, Booth Street Reconstruction to Ocean Contractors Limited for materials and services listed at the unit prices quoted for a Total Tender Price of \$217,758.25 and a Total Project Cost of \$250,422.00, with funding authorized from Capital Account Number 95512, Booth Street Reconstruction. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

10.2.9 Tender 97-217 - Tacoma Drive Street Reconstruction & Watermain Renewal

- A staff report prepared for Kulvinder Dhillon, Acting Commissioner of Regional Operations, regarding the award of Tender No. 97-217, Tacoma Drive Street Reconstruction and Watermain Renewal, was before Council for consideration.

MOVED by Councillor Sarto and Deputy Mayor Greenough that Council award Tender No. 97-217, Tacoma Drive Street Reconstruction and Watermain Renewal to Dexter Construction Company Limited for materials and services listed at the unit prices quoted for a Total Tender Price of \$560,464.00, and a Total Project Cost of \$644,534.00, with funding authorized from Capital Account Numbers as noted in the Budget Implications Section of the staff report. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

10.2.10 Tender 97-254 - Dorothea Drive New Sidewalk

- A staff report prepared for George McLellan, Commissioner of Regional Operations, regarding the Award of Tender No. 97-254, Dorothea Drive New Sidewalk, was before Council for consideration.

MOVED by Councillor Hetherington and Deputy Mayor Greenough that Council award Tender No. 97-254, Dorothea Drive New Sidewalk to Ocean Contractors Limited for materials and services listed at the unit prices quoted for a Total Tender Price of \$104,891.50 and a Total Project Cost of \$120,625.00, with funding authorized from Capital Account Numbers as noted in the Budget Implications section of the staff report. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

10.2.11 Tender 97-081 - 300 Sets of Personal Soft Body Armour and Accessories for Halifax Regional Police Service

- A staff report prepared for Vincent J. MacDonald, Commissioner of Police Services, regarding the award of Tender No. 97-081, 300 Sets of Personal Soft Body Armour and Accessories for the Halifax Regional Police Service, was before Council for consideration.

MOVED by Councillors Schofield and Hetherington that Regional Council authorize the award of Tender No. 97-081 to the lowest bidder, Atlantic Police and Security Supply Ltd., at a cost of \$122,255.93 plus H.S.T.

Councillor Barnet asked if it is possible to choose from different suppliers for the tender. Sgt. Young replied is it not possible to interchange components of the order due to safety and compatibility issues.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

10.2.12 Tender 97-363 - Resurfacing, Trunk 3 - Fraser Road to Highway 103, West District

- A staff report prepared for Kulvinder Dhillon, Acting Commissioner of Regional Operations, regarding the award of Tender No. 97-363, Resurfacing, Trunk 3 - Fraser Road to Highway 103, West District, was before Council for consideration.

MOVED by Councillors Mitchell and Rankin that Council award Tender No. 97-363, Resurfacing, Trunk 3, Fraser Road to Highway 103, West District, to Ocean Contractors Ltd., at a Tender Price of \$344,310.00 and a Total Project Cost of \$395,957.00 with funding authorized from Capital Account No. 95470, Resurfacing. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

10.2.13 Traffic Management Strategy for the Communities of Beechville, Lakeside and Timberlea

- A staff report prepared for Val Spencer, Commissioner of Priority and Policy; Dan English, Commissioner of Community Services; and, George McLellan, Commissioner of Regional Operations, regarding Traffic Management Strategy for the Communities of Beechville, Lakeside and Timberlea, was before Council for consideration.

MOVED by Councillors Rankin and Mitchell that:

1. **Council request the Province to enact enabling legislation to allow the Municipality to levy development charges on new development to recover costs of new infrastructure needed to service future development; and,**
 2. **A plan amendment process be initiated for the Timberlea/Lakeside/Beechville plan area to consider adoption of the traffic management measures recommended for these communities by the study. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**
11. **PUBLIC HEARINGS - None**
12. **CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS**

Councillor Sarto submitted correspondence from Mr. Darrell Hubley offering a possible solution to the potential Bell Lake fire hazard and noise concern. The Councillor requested that this be forwarded to staff for a report.

Councillor Kelly submitted correspondence from residents of Balsam Road, Bedford, regarding the potentially dangerous situation at the Nova Scotia Power Corporation property situated at the end of Balsam Road. Councillor Kelly requested that this be forward to staff for a report.

12.1 Correspondence

12.1.1 City of Mississauga - Eaton Stores

- Correspondence from Mayor Hazel McCallion, City of Mississauga, seeking support for the Eaton Stores, was before Council for consideration.

MOVED by Councillors Blumenthal and Adams that the letter from Mayor Hazel McCallion, City of Mississauga, seeking support for the Eaton Stores, be tabled. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

13. MOTIONS

13.1 Councillor Adams

- Notices of Motion were given by Councillor Adams on August 19, 1997, regarding the following issues: taxi driver training, freeze on vehicle licenses, and an amendment to the Motor Vehicle Act.

Councillor Adams requested that these motions be deferred to September 2, 1997, to allow for the ten day period between Notice and First Reading. Council agreed to the request.

(Councillor McInroy left the meeting at this point in time.)

14. ADDED ITEMS

14.1 Councillor Adams - Harrietsfield Community Centre

- A memo from Councillor Adams requesting that the above item be added to the agenda was before Council for consideration. The purpose of the request was to ask Council to provide funding to complete the septic system for this complex so the occupancy permit can be issued.

Councillor Adams requested a staff report examining the possibility of HRM providing \$70,000 for a septic system for the Harrietsfield Community Centre so it can be completed before the frost. He noted the school next door will require a new septic system within two years, and it was the intent that these two facilities share such a system. The Councillor requested that negotiations with the School Board be initiated for half the cost. The \$70,000 system will accommodate the needs of both the school and the community centre.

MOVED by Councillors Adams and Hetherington that this item be referred to staff for a report. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

14.2 Councillor Barnet - Betterment Charge Policy (Street Paving)

- A memo from Councillor Barnet requesting that the above item be added to the agenda was before Council for consideration. The purpose of the request was to reopen discussion regarding the recent betterment charge policy as it relates to street paving.

Councillor Barnet questioned the \$30 per foot betterment charge for street paving.

MOVED by Councillors Barnet and Hetherington that a staff report be prepared justifying how the \$30 per foot betterment charge was derived.

Mr. Meech noted this issue is currently under review as there have been questions raised by various parties.

Councillor Hendsbee stated the \$30 per foot betterment charge should be broken down as to what type of road standards for which this will qualify. The Councillor also would

like the rules and procedures clarified as to how betterment charges can be charged back to the Province if any roads in the rural areas outside the urban core are paved.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

14.3 Councillor Harvey - Tax Bills

- A memo from Councillor Harvey requesting that the above item be added to the agenda was before Council for consideration. The purpose of the request was to bring forward various concerns received from taxpayers regarding the bills.

Councillor Harvey requested that tax bills be received by residents sixty (60) days prior to the due date, and requested that staff provide a report on the possibility of this being achieved. Council was in agreement with his request.

Councillor Blumenthal stated some exemptions were added to the tax bills rather than taken off. Mr. Singer advised these bills would be corrected and reissued. With respect to those who applied for exemption after August 8, if approved, they will receive a tax credit.

Councillor Kelly expressed concern with the breakdown of the tax bill for those areas that do not have transit, sidewalks and/or fire hydrants, yet there is still a tax billing amount for these residents to pay for these services. Mr. Singer stated Councillor Kelly's concerns will be taken under advisement and a more detailed report will be before Council in approximately sixty days. He noted a review process has been implemented for residents wishing to have their tax bill re-examined.

Councillor Walker requested an explanation in writing of the reasoning for the word "sidewalk" being included on the tax bill, in order to provide to residents questioning this charge.

With respect to tax deferrals, Councillor Walker asked if those who applied and were not approved had been notified. Mr. Singer replied it is his understanding all applicants would have been advised of the decision, but he agreed to confirm this with staff.

Councillor Hendsbee advised of an error in the tax bills for District 3. There are several communities that were charged for transit services that were to be excluded. Councillor Hendsbee stated he is advising these residents not to pay that portion of the tax bill. Councillor Hendsbee expressed concern with omissions in the insert and stated that he hopes future inserts will come to Council for an overview before being sent to residents.

Councillor Stone stated if residents in other areas are having their taxes reduced, if certain services are not available, then everyone else should be treated the same, and this process may need to be re-examined.

Councillor Adams suggested the words "core services" may better describe the charge on the tax bill rather than "transit and sidewalks" and asked that this be considered for next year.

14.4 Councillor Walker - Fine Options Program

Councillor Walker requested that this item be put on the September 2, 1997 agenda, to which Council agreed.

14.5 Councillor Walker - School Board Boundaries

Councillor Walker requested that this item be put on the September 2, 1997 agenda, to which Council agreed.

14.6 Councillor Stone - Lacewood Drive Traffic Improvements

Councillor Stone requested a staff report dealing with two safety issues on Lacewood Drive.

The first issue is with respect to the intersection of Lacewood Drive and Hwy 102. Councillor Stone's concerns were as follows:

- A set of lights was installed on a temporary basis last December and is still temporary.
- The Hwy 102 intersection is shared by the DOT and HRM.
- Correction of this problem is not proceeding quickly enough and will be a bigger problem if not resolved before Christmas shopping.
- Currently, there are lights only on one ramp, and there is a need for lights on the other ramp. There is also a sight problem at that ramp.
- There is need for discussion as to what is going to be done in this area with respect to the ramps and traffic in general.

Councillor Stone requested a staff report updating the status of this issue.

The second issue Councillor Stone brought to Council's attention was the fact that there have been a number of accidents and near misses in the area of Lacewood Drive between Dunbrack and Willett Street. There is a need for a set of traffic lights in the middle of this intersection. The Councillor requested a staff report on what is going to be done in this area.

Council concurred with both of the above requests.

14.7 Recommendation from Committee of the Whole - Siting of Composting Facility

- This item was discussed at the Committee of the Whole meeting held prior to this regular session of Council and was recommended to Council for ratification.

With respect to the background of this issue, Councillor Rankin stated this item relates to instruction from Council as a result of its June 17, 1997 meeting. As a result, staff brought forward a report seeking a definitive response from Council for further direction in relation to several sites contained in the motion of instruction. Councillor Rankin noted there was considerable debate of this issue during the Committee of the Whole meeting held prior to this regular session.

MOVED by Councillors Rankin and Hendsbee that the location between Ragged Lake and Blueberry Lake be the choice site, and for staff to negotiate a contract with New Era for an open windrow composting facility; and further, in conjunction with New Era submit an application to DOE; and that this siting is not further subject to public review, but a public information process be provided should the contract and DOE permitting be ultimately successful. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

15. NOTICES OF MOTION

15.1 Councillor Mitchell

Take notice that at the regular meeting of Halifax Regional Council to be held on Sept. 16, 1997, I intend to introduce the following motion:

"That the Municipal Planning Strategy for St. Margarets Bay be amended so as to allow for the consideration of small scale businesses, not otherwise permitted by the Land Use By-law in residential designations, through either a rezoning or development agreement process."

16. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Councillors Sarto and Uteck that the meeting adjourn at 9:45 p.m. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Vi Carmichael
MUNICIPAL CLERK