

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL MINUTES November 3, 1998

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT WITH REGRETS:

Councillors Bill Dooks
Ron Hanson

STAFF MEMBERS:

Mr. Ken Meech, Chief Administrative Officer
Mr. Wayne Anstey, 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.

Presentation

Mayor Fitzgerald welcomed members of the Dartmouth Moosehead Dry Senior Baseball team; and, on behalf of Council, extended congratulations to them for winning the 1998 Canadian Senior Baseball Championships held in Saskatchewan in August.

Councillor Schofield noted only one other team from Nova Scotia has ever won the Canadian Senior Baseball Championships. The Councillor introduced the following members of the team: Brad Miller, Mark Weeks, Greg West, Ryan Doucette, Jeff Crowell, Mark Patterson, Jason Bailey, David McKenzie, Joel Irving, Todd Parker, Patrick Tardiff, Jay Washington and Greg Marquis. Councillor Schofield also introduced Darren Doucette, player/coach of the Adirondack New York Lumberjacks.

On behalf of the Halifax Regional Municipality, Mayor Fitzgerald presented the Dartmouth Moosehead Dry Senior Baseball team with a plaque. Councillor Schofield noted the team also won the Provincial Championship this year, and wished them well in the future.

2. PROCLAMATIONS

2.1 Unity in Diversity Week

Mayor Fitzgerald proclaimed the week of November 8 - 14, 1998 as Unity in Diversity Week.

2.2 Halifax Regional Municipality Veterans' Week

Mayor Fitzgerald proclaimed the week of November 5 - 11, 1998 as Halifax Regional Municipality Veterans' Week.

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

The following items were requested to be added to the agenda:

- 12.1 Councillor Rankin - Paving of Sylvania Terrace, Hyland Park
- 12.2 Councillor Rankin - Paving of Nottingham Drive, Haliburton Heights
- 12.3 Release of Easement Lot 4.4A1-YB2 Waterfront Drive, Bedford

- 12.4 Councillor Barnet - Beaver Bank Road Bridge
- 12.5 Councillor Barnet - Road Construction - Beaver Bank Road
- 12.6 Labour Relations - New Collective Agreement - Rehab Centre
- 12.7 Appointments to Boards and Committees

The following item was added to the Information Agenda:

1. Proposed By-Law C-100 Respecting the Regulation of Cats

Councillor Adams requested that Item 11 - Motions be moved up on the agenda to follow Item 6 - Motions of Reconsideration, as he had to leave the meeting early.

Ms. Carmichael, Municipal Clerk, advised she received a letter from Councillor Dooks, who was unable to attend this meeting, due to community meeting in Tangier. The letter stated *"In regards to the future benefit of HRM, I am also requesting that consideration be given to allow proxy voting at Regional Council. I am officially requesting, by means of this letter, that, in lieu of my absence, that Councillor Hendsbee submit the ballots that I have provided for this vote for Deputy Mayor. Consideration should also be given at this time for Councillor Hanson's vote to be presented by Councillor Walker."*

Councillor Hendsbee spoke in support of Councillor Dooks' request, noting the Administrative Order does not specify that proxy votes are not permitted. Mr. Wayne Anstey, Municipal Solicitor, advised under Section 17 (2) of the Administrative Order it states a member not in his seat shall not be entitled to vote. Therefore, it is his opinion that this would cover all situations.

**MOVED by Councillors Hendsbee and Snow that votes in absentia be permitted for Councillors Dooks and Hanson with respect to the election of Deputy Mayor.
MOTION DEFEATED.**

Mayor Fitzgerald confirmed only the members in their seats will be permitted to vote for Deputy Mayor.

With respect to Item 10.2.6 - Interim Report - Deficit, Councillor Kelly requested Council's support in moving to Committee of the Whole for this item to allow more in-depth discussion and debate, as well as public input, if Council so desires. Mayor Fitzgerald advised that this is just a preliminary report and will only be presented this evening. A Committee of the Whole meeting will be held next Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. to debate the report. Councillor Hetherington suggested any member of the public wishing to speak should register with the Clerk's Office. Councillor Stone suggested it

may take more than one meeting to debate the report if public presentation is permitted.

MOVED by Councillors Hetherington and Greenough that the Order of Business and Additions and Deletions be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4 BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - NONE

5. SELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

Mayor Fitzgerald called for nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor.

MOVED by Councillors Hetherington and Fougere that Councillor Blumenthal be nominated for the position of Deputy Mayor.

MOVED by Councillors Cunningham and Stone that Councillor Uteck be nominated for the position of Deputy Mayor.

MOVED by Councillors Hetherington and Greenough that nominations cease. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

In support of Councillor Blumenthal's nomination, Councillor Hetherington stated he is a very dedicated and hard working Councillor. Councillor Hetherington further stated that Councillor Blumenthal has served on most Boards of Council and has represented the Municipality on many occasions, and was very well received. In closing, Councillor Hetherington stated, if elected Deputy Mayor, Councillor Blumenthal would continue to work hard for the residents of his District as well as all residents of Halifax Regional Municipality.

In support of Councillor Uteck's nomination, Councillor Cunningham stressed the importance of the position of Deputy Mayor, noting the person who fills this position must be respected by all, a leader in Council and in bringing Council together for the good of the Municipality. Councillor Cunningham stated Councillor Uteck is the person for this position, as he has a reputation as a team player and team builder that is highly regarded across the country. Councillor Cunningham further stated Councillor Uteck has consistently displayed integrity and leadership to this Council, as well as concern for Halifax Regional Municipality as a whole.

Responding to his nomination, Councillor Blumenthal congratulated Deputy Mayor Rankin on his excellent job over the past year. Councillor Blumenthal stated, if he is

elected, he will work as hard for the Council as he has for his residents over the last few years, being consistent and fair.

Responding to his nomination, Councillor Uteck also extended thanks to Deputy Mayor Rankin and Councillor Greenough, stating they have done a fantastic job bring the Municipality together through trying times. Councillor Uteck stated, if he is elected, it would be a great honour and a job he will take very seriously.

The vote was then taken for the position of Deputy Mayor.

While waiting for the results of the vote, Deputy Mayor Rankin took the opportunity to thank Council and staff who have assisted him throughout the past year. Deputy Mayor Rankin expressed appreciation to the staff of the Mayor's Office, in particular, Mr. Dick MacLean; the staff of the Councillors' Support Office, in particular, Mr. Claude Isaacs; the staff of the Chief Administrative Officer's office, in particular, Mr. John O'Brien; the staff of the Municipal Clerk's Office, in particular, Ms. Vi Carmichael. Deputy Mayor Rankin also thanked Mayor Fitzgerald for this support and guidance over the past year. In response, Mayor Fitzgerald expressed sincere thanks to Deputy Mayor Rankin for all his hard work and great efforts over the last year on behalf of the Municipality.

MOVED by Councillors Hetherington and Sarto that the ballots be destroyed after the result of the vote is announced. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mayor Fitzgerald announced that Councillor Uteck was elected for the position of Deputy Mayor.

6. MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION

6.1 Councillor Walker - Tender 98-099R, Delivery of Organic Green Carts and/or Kitchen Bins

- At the October 27, 1998 meeting of Regional Council, the following motion was adopted: **MOVED** by Councillors Sarto and Stone that Halifax Regional Municipality award contracts for delivery of organic green carts and/or kitchen bins to properties in the Halifax Regional Municipality to the firms recommended for Areas 1 to 5 as outlined in Table A of the staff report dated October 21, 1998. Councillor Walker served a **Notice of Motion of Reconsideration** at that time.

Mr. Ken Meech, Chief Administrative Officer, clarified that incorrect information was given at the October 27, 1998 meeting with respect to the per unit cost. The actual cost per unit cost is approximately \$10. Mr. Meech recommended that a hold be put on

the award of this contract, to allow the opportunity to explore the possibility of delivering these carts with internal resources.

Based on this information, Councillor Walker **withdrew** his Motion of Reconsideration, and requested a staff report exploring the possibility of performing the delivery of these carts with internal resources. Council agreed to the request.

As was decided during the Approval of the Order of Business, Item 11 - Motions was dealt with next.

11. MOTIONS

11.1 Councillor Adams

MOVED by Councillors Adams and Walker that Administrative Order Number One be amended such that a deferral not be heard until such time that all members listed to speak have had the opportunity to do so. The purpose of this amendment is to prevent Council members from deferring items before all concerns have been raised.

Councillor Adams stated this amendment will permit time for all questions to be brought forward so staff will know what information will need to be provided when the matter is brought back to Council.

Councillor Greenough noted there are times when it is clear a matter needs to be deferred, as information is not available at the time of the discussion. The Councillor expressed concern with the unnecessary adding of debate when a matter may ultimately be deferred, only to come back and be reconsidered again. Councillor Greenough stated it is at the discretion of the Chair when to put the vote on a motion to defer. Therefore, in practice, the intent of the motion can already be accomplished.

Mr. Wayne Anstey, Municipal Solicitor, clarified that the motion on the floor would permit only those members listed to speak at the time of the motion to defer, the opportunity to speak before the vote is taken. However, they are not required to speak and can decline the opportunity.

Councillor Hendsbee spoke in support of the motion stating it is important for all Councillors to ask questions which may be answered at that time.

Councillor Walker stated debate can be cut off with a deferral, and Councilors have to wait another week to pose their questions.

Councillor Cunningham suggested there should be an amendment to the motion to include a motion to refer as well as a motion to defer. The Mover and Seconder agreed to include this in the motion.

Councillor Stone stated those listed to speak at the time of the motion to defer/refer should be permitted to ask a limited number of questions before the vote is taken.

Councillor Cooper questioned the inclusion of "referral" in the motion, noting a referral is covered in a different section in the Administrative Order. He suggested if this is to be included it should be a new Notice of Motion and dealt with next week.

**MOVED by Councillors Cooper and Blumenthal that this matter be deferred.
MOTION DEFEATED.**

The main motion, as amended, which read as follows, was now back on the floor:

MOVED by Councillors Adams and Walker that Administrative Order Number One be amended such that a deferral or referral not be heard until such time that all members listed to speak have had the opportunity to do so. The purpose of this amendment is to prevent Council members from deferring or referring items before all concerns have been raised.

Deputy Mayor Uteck questioned the need for the motion, stating if the majority of Council believes debate should continue, the debate will continue. After everyone has been heard, Council may choose to defer the matter at that time.

Councillor Harvey stated once a motion to defer is on the floor, it is the majority of Council that decides if debate will stop or continue.

Councillor Adams reiterated the intent of the motion is to ensure those members listed to speak will have the opportunity to do so. The Councillor noted a motion to defer has the potential to prevent a member from speaking on the issue. Councillor Adams stated this amendment will save time and will allow every member to have the opportunity to seek clarification.

MOTION DEFEATED.

At a later point in the meeting, Councillor Walker introduced a Notice of Motion regarding this matter. Mr. Anstey advised the new motion will require a two-thirds majority of Council to agree to discuss this matter again.

7. MOTIONS OF RESCISSION - NONE

8. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

**8.1 Building Management Study - Stage Two: Implementation (def Oct. 27/98)
(prev circ)**

- Building Management Study, Stage 1, Executive Summary and Summary of Recommendations and Financial Benefits, prepared by Rose Facility Management, was before Council for consideration.
- An information report prepared for Brian Smith, Director of Business Operations, regarding the above, was before Council. The report recommended that a Call for Proposals for Stage Two of the Building Management Study be organized as soon as possible, and that staff report back to Council on the outcome of that process.

Mr. Meech noted this item was deferred from last week and staff is now recommending that a Call for Proposals be organized for the Building Management Study - Stage Two: Implementation.

Responding to a question from Councillor Kelly, Mr. Brian Smith, Director, Business Operations stated it is not possible to perform this task in the current financial environment, as it would entail significant training, travel costs and contract services.

Councillor Kelly questioned the actual savings of this project as the consultants will be using these savings to collect their fee. The Councillor asked why a person with the required expertise could not be hired by HRM, rather than spending \$400,000 in Year 1 of the management contract. Mr. Smith replied staff believed the idea of incremental new dollars to be spent would be the best option, based on the current financial position of HRM. Mr. Smith also noted the consultant is providing a guarantee the savings will be achieved, or they do not receive payment for their services.

Councillor McInroy suggested some of the consultant's recommendations for initial savings should be fairly easy for the Municipality to implement on its own, such as replacing cellular phones with pagers. With respect to the more detailed recommendations, the Councillor stated the Municipality may want to look at partnering with an outside firm to implement these recommendations.

Councillor Schofield expressed concern with the report and with the use of consultants.

Deputy Mayor Uteck stated there appears to be a lack of information that is causing Councillors to have difficulties with this report. The Deputy Mayor noted Council does not have the cost figures to do this in house. However, Deputy Mayor Uteck defended the use of consultants when required, as they can bring in a degree of expertise and technology in a shorter period of time which will improve the Municipality in the future.

The Deputy Mayor stated Council needs to look at a variety of opportunities, noting this is a safe one as the consultant will be paid if the savings are not obtained.

(Deputy Mayor Uteck assumed the Chair at 7:30 p.m.)

Councillor Blumenthal reiterated his concerns and objections to the overuse of consultants.

Councillor Sarto stated staff may have the knowledge and expertise required, but they do not have the time; and, therefore, he supports staff's recommendation.

MOVED by Councillors Sarto and Hendsbee that Council direct staff to issue a general call for proposals for a Management Contract, rather than negotiate with RFM directly.

Councillor Hendsbee spoke in support of the management contract, noting the cost will be minimal as it will be paid for through savings, and the time frame will be much shorter than it would be if this was to be done internally. Councillor Hendsbee inquired what information will be made available to the proponents responding to the call for proposals. Mr. Smith replied he believes the summary document contains sufficient information. However, staff will have to examine the possibility of circulating the working papers to determine if it would be fair to Rose Facilities Management Services.

Councillor Cooper inquired if analysis has been done with respect to the implications of implementing these recommendations will have on the present staff and operations as they would be reporting to an outside organization. Deputy Mayor Uteck stated this analysis has not been done, but it is not believed it will be a problem in this particular situation.

Councillor Hetherington stated he does not have difficulty with the use of consultants if they are used properly. The Councillor suggested it may not be possible to get the support from staff unless this project is headed by an impartial person from outside. In response, Mr. Meech stated one of the key issues in this matter is the history of certain practices and behaviours which sometimes are not easy to change. Mr. Meech further stated, at some point, someone in-house will have to be identified who will eventually be responsible for facilities management.

(Mayor Fitzgerald returned to the Chair at 7:45 p.m.)

Responding to questions from Councillor Hetherington, Mr. Meech stated some information regarding the financial implications of doing this in-house has been developed and this will be provided as part of the competitive information.

Councillor Fougere suggested many of the recommendations could be implemented inside with the cooperation and proper communication between the individual existing managers. The Councillor stated it is incumbent upon Council to encourage these managers to be a big part of this change, as they need to take ownership of this project for it to be successful. Councillor Fougere expressed concern that one-third of the Priority 1 recommendations require a capital investment and are indicated as not yielding any immediate positive financial impact.

Councillor Barnet shared Councillor Fougere's concerns. The Councillor stated one of his major concerns is that the consultant can come back and say the savings cannot be achieved due to interference from the Municipality. Councillor Barnet suggested staff should be asked to review the report to identify the recommendations that can be done within the Municipality, in light of the financial situation.

Mr. Meech clarified it is the intention to implement the recommendations, and he is suggesting that the implementation be from experienced outside resources as results will be obtained more quickly.

(Councillor Adams left the meeting at 7:55 p.m.)

Councillor Greenough suggested if the Terms of Reference for the Call for Proposals was brought back to a Committee of the Whole meeting for an in-depth presentation, it may be easier for Councillors to accept it. Mr. Smith suggested the Terms of Reference could be taken to the Program and Service Review Committee for discussion.

Councillor Harvey supported facilitating this project by someone from outside as the Municipality cannot afford to delay the improved services and reduced costs. The Councillor noted the Municipality is not obligated to accept any of the proposals and suggested the Call for Proposals will identify what the market has to offer.

Councillor Stone suggested the first step should be to see what current staff can do with the recommendations in-house. If necessary, a consultant can be brought in later to implement certain recommendations.

Responding to questions from Councillor Kelly, Mr. Smith stated the costs identified in the table on Page 6 of the October 27 report are incremental additional costs and do not include the current budget for buildings, which is about \$29 million.

Councillor McInroy recognized that staff does not have time to take on a lot of extra work, but suggested some of the recommendations would not require a lot of time to implement. The Councillor stated any savings achieved by implementing the

recommendations should go back to the organization or the taxpayers and not the private sector.

Councillor Rankin stated implementation is critically important and problems of background and resistance to change have prevented the implementation of a number of the straightforward recommendations which should have done a long time ago.

Councillor Cooper noted many of the recommendations can be applied to more areas of the Municipality than just Facilities Management, and suggested these could be done internally. The Councillor suggested the recommendations associated with Facilities Management should be separated from the others and a Call for Proposals issued for those recommendations only.

Mr. Meech clarified that if this project is done in-house or out-sourced, there will be a certain added cost.

Councillor Greenough suggested Council may want to immediately proceed with those recommendations that can be done at the staff level. The Councillor suggested there should be some more dialogue on this matter at the Program and Service Review Committee level.

MOVED by Councillors Greenough and Cooper that this matter be referred to the Program and Service Review Committee with the clear understanding that staff will be requested to draft the appropriate Terms of Reference and to demonstrate how this proposal is to evolve.

MOTION DEFEATED.

The vote was then taken on the main motion which read as follows:

MOVED by Councillors Sarto and Hendsbee that Council direct staff to issue a general call for proposals for a Management Contract, rather than negotiate with RFM directly.

A Recorded Vote was requested.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Those who voted in favour were: Mayor Fitzgerald, Deputy Mayor Uteck, Councillors Snow, Hendsbee, Sarto, Hetherington, Cunningham, Downey, Walker, Stone, Harvey, Rankin and Mitchell.

Those who voted against were: Councillors Cooper, McInroy, Greenough, Schofield, Blumenthal, Fougere, Barnet and Kelly.

Councillors Dooks, Hanson and Adams were absent.

The vote was 13 in favour and 8 against.

RECESS

A fifteen minute recess was taken at 8:30 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 8:45 p.m.

When the meeting reconvened, Councillor Kelly served a **Notice of Motion of Reconsideration**, seconded by Councillor McInroy, on Item 8.1 Building Management Study - Stage Two: Implementation.

9. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS

9.1 Petitions

9.1.1 Councillor Hendsbee - Paving of Foxwood Crescent, Stillwater Court, Stoney Creek Drive and Riverfront Court in Mineville

Councillor Hendsbee submitted a petition from residents of Foxwood Crescent, Stillwater Court, Stoney Creek Drive and Riverfront Court in Mineville, regarding the paving of these streets, and agreeing to have the appropriate betterment charges applied and assessed.

9.1.2 Councillor Cooper - Flooding in Humber Park

Councillor Cooper submitted a petition from residents of the Humber Park subdivision, requesting Council to thoroughly assess and secure corrective measures to rectify the longstanding problem of continuous flooding in this area; further, to refer to the study completed last year for this area on how to correct the problem of continuous flooding.

9.1.3 Councillor Cooper - Traffic Hazard #7 Highway

Councillor Cooper submitted a petition from concerned residents regarding the intersection at MacLaughlin Road, Broom Road, and Highway #7. The petition requested that the Department of Transportation install turning lanes leading to MacLaughlin Road and Broom Road, and that the speed limit be assessed in conjunction with the traffic lights presently installed from Ridgecrest to Lake Major Road.

9.1.4 Councillor Blumenthal - Re-submission of previous Petition regarding the closure of the Lady Hammond Fire Station

Councillor Blumenthal requested that a petition he originally submitted on June 24, 1997, regarding the closure of the Lady Hammond Fire Station, be resubmitted.

9.1.5 Councillor Greenough - Proposed Local Improvement Charges on the Waverley Road

Councillor Greenough submitted a petition from residents of the Waverley Road opposing the installation of curb and gutter, sidewalk and paving being charged to property owners of the Waverley Road.

10. REPORTS

10.1 MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

10.1.1 Councillor Fougere - Concern About Services to Access-A-Bus Customers

Councillors Fougere, Hetherington and Blumenthal raised concerns regarding the services for Access-A-Bus Customers. Some of the Councillors' concerns were as follows:

- An increased demand for this service
- Booking required 2 days to 2 weeks in advance
- Bookings can only be made Monday to Friday
- Recreational bookings are given the lowest priority
- The implementation process of improvements is slow
- Last minute cancellations are impeding the service
- Patients returning from medical appointments have excessively long trips back home
- On occasion, two buses arrive for one booking.

MOVED by Councillors Fougere and Hetherington that this matter be referred to staff for a report addressing the concerns raised regarding the Access-A-Bus Service.

Councillor Hendsbee expressed concern with limitations with respect to service boundaries and frequency of calls to the outer perimeters of the Municipality.

Mr. Mel Hebb, Chair, Access-A-Bus Advisory Committee, addressed Council stating the Committee is aware of all the problems stated. Mr. Hebb stated there have been a number of recent changes made to the Access-a-Bus program, such as a new computerized booking system, which will enhance the service,.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

10.1.2 Councillor Schofield - Victoria Road Overpass Light Standards

Councillor Schofield raised concerns regarding the Victoria Road overpass light standards, stating there needs to be improvements made at this intersection for safety reasons. The Councillor stated a strong message needs to be sent to the Province that this is a very dangerous situation and needs to be rectified before there is a serious accident. Councillors Cunningham and Barnet also expressed concerns regarding this matter and supported Councillor Schofield's request.

Mayor Fitzgerald agreed to meet with Councillor Schofield to visit the site and determine what can be done to solve the problem.

10.1.3 Councillor Schofield - Bus Shelter Construction

Councillor Schofield proposed that \$3,700 of the Councillors' capital projects funding be reallocated for a bus shelter in Highfield Park. The Councillor noted a bus shelter has been promised for this location for the last five years and is greatly needed.

MOVED by Councillors Schofield and Hetherington that \$3,700 of the Councillors' capital projects funding be reallocated for a bus shelter in Highfield Park.

Councillor Stone expressed concern regarding the cost figure for the bus shelter, noting the cost for bus shelters in his area was estimated at \$5,000 each. It was noted that circumstances such as terrain can affect bus shelter prices.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

10.1.4 Councillor Cunningham - Pawn Shop By-Law

Councillor Cunningham expressed concern with the proliferation of pawn shops in the downtown Dartmouth area. The Councillor noted pawn shops can be controlled by a by-law in Halifax, but not in Dartmouth. Rather than dealing with this problem through a by-law, Councillor Cunningham requested that staff provide a report regarding pawn shop controls that can be implemented through the Municipal Planning Strategy.

MOVED by Councillors Cunningham and Hendsbee that this matter be referred to staff for a report. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

10.2 CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

10.2.1 Petition - Safety at Hawthorne Street/Prince Albert Road Intersection

- A staff report prepared for David P. McKinnon, Chief of Police, regarding the above, was before Council for consideration. The report recommended that:
 1. Based on the pedestrian/vehicular traffic evaluation of September 10, 1998 and taking into account the controls already in place, this intersection does not warrant the need for a school crossing guard.
 2. Crosswalk safety talks be conducted on an annual basis at the commencement of each school year.

Councillor Cunningham noted the staff report did not address the possibility of the installation of a pedestrian signal; and, therefore, requested that the matter be referred back to staff for a supplementary report. Council agreed to the request.

**10.2.2 First Reading - By-Law T-600, Respecting Trees on Public Lands
Motion - Councillor Cunningham - Move First Reading**

- A staff report prepared for Dan English, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, regarding the above, was before Council for consideration.

MOVED by Councillors Cunningham and Blumenthal that By-Law T-600, Respecting Trees on Public Lands be given First Reading. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

10.2.3 Case 00043 - Request for Amendment to the Peninsula North Plan

- A staff report prepared for Dan English, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, regarding the above, was before Council for consideration. The report recommended that Council **not** initiate the process to amend the Peninsula North Plan as outlined in the motion of Council of September 28, 1998.

Ms. Shelley Dickey, Planner, presented the staff report.

MOVED by Councillors Fougere and Blumenthal that Council reject staff's recommendation and that the original motion of September 28, 1998 proceed, which read as follows:

"That a plan amendment process be initiated to consider the redesignation and rezoning of the area generally bounded by Almon Street, Clifton Street, North Street and Gladstone Street. The purpose of

these amendments is to promote the future development of this area for residential purposes, and for limited minor commercial uses, so that the redevelopment of this area is compatible with the existing neighbourhood, and to reduce the concentration of major commercial and industrial development in this area.”

Councillors Fougere and Blumenthal stressed the need for residential development in this area, noting there is not much land left that can be developed for residential purposes. Councillor Fougere noted there is a great deal of interest in developing residential property in this area, which Council should be encouraging and not discouraging by leaving this area zoned C2.

Councillor Downey stated he will not support any land being down zoned.

Councillor Stone spoke against the motion stating the zoning should not be changed as the current zoning was just recently approved by the former City of Halifax Council in June 1993. The Councillor noted that staff is also recommending that the zoning not be changed.

Councillor Hendsbee spoke in favour of the motion, noting residential development in this area would be beneficial to seniors due to the close proximity of services.

Councillor Cooper stated it is appropriate to support the Councillors' request, noting it is not always necessary to stay with plans originally set up.

In response to comments made by Deputy Mayor Uteck and Councillor Walker, Ms. Donna Davis-Lohnes, General Manager, Planning Services, stated staff is proposing to have a work plan, regarding regional planning, completed in about four weeks. Ms. Davis-Lohnes noted recommendations dealing with site specific amendments may not be a priority when compared to regional planning amendments. Councillor Hetherington noted priorities and requests from residents change and the MPS review should proceed.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10.2.4 HRM Flex Software

- A staff report prepared for George McLellan, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, regarding the above, was before Council for consideration.

MOVED by Councillors Greenough and Sarto that Council approve a continuation of the agreement with Morneau/Sobeco (MS) for a further two years, with an option for an additional one year.

In response to questions from Councillor Kelly, Mr. David Keefe, Manager, Compensation and Benefits, made the following comments:

- The cost of the software will be about \$25,000.
- HRM would have to hire systems people to support the software if it were to be done in-house.
- The renewal is due in February 1999.
- Staff is not planning to re-tender the benefit package this year.
- The guarantee rate period expires at the end of 1998. It will be known in the next few weeks if there will be an increase.
- Usage determines what the costs will be.
- There is no direct cost for the software as it will be funded 100 percent by the benefit plan.

Councillor Kelly suggested, if the benefit package is going to be re-tendered, it may be worthwhile to bring the software cost factor in as it moves forward to reduce overall costs. The Councillor suggested the matter be deferred pending a staff review of this point.

MOVED by Councillor Kelly that this matter be deferred pending a staff report.

There was no seconder to this motion. MOTION LOST.

The original motion was back on the floor, which read as follows:

MOVED by Councillors Greenough and Sarto that Council approve a continuation of the agreement with Morneau/Sobeco (MS) for a further two years, with an option for an additional one year. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10.2.5 HRM Approved and Outstanding Debt

- A staff report prepared for George McLellan, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, regarding the above, was before Council for consideration.

In response to a question from Councillor Barnet, Mr. Bruce Fisher, Senior Financial Consultant, stated the total net outstanding debt as of March 31, 1999 (projected) will be \$347 million.

MOVED by Councillors Greenough and Sarto that the staff report be received and filed. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Councillors Hendsbee and Cooper that the meeting extend beyond 10:00 p.m. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

10.2.6 Interim Report - Deficit Reduction

- Copies of the presentation regarding deficit reduction entitled "Managing Our Business" were circulated to Council.
- Correspondence regarding the closure of Centennial Pool was received from the following: Letter from Robert Chisholm, Leader of the Opposition to Mayor Walter Fitzgerald and to The Honourable Robert S. Harrison. Letter from Ron Stockton, NSUPE Local 13. Letter from Swim Nova Scotia Canadian Amateur Swimming Association - G. Thomas Sancton. Letter from Dr. John F. Filbee. Letter from Barry Cowling, President of Halifax Trojan Aquatic Club. E-Mails from the following: Dianne Weston, Scott Logan, Kathleen Peddle, David Duncan, Tony Thomas, Greg Hambleton, Lori-ann Veinotte, Gary Alcock, Danuta Snyder, Gill Morrow, Susan Doble, Jordan Fisk.

Mr. Ken Meech, Chief Administrative Officer, provided opening remarks with respect to the Interim Report - Deficit Reduction, stating the report will be presented this evening, but Council is not expected to make any decisions at this time. Mr. Meech noted staff believes the reductions are doable, but it is Council's decision whether or not to accept the recommendations. He suggested that Council convene next Tuesday at 1:00 p.m., as Committee of the Whole, to discuss the report in detail. Mr. Meech thanked management and staff for their suggestions, efforts and cooperation in the preparation of this report. He cautioned Council that if consideration is given to reinstating something, consideration will have to be given to reducing something else.

Mr. Reg Ridgley, Treasury, provided Council with an update as to the revised deficit based on September 30, 1998 projections, which was \$19.0 million.

With the use of Power Point, Mr. George McLellan, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, presented the Interim Report - Deficit Reductions. A summary of the proposed reductions was as follows:

Chief Administrative Officer	\$ 236,000.00
Corporate Services	619,000.00
Regional Operations	1,972,600.00
Police Services	175,000.00
Fire Services	337,000.00

Community Services	1,881,100.00
Total Departmental Reductions	\$5,220,700.00
Fiscal Services	1,970,000.00
Total Reductions	\$7,190,700.00

With these proposed reductions, Mr. McLellan stated the revised projected deficit as of October 31, 1998 would be \$11.8 million.

Mr. McLellan then highlighted the details of the proposed reductions for each department, noting further detail will be provided at the Committee of the Whole meeting.

With respect to the 1999-2000 Budget, Mr. McLellan advised the formula which will be used to set operating expenditures is as follows:

Current tax rates x 1999 assessment + non-tax revenues = Operating Budget expenditures

In summary, Mr. McLellan stated Council needs to make decision with respect to the following:

- Increase fee for street opening permits
- Bus fare increase January 1, 1999 (.10)
- Drop-off fee for small loads \$5.00
- Dartmouth waste depot
- Halifax transfer station
- Lady Hammond Road Fire Station
- Centennial Pool
- Dartmouth Heritage Museum
- Reduce scheduled bus service on specific routes

In closing the presentation, Mr. Meech noted a number of phone calls have been received regarding the proposed reductions, and stated the staff reports detailing the reductions will be provided to Council before the Committee of the Whole meeting next week.

Council agreed to hold a Committee of the Whole meeting on Tuesday, November 10, 1:00 p.m. to discuss the Interim Report - Deficit Reductions.

11. MOTIONS

11.1 Councillor Adams

This item was dealt with earlier in the meeting.

12. **ADDED ITEMS**

12.1 Councillor Rankin - Paving of Sylvania Terrace, Hyland Park

MOVED by Councillors Rankin and Barnet that a letter be sent to the Nova Scotia Department of Transportation requesting approval of paving of Sylvania Terrace, Hyland Park. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

12.2 Councillor Rankin - Paving of Nottingham Drive, Haliburton Heights

MOVED by Councillors Rankin and Hetherington that:

WHEREAS the paving of Nottingham Drive was included in the HRM/Province 50/50 cost-sharing program which was approved by HRM Council on September 8, 1998. Since Nottingham Drive in Haliburton Heights Subdivision is a school bus route, it is essential to have this road paved.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council request that the right of petition against the paving of this road be waived and the paving of Nottingham Drive be carried out as a local improvement project with 100% of HRM's cost to be recovered by frontage charge of approximately \$15.00 per foot.

Councillor Hendsbee expressed concern with the estimated frontage charge, noting it will probably be closer to \$16-\$17 per foot.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

12.3 Release of Easement Lot 4.4A1-YB2 Waterfront Drive, Bedford

- A staff report prepared for George McLellan, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, regarding the above, was before Council for consideration.

MOVED by Councillors Kelly and Rankin that Council approve the release of easement SE-4.4E over lands of Provident Development Inc. for the nominal fee of \$1 plus all taxes and adjustments that may be applicable. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

12.4 Councillor Barnet - Beaver Bank Road Bridge

Councillor Barnet expressed concerns regarding the condition of the Beaver Bank Road Bridge, noting it is the only way in and out of the community with the exception of a long drive to Hants County.

MOVED by Councillors Barnet and Greenough that a letter be sent to the Nova Scotia Department of Transportation inquiring when the existing steel and concrete structure over the bridge on the Beaver Bank Road will be repaired, and to inquire about what contingency plan is in place in the event of a catastrophic failure of the structure. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

12.5 Councillor Barnet - Road Construction - Beaver Bank Road

Councillor Barnet expressed concern with the current road construction taking place on the Beaver Bank Road. The Councillor requested that a letter be sent to the contractor performing the work to ensure that commitments are fulfilled with respect to the construction. Councillor Barnet noted the contractor has not restored the road surface to a reasonable standard, and concerns have been expressed by residents with respect to safety issues. The Councillor also noted the contractor has diverted traffic into subdivision streets against what was indicated to them by the Traffic Authority.

MOVED by Councillors Barnet and Hetherington that a letter be sent to the contractor performing the construction work on the Beaver Bank Road to address the concerns raised. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

12.6 Labour Relations - New Collective Agreement Rehab Centre

- This matter was discussed during the In Camera session held prior to the Regular Session.

MOVED by Councillors Sarto and Cooper that the recommendation adopted In Camera be ratified. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

12.7 Appointments to Boards and Committees

- A report from the Membership Selection Committee, regarding appointments to Boards and Committees, was before Council for consideration.

As there was some concern raised regarding the report, the following motion was passed.

MOVED by Councillors Greenough and Blumenthal that this matter be referred back to the Membership Selection Committee. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

13. NOTICES OF MOTION

13.1 Councillor Walker

TAKE NOTICE that at the next regular Council Session to be held on November 10, 1998, I intend to introduce the following motion:

“That Administrative Order Number One be amended to ensure that all members of Council listed to speak on a topic will have the opportunity to do so before a motion to refer or a deferral is entertained from the Chair.”

13.2 Councillor Kelly

TAKE NOTICE that at the next regular Council Session to be held on November 10, 1998, I intend to move a **Motion of Rescission** with respect to the following motion passed on October 27 with respect to snow and ice control program standards:

MOVED by Councillors Snow and Dooks that the proposed Snow and Ice Control Program Service Standards, as attached to the staff report dated October 21, 1998, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

14. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Uteck and Councillor Blumenthal that the meeting adjourn at 11:15 p.m. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Vi Carmichael
Municipal Clerk