

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES March 8, 2000

PRESENT:

Deputy Mayor John Cunningham
Councillors: Stephen Streach (1:00 p.m.)
Gordon R. Snow
Keith Colwell
Ron Cooper
Harry McInroy (1:40 p.m.)
Jack Greenough
Condo Sarto (11:00 a.m.)
Bruce Hetherington
Clint Schofield
Graham L. Downey
Sue Uteck
Sheila Fougere
Russell Walker
Bill Stone
Graham Read
Stephen D. Adams (11:00 a.m.)
David Merrigan (9:55 a.m.)
Bob Harvey
Peter Kelly
Reg Rankin
Jack Mitchell

ABSENT:

Mayor Walter Fitzgerald
Councillor Jerry Blumenthal (Regrets)

STAFF MEMBERS:

Mr. Ken Meech, Chief Administrative Officer
Mr. Wayne Anstey, Municipal Solicitor
Ms. Patti Halliday, Assistant Municipal Clerk

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Deputy Mayor Cunningham called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m., to continue the debate of the 2000/2001 Operating Budget.

1. CONTINUATION - 2000/2001 OPERATING BUDGET

- The following items were circulated to the Committee:
 - Correspondence from Gordon Roussel, Financial Coordinator, Fire and Emergency Service, responding to questions raised at the March 2, 2000 Committee of the Whole meeting.
 - A Summary of Net Expenditures for Halifax Regional Municipality.
 - A Breakdown of Selected General Ledger Objects by Business Unit.

Ms. Dale MacLennan, Director, Finance, noted there were a number of items from the previous meeting for which the Committee requested additional information. This information is currently being collected. Written responses will be circulated to the Committee throughout the day, and questions regarding business units that are yet to come forward, will be answered when those areas are discussed.

1.1 Halifax Regional Library

Ms. Judith Hare, Chief Executive Officer, Halifax Regional Library, gave an overview of the 2000-2001 Operating Budget for the Halifax Regional Library, which included the following priorities:

- Develop a Tantallon Branch of 12,000 sq.ft. leased space to service a population of 22,000.
- Improve the information technology infrastructure at all community service outlets by installing high speed data lines and replacing obsolete equipment.
- Increase the materials collection budget to improve the quantity and quality at all community service outlets.
- Introduce Sunday service hours at Bedford and Dartmouth North libraries.

With respect to the Library Board's priorities, Mr. Ken Meech, Chief Administrative Officer stated, if Council supports the priority of the Tantallon Branch, there will need to be a \$1.1 million adjustment to the Capital Budget to include it. If this is the case, staff will revisit the budget and come back to Council will advice as to how it should be addressed.

Responding to a question of Councillor Uteck regarding the Spring Garden Road Library, Ms. Hare stated the Library Board has not discussed the future of this branch since Council's motion to defer a decision on this matter until 2001-2002. However, the Board

is currently updating its strategic plan and the Spring Garden Road Library will be discussed in the next few weeks.

Councillor Colwell raised the following questions with respect to bookmobile service:

- What actions are being taken to examine alternative ways to deliver materials to those in the rural areas?
- What is the cost per book borrowed for the bookmobile compared to a fixed library?
- How many books are borrowed from the bookmobile on a yearly basis, and what would be the cost comparison between using courier service versus the bookmobile.

Ms. Hare stated she would have to report back to the Councillor with respect to specific figures, but she noted that since amalgamation bookmobile usage has increased 25 percent. Ms. Hare stated the distances between communities in the rural areas is so great that building branches would not be practical, and the bookmobile is still an effective method to deliver library service to these areas. Ms. Hare stated Books by Mail is another service provided by the Library.

Responding to a question of Councillor Kelly regarding the Bedford Library, Ms. Hare stated the Library is working on a survey for residents using the branch to determine what they want. The Board is looking at opportunities to provide better service to the residents of Bedford. There has been no decision to vacate or renew the lease, and no formal request has been made to the Board to make changes to Bedford. Ms. Hare suggested the Board may do a short term renewal of the lease if not enough time is available to explore options for alternative locations before the lease is due.

Councillor Harvey spoke in support of the Library's priorities, in particular, the Tantallon Branch. The Councillor stated there is a great need for a Library in this area, as it has received a 50 percent increase in population and has the highest regional assessment growth. Councillor Harvey noted that 75 percent of the capital funding would be for the book collection, which would immediately become part of the electronic catalogue available to all of HRM.

MOVED by Councillors Harvey and Mitchell that Council request staff to come back during Capital Budget deliberations with options to allow for the construction of a Tantallon Branch.

Councillor Rankin spoke in favour of the motion, and asked for Council's support of the Tantallon Branch.

Responding to a question of Councillor Downey, Ms. Hare stated Canada Trust has signed a new agreement regarding the release and administering of the Keshen Trust Fund. The design phase of the new Library is almost finished, and it is anticipated that a presentation will be made to Council in a few weeks. The intention is to go to tender around May or June, and into construction by September 1, 2000. Ms. Hare stated there is no danger of losing the trust fund, unless the new building is not constructed.

In response to an inquiry of Councillor Downey regarding the future of the Spring Garden Road Library, Ms. Hare stated there have been a number of repairs made to the building over the last fiscal year and some are in progress. A study was done on the building that provides cost projections to fully fix the building and make it more functional. Ms. Hare reiterated that the Board has not discussed the future of this branch since the Council deferral. Councillor Downey requested a report from the Library Board regarding the future of the Spring Garden Road Library, and stated he hopes the building can be made safe and kept in the current location. Deputy Mayor Cunningham stated the Councillor can be kept up to date as the Board addresses this issue.

Councillor Colwell inquired about past discussions regarding the possibility of the libraries working in the schools rather than having separate school libraries. The Councillor inquired if this is possible or still being considered. Ms. Hare stated this is a complex issue, and noted she has written a position paper on this issue which she would be pleased to send to the Councillor. Ms. Hare stated the Library Board does not receive any money from the School Board to provide service to the school population. She suggested, if there was a transfer payment, the idea may be more attractive. In terms of sharing facilities, Ms. Hare stated the most serious problem is that the library serves all ages, which would raise security issues within the schools. Councillor Colwell suggested an outside separate entrance could resolve any security concerns, and stated anything that can be done to explore this opportunity in areas where it could work, is worthwhile exploring, as the schools are very under-utilized. Ms. Hare stated consideration was given to locating the Tantallon branch in the P3 School, but the cost comparisons were not favourable to HRM.

Councillor Uteck stated she could not support the motion, and expressed concern with the future of the Spring Garden Road Library if the Tantallon Library is approved. The Councillor stated \$832,000 has already been put into repairs to the Spring Garden Road Library and there is no room for expansion. The Councillor further stated that the building will become too expensive to maintain.

Councillor Schofield spoke in support of the Tantallon Library and inquired about Sunday hours for the Dartmouth North Library. Ms. Hare responded that if the budget is approved, Sunday hours will be extended to both the Dartmouth North and Bedford Libraries.

Speaking in support of the motion, Councillor Mitchell stated the Tantallon Library will likely take pressure off the Spring Garden Road Library. The Councillor further stated that the library is very much needed in the Tantallon area due to the population growth.

Councillor Read noted the Spring Garden Road Library also serves many people who work in the downtown area.

Councillor Cooper spoke in support of the Tantallon Library stated it is needed in the area.

Councillor Merrigan suggested staff should bring back information to Council regarding the impact a Tantallon branch would have on future Operating Budgets as well as Capital Budgets.

Councillor Harvey assured Council that the needs of the Spring Garden Road Library are uppermost in the minds of the Library Board, and the great attachment to the site and building has become apparent during discussions over the last few years.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

1.2 Parks and Recreational Services

Ms. Karen MacTavish, Director, Parks and Recreational Services, provided an overview of the Operating Budget for Parks and Recreational Services.

Councillor Colwell spoke about the lack of playground equipment in District 3, noting the North Preston Recreation Centre needs to be demolished due to health hazards and structural problems. The Councillor stated HRM needs to make a major investment in recreational facilities in North Preston and take a pro-active approach working with the community. Councillor Colwell invited members of Council to take a drive through North Preston to see the lack of recreational facilities. The Councillor stressed the importance of trying to come up with the funding and resources to help address the needs of this community.

Responding to a question of Councillor Kelly, Mr. Dennis Huck, Regional Coordinator, Recreation Facilities, stated four arenas have had new ventilation systems installed, and maintenance schedules have been developed to insure ice making machines are serviced on a regular basis. In response to an additional question of the Councillor inquiring about the funding for lifeguards if the new Bedford Lions project is completed and opens in late summer, Ms. MacTavish stated the budget will need to be examined to see where resources can be reallocated to provide for this.

Mr. Stephen King, Manager, Parks and Natural Services, responded to questions of Councillor Schofield regarding field maintenance, stating there should be improvements seen this year.

Ms. MacTavish responded to questions of Councillor Schofield regarding the acquisition of playground equipment, stating, as part of Alignment 2000, there will be some improvements the first year which will continue thereafter.

Councillor Schofield spoke in support of Councillor Colwell's earlier comments regarding the needs of North Preston, and suggested a committee could be developed to work with the community.

Responding to a question of Councillor Greenough regarding user fees for sports fields, Ms. MacTavish stated there is a greater understanding this year of the purpose of the fees and why they are needed; however, there is not a greater level of satisfaction with respect to fields. Mr. King stated similar fees are being examined for this year, and the classification of the fields reflects the user fees. Councillor Greenough stated it would be beneficial for Council to have a presentation in the early spring regarding the adjustments and application of user fees to give Councillors a better understanding of the matter. Mr. King agreed that Parks and Recreational Services could make such a presentation.

In response to questions of Councillor Cooper regarding major facilities, Mr. Dan English, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, stated the Metro Centre has a different agreement with the Municipality than the other major facilities, and, therefore, the Municipality has different obligations. If there is a deficit at the Metro Centre, the HRM is required to cover it, which is not the case for the other major facilities whose agreements call for a breakeven position. Mr. English noted that facilities are part of the Capital Budget and will be discussed further during deliberation of that portion of the budget.

Responding to questions of Councillor Cooper regarding sports fields, Mr. King stated Parks and Recreation is proposing some reinvestment in fields this year, and all operations will be reviewed to see where other efficiencies can be gained. The Councillor suggested a definitive program needs to be established to bring these facilities back to where they should be in a timely manner.

Councillor Walker inquired about the status of the sports field in Clayton Park, to which Mr. Jim Naugler, Regional Coordinator, Recreation Facilities, responded that it will be completed in the fall of this year.

Councillor Stone stated there is a need for a trail system in the Mainland Common, and suggested some trail funding should be used in this area. Mr. King stated this would be considered as part of the Capital Budget. The Councillor also expressed concern with

graffiti on playground equipment, to which Mr. King responded that playground maintenance is a top priority reflected in the Business Plan.

Councillor Read stated there will be a tremendous influx and demand for small boat launch facilities during the Tall Ships 2000. The Councillor inquired where will people be able to park their vehicles and boat trailers, and suggested the possibility of the Municipality charging for parking at Seaview Park. Mr. King agreed to address this with the appropriate staff.

Councillor Sarto requested that staff look into resolving the drainage problem on the tot lot on Cranberry Crescent. The Councillor also expressed concern with the debris and garbage problem on the six acres of land between Cranberry Crescent and Wildwood Boulevard, and requested that staff try to clean up this area. Councillor Sarto stated he would be willing to accompany staff to the site to show them the location of the problem.

Councillor Mitchell expressed concern with the recreation area rate funding for District 23 being used for safety fencing, and requested that staff examine this situation.

Councillor Cooper echoed Councillor Colwell's concerns regarding the Preston, Lake Loon and Cherry Brook communities, and suggested a meeting should be arranged with Mr. Meech, Councillor Colwell and himself, to see if it is possible to embark on a program to address the needs of those communities. Mr. Meech agreed to the Councillor's suggestion.

Deputy Mayor Cunningham thanked staff for their presentation.

1.3 Public Works and Transportation

Mr. Meech reviewed the modifications to the base budget for Public Works and Transportation.

Mr. Kulvinder Dhillon, Director, Engineering and Transportation Services, provided an overview of the Operating Budget for Public Works and Transportation.

Councillor Walker requested a listing of proposed chip sealed streets and RA-5 traffic lights. Councillor Harvey requested a list of gravel roads to be paved and cost shared with the residents. Mr. Dhillon stated this information will be provided during the Capital Budget debate.

Mr. Dhillon responded to questions of Councillor Harvey regarding enforcement of the lot grading by-law.

Responding to a question of Councillor Kelly regarding the fish hatchery pumping station, Mr. Dhillon stated once the matter of the fire has been settled with the insurance companies and solicitors, the appropriate work will be carried out. Staff is seeking legal advice regarding this matter, and a staff report with further information will be forthcoming to Council.

In response to a question of Councillor Kelly regarding night flashing of traffic lights on the Bedford Highway, Mr. David McCusker, Manager, Traffic and Transportation Services, stated staff is working on a policy to apply night flashing consistently across the Municipality. He stated the traffic lights on the Bedford Highway can be reviewed to see if they meet the necessary standards for night flashing.

Councillor Colwell extended praise to staff and stated he would like to see HRM taking over more responsibility of streets and roads in District 3.

Councillor Merrigan expressed concern with snow removal on Sackville Drive and Beaver Bank Road, noting the municipal/provincial responsibility boundary is in the middle of these two roads. The Councillor stated the municipal sections receive better snow removal service than the provincial sections. Mr. Dhillon stated discussions have taken place with senior staff of the Department of Transportation to make the transition on these roads longer, so there is not such a sudden change. The Province is also examining a request from the Municipality to provide better snow removal service on these main roads.

With respect to the service exchange agreement with the Province, Mr. Dhillon stated the Municipality has the opportunity every three years to expand the boundary with the Department of Transportation and negotiations will likely commence this summer.

Responding to a question of Councillor Schofield regarding sidewalk snow removal, Mr. Phil Cochrane, Manager, Streets and Roads, stated there have been a number of new assignments of staff with the new collective agreement, and some do not yet have the same level of experience as some of the other snow and ice removal employees. Councillor Schofield stated there needs to be some improvement in this area, as he has received a number of complaints.

Councillor Kelly expressed concern with the amount of funding in the budget for wall maintenance.

Mr. Cochrane and Mr. Dhillon responded to questions of Councillor Cooper regarding the expansion of street litter basket service, and stated a report with costs can be provided if Council so wishes. The Councillor suggested the criteria for street litter baskets should be examined.

Mr. Dhillon and Mr. Larry Drew, Manager, Technical and Underground, responded to questions of Councillor Cooper regarding street lights. Mr. Meech stated it has been brought to the attention of Nova Scotia Power that the Municipality is not satisfied with the service arrangement between NSPC and HRM, and staff is awaiting a response.

Councillor Snow expressed concern regarding the use of gray wash sand, noting the problems it creates with lawns and damage to cars. The Councillor inquired why red sand could not be used instead. Mr. Cochrane stated the gray wash sand performs better in ice storms, as it does not wash off and is heat activated.

Councillor Hetherington inquired about the possibility of HRM taking over responsibility of street lights from Nova Scotia Power Corporation. Mr. Dhillon replied this has been explored in the past and can be reviewed again with a report provided to Council.

Councillor Hetherington reported on a problem with a crumbling retaining wall at the corner of Dustan Street and Rodney Road, and requested that staff address this concern. The Councillor also noted a concern with flooding problems from a loop in the sewer located 50-100 feet away from the intersection of MacRae Street and Summit Heights, and suggested staff could look at this in conjunction with the reconstruction of Summit Heights.

RECESS

A one hour recess was taken at 12:00 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

Mr. Cochrane responded to questions of Councillor Sarto regarding snow removal equipment, and stated this will be reviewed at the end of the winter season in preparation for next year.

Responding to a question of Councillor Cooper regarding no traffic lights in Cole Harbour from Forest Hills Parkway to Bissett Road, Mr. McCusker stated traffic signals are only installed under national warrants. The difficulty is the development pattern that has occurred on roads such as these, as the traffic is not focussed in one or two distinct locations where signals can be more appropriately provided. Councillor Cooper stated is unfortunate that the area was developed in this manner, but the problem needs to be resolved, and requested that staff re-examine this for a possible solution.

Councillor Kelly stated fuel increases in this department, as well as others, do not appear to be in line with what they should be, and suggested this should be re-adjusted.

In response to a question of Councillor Hetherington regarding a Shearwater connector road, Mr. Dhillon stated it is his understanding that this issue will be examined through the regional planning exercise. The Councillor inquired if there have been any discussions

with the Department of Transportation regarding the Portland Street/Circumferential overchange. Mr. Dhillon responded that a joint committee has been set up between HRM and the Department of Transportation to discuss this as well as other HRM issues. The Councillor asked that he be kept informed of any future discussion regarding this particular intersection.

Responding to concerns expressed by Councillor Hetherington regarding works staff training, Mr. Dhillon stated some funding for training has been restored in this year's budget. Mr. McCusker responded to concerns expressed by the Councillor regarding the speed limit on Cole Harbour Road and the overpass on Pleasant Street.

Councillor Colwell requested that staff commence discussion with the Department of Transportation regarding the possibility of another entrance to Highway 107 in the Keltic Gardens area to help alleviate traffic problems.

Deputy Mayor Cunningham thanked staff for their presentation.

1.4 Regional Police

Mr. Meech reviewed the modifications to the base budget for Police Services.

Police Chief David McKinnon gave an overview of the Operating Budget for Police Services. Chief McKinnon noted a correction in the budget document on Page 174, stating the number of civilians should read 80.5.

Councillor Kelly expressed concern with the Police Services complement, stating there are currently 40 officers less than what was in place at the time of amalgamation. The Councillor stated he would like to see a definitive plan in terms of recouping some of these resources. In response, Chief McKinnon stated there is no request for sworn personnel this year, as there are eight staff members returning from secondments to the Province last year, and two more are in the final year of a five year federal government contract commitment.

(Councillor McInroy took his place at the meeting at 1:40 p.m.)

Chief McKinnon stated, as part of the Business Plan, he will be coming to Council next year requesting ten additional staff for the specific purpose of targeting repeat offenders, and the establishment of complaint cars. An additional 7-10 personnel will be requested in the following year. Chief McKinnon stated that the decision was made to pursue technology and business process improvements this year.

Councillor Kelly stated he would like to have further debate on this issue and possible alternatives to reallocate funding in this budget to provide additional police personnel.

Responding to a question of Councillor Walker regarding increased police visibility, Chief McKinnon stated a change is being made in the method of service delivery on Gottingen Street. The community office is being closed and a village constable program will be implemented in its place. Councillor Walker requested that the concept of a village constable be expanded in future years to the Clayton Park area.

Councillor Schofield spoke in support of any opportunity to hire additional police officers.

Responding to a question of Councillor Cooper, Supt. Stan Ferguson, RCMP, stated funding is in place to the end of March 2001 for the community constable program in the Lake Loon/Cherry Brook/Preston areas.

(Councillor Stone took his place at the meeting at 1:50 p.m.)

In response to concerns raised by Councillor Downey regarding increased police protection in the downtown and Spring Garden Road areas, Chief McKinnon stated Insp. Stephen Sykes meets regularly with the Downtown Halifax Business Commission. A recent letter has been received from the Spring Garden Road Merchants Association expressing concern with the removal of the beat officer on a couple of occasions, and a meeting will be arranged in the near future to discuss this with them.

Chief McKinnon responded to questions of Councillor Walker regarding school crossing guards. The Councillor stated he would like to see the hourly wage for school crossing guards raised. Chief McKinnon suggested a staff report could be brought back to Council, in conjunction with the Chief Administrative Officer's Office, as to what adjustments should, or could, occur in the future. Mr. George McLellan, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, noted there are no adjustments proposed for the next twelve months. Councillor Walker stated he would like to have a report regarding the budget for next year so the matter can be examined in the future.

Deputy Mayor Cunningham thanked Chief McKinnon for his presentation.

1.5 R.C.M.P.

Mr. Meech stated there were no modifications to the base budget for the R.C.M.P., and the issue is really what the final billing will be from the Province, which could be from \$78,000 - \$83,000 per officer. Supt. Stan Ferguson stated the exact figure probably will not be known until mid-March.

Councillor Streach inquired about housing for the resident RCMP officer in Upper Musquodoboit. Supt. Ferguson stated the per capita cost for RCMP services does not include housing, which was previously included in the residency policing policy. Councillor Streach noted efforts are being made to find housing for the resident officer, and some questions and concerns have been raised with respect to possible perception of subsidization of the RCMP if the Municipality provides some financial assistance towards this housing. The Councillor inquired how much funding could the RCMP put forward towards this issue to which Supt. Ferguson responded that \$500 per month would probably be the maximum.

Councillor Kelly suggested the possibility of having HRM Police Services, RCMP, and EMS under one operation should be explored in the future.

Supt. Ferguson responded to questions of Councillor Kelly regarding the RCMP complement. The Councillor requested that the Chief Administrative Officer meet with the RCMP to discuss their Business Plan before additional staffing is ruled out. Mr. Meech stated consideration of the RCMP request was taken into account, and given the risk in terms of the cost of the RCMP services this year, it was concluded that the Municipality was not in a position to recommend any additional complement. Councillor Kelly stated he would like to have further consideration and debate given to the issue of additional policing personnel.

MOVED by Councillors Kelly and Walker that staff be directed to review the budget to look for other areas to take funding from to provide for five additional officers for HRM Police Services and four additional officers for the RCMP.

Supt. Ferguson responded to questions of Councillor Walker regarding police complement.

With respect to the resident officer housing in District 1, Mr. George McLellan, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, stated if HRM were to make a financial contribution towards this cost, he would advise that this not be covered by an area rate as it is a change in the level of service. Mr. Meech added that policing is a general service that should be available to all residents at some standard and should be paid for through the general tax rate.

Speaking against the motion, Councillor Greenough stated it is not supported by the position of senior staff of the RCMP or Police Services. Councillor Harvey echoed Councillor Greenough's comments. Councillor McInroy also spoke against the motion stating it is premature at this time.

Responding to a question of Councillor Merrigan, Supt. Ferguson stated the current ratio of officers to population is about 1:915, and he would like to see this further reduced in the future to 1:700.

Speaking against the motion, Councillor Streach stated he sees no problems in the rural areas with respect to RCMP coverage. With respect to the resident officer in the Musquodoboit Valley, the Councillor stated this is not a new position. The current officer is retiring and has purchased the house, which has created the requirement for a new house.

Mr. Meech stated a business plan dealing with the policing requirements across HRM needs to be developed, and funding allocations based on this plan.

Closing the debate, Councillor Kelly stated it has been an on-going request to have a defined plan to recapture the former police complement. The Councillor stated he has spoken to two members of the Board of Police Commissioners, and they believe there is a need for additional policing both in terms of HRM Police and RCMP. Councillor Kelly also stated the public has a certain expectation with regard to policing service. The Councillor stated policing is an area that Council needs to review and potentially reallocate funding to meet the needs and expectations of the public.

Deputy Mayor Cunningham called for the question on the motion on the floor.

MOTION PUT AND DEFEATED.

Deputy Mayor Cunningham thanked Supt. Ferguson for his comments.

1.6 Shared Services

Mr. Meech reviewed the modifications to the base budget for Shared Services.

Ms. Geri Kaiser, General Manager, Shared Services, gave an overview of the Operating Budget for Shared Services.

As there were no questions from members of Council, Deputy Mayor Cunningham thanked Ms. Kaiser for her presentation.

1.7 Solid Waste Services

Mr. Meech reviewed the modifications to the base budget for Solid Waste Services.

Responding to a question of Councillor Colwell regarding weekly summer pick-up of the green carts, Mr. Jim Bauld, Operations Coordinator, Waste Resources, stated last fall all contractors were requested to provide a quotation for weekly organics collection from May to the end of September. The cost to do this for all eight collection areas would be

approximately \$1.25 million. Councillor Colwell suggested this is an area where additional money should be spent as it is a major problem in the summer.

With respect to questions of Councillor Colwell regarding household hazardous waste management, Mr. Bauld stated the average cost per day for a mobile depot is \$30,000. Mr. Bauld further noted there was a recent Council decision to write a letter to the Minister of the Environment seeking support for having the Enviro Depots accepting waste paint, which would be much more convenient for residents throughout all of HRM.

Responding to a question of Councillor Stone regarding waste collection for apartments and condominiums, Mr. Bauld stated the organic source separation program has been implemented for 50 percent of HRM condominium properties, and it is expected the remaining buildings will be included after this year.

Councillor Stone expressed concern with the curb side theft of recyclable materials. In response, Mr. Bauld stated each region has at least three by-law enforcement officers that are available to address this problem, where in the past there was only one.

Responding to a suggestion of Councillor Merrigan that a vehicle with divided compartments could be used to pick up the three streams of waste, Mr. Brian Smith, Director, Business Operations, stated that once one compartment is filled the vehicle would have to leave the route and return to the facility, which would not be efficient.

Councillor Uteck stated she will be requesting two special pick-ups, one in September and one in April, to help alleviate the garbage problem with the university students moving in and out of their apartments. Mr. Bauld stated attempts are being made to increase student awareness of the collection schedule, and suggested there is some concern that the promotion of a special collection will be a disincentive for enforcement and waste management.

Councillor Cooper spoke in support of increased service for the disposal of household hazardous waste. Mr. Smith stated HRM far exceeds any other municipality east of Quebec City in what it does with respect to household hazardous waste.

Due to the time factor and prior commitments of some Councillors, it was agreed that the meeting should adjourn until 9:00 a.m. tomorrow morning to complete the discussion regarding Solid Waste and to continue deliberation of the remaining Operating Budget and Capital Budget.

**MOVED by Councillors Walker and Cooper that the meeting adjourn at 3:35 p.m.
MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Patti Halliday
Assistant Municipal Clerk