

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
MINUTES  
MARCH 20, 2000

PRESENT: Mayor Walter R. Fitzgerald  
Deputy Mayor John Cunningham  
Councillors: Steve Streach  
Gordon R. Snow  
Keith Colwell  
Ron Cooper  
Harry McInroy (morning)  
Jack Greenough  
Condo Sarto  
Bruce Hetherington (morning)  
Clint Schofield  
Jerry Blumenthal  
Graham Downey  
Sue Uteck (morning)  
Sheila Fougere  
Russell Walker  
Bill Stone  
Graham Read (morning)  
David Merrigan  
Robert Harvey  
Peter Kelly  
Reg Rankin  
Jack Mitchell

ABSENT: Councillor Stephen Adams

STAFF: Mr. Ken Meech, Chief Administrative Officer  
Ms. Julia Horncastle, Assistant Municipal Clerk

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Fitzgerald called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

**2. CONTINUATION - 2000/2001 CAPITAL BUDGET**

**BUSINESS PARKS**

Councillor Uteck requested information be provided to Council on the total allocation for downtown Halifax.

In response to Mayor Fitzgerald regarding the allocation for Burnside, Mr. Tom Rath, General Manager, Real Estate Services, advised there is interest in expansion in Burnside Park and the cost of developing the land can be fully recovered from the sale of property. He advised the situation in Bayer's Lake differs in that in the areas that are not serviced the development costs are about 2-3 times what could be received from the sale of those properties.

Councillor Hetherington suggested an Industrial Commission be set up to work with the partnerships and business communities.

In response to Councillor Snow, Mr. Rath advised there have been no sales in the Aerotech Park this past year, advising the Land Use By-law governing the use of the park was written specifically for the aerospace industry. He advised staff is investigating an amendment to the By-law to broaden the scope of permitted uses, noting staff is in discussion with the new airport authority with regards to expanding the number of lots that have direct access to the runway.

Councillor Snow requested information be provided on what it is costing to run the Aerotech Park. Mr. Meech noted the infrastructure in the park also serves the airport.

**COMMUNITY AND PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT**

Mr. English advised projects in this section relate to commitments through the oversizing policy for infrastructure in Glenbourne which was an inherited commitment from the former City of Halifax. He advised allowances for further cost sharing on oversized streets and sewers was also included.

In response to Councillor Walker, Mr. English stated there is approximately \$1 million that will be required in future budgets to fulfil commitments. On further question, Mr. English advised this budget contemplates cash payment but confirmed that lands will be exchanged for oversizing streets and sewer in some instances.

### **DISTRICT CAPITAL**

Mr. Dan English, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, advised this is an amount allocated to each District for Capital purposes, noting staff is in the process of developing a policy for use of these funds.

### **LIGHT AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT**

No questions.

### **FLEET**

Mr. English advised the amount under this item was for fleet replacement through transit, parks, fire and police.

In response to Councillor Schofield, Deputy Police Chief Barss advised under the three year business plan a decision was made to install the fingerprint transmission system in this fiscal year and the fingerprint scanning system will be installed in two years time. On further question, Council was advised the disclosure system will removed the photocopying necessity by moving information to electronic digital CD Rom capability.

### **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

No questions.

### **ROADS**

Councillor Snow advised roads in his District that have been successfully petitioned for a number of years but as yet have not been paved. The Councillor suggested the roads be paved by Halifax Regional Municipality and the residents share be charged to them after the paving is completed.

Councillor Blumenthal requested an amount of \$15,000 be added to address a safety concern on the corner of Devonshire and Roome Street. He advised he would cost share the project from his District Capital allocation.

Councillor Sarto noted Dorothea Drive is recommended for renewal and requested staff examine Guysborough Avenue from Woodlawn Avenue to Spikedard and give it a higher priority for this fiscal year.

Councillor Uteck requested that South Street from Robie to the Dalplex be examined as well as Vernon Street and Point Pleasant Drive. In response, Mr. Dhillon advised although

Point Pleasant Drive was approved two years ago it is on hold until a decision is made with regards to piping for the Harbour Solutions project.

Councillor Uteck requested Belmont on the Arm be examined with respect to curb improvement.

Councillor Walker requested Frederick Avenue from Hillcrest to Gesner be examined.

Councillor Cooper advised busses are having problems going around the southern corner of Forest Hills Parkway and Flying Cloud Drive and requested staff investigate whether this corner could be configured to accommodate the busses.

Councillor Hetherington requested consideration be given to widening the intersection of Acadia Street and Pleasant Street at the location of Moirs Plant.

Councillor Hetherington requested the listing of proposed sidewalks for the upcoming year be provided to Council.

In response to Councillor Kelly, Mr. Dhillon advised that there is an amount of \$2 million for those roads as a result of a successful petition.

Councillor Rankin requested the remaining portion of St. Georges Boulevard be examined for paving.

Councillor Harvey advised there was a 100% petition for Windburn Court and asked this street be considered.

### **SEWERS**

In response to Councillor Uteck, Mr. Dhillon advised the pollution prevention fund is used to source control an infiltration reduction in the system. He advised the funds shown for this year are to undertake enforcement and monitoring of the source control system.

### **SIDEWALKS**

In response to Councillor Kelly, Mr. Dhillon advised the approach being taken with regards to sidewalks for the P3 schools is that the developer has some responsibility to provide the sidewalks and crosswalks.

Councillor Rankin requested consideration be given for a sidewalk to the St. Margarets Bay Road in the area of the P3 school.

Councillor Schofield requested the sidewalk project for Mitchell be moved to Elmwood.

### **TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENTS**

Councillor Rankin requested consideration be given to an off ramp or lane on the south side of the Hammonds Plains Road from the Kingswood entrance to the Kearney Lake/Hammonds Plains exchange and a storage lane going up the Hammonds Plains Road from the Kearney Lake/Hammonds Plains interchange.

In response to Deputy Mayor Cunningham, Mr. Dhillon confirmed there will be a traffic signal at the intersection of Victoria Road as a result of the realignment of Victoria and Nantucket.

Councillor Sarto advised the problem of traffic queuing on Dorothea Drive is increasing and requested signaling and timing of this intersection be examined.

Councillor Kelly requested a list be provided on traffic light installations showing where they will be located, which ones are close and those having problems. He further requested warrant counts be done on an annual basis.

### **SOLID WASTE**

No questions.

### **METRO CENTRE**

Mr. English advised the main priority is the replacement of the concert stage, advising the Metro Centre is prepared to take the \$280,000 and revise their priorities such that they would be able to use part of those monies, staying within the same total envelope, to replace the concert stage. He advised HRM is required to cover their operating deficit and, if they incur a surplus, HRM is entitled to that surplus.

In response to Councillor Cooper, Mr. English advised the agreement in place with the Metro Centre specifies that if the Metro Centre incurs losses, HRM incurs them through the Metro Centre Operating Deficit; therefore, it would be to the benefit of HRM to provide certain capital costs.

Councillor Cooper requested a breakdown of major facilities upgrades be provided to Council.

In response to Councillor Greenough, Mr. English advised the Municipality provides an operating grant and collects taxes from the Metro Centre.

(Council recessed at 12:30 p.m.)

(Council reconvened at 1:30 p.m.)

### **3. WRAP UP ON CAPITAL BUDGET**

Councillor Colwell requested staff look at adding \$60,000 to the budget to be used to undertake a full study, including a feasibility study and needs assessment and a conceptual plan, for a new recreational facility in North Preston.

Councillor Stone requested examination be given to the provision of funds from the sale of land account being allocated to develop the roadway into the Mainland Commons. He suggested tax revenue from the proposed sports dome could be used to develop this road. He advised it has been shown that without this road there are no opportunities for advancement in this commons.

### **4. REVIEW OF THE OPERATING BUDGET**

Mr. McLellan, with the aid of an overhead presentation, presented the summary of requested changes and possible adjustments to meet these requested changes.

In response to Councillor Blumenthal, Ms. Judith Hare, Halifax Regional Library, advised one of the reasons the library is supporting the reallocation of funds to develop a library in Tantallon is that a large portion of the capital costs for Tantallon are materials and these materials will be accessible to all other branches throughout the system.

Councillor Blumenthal expressed concern that this reallocation of funds would take away from the build up of new materials in other branches.

Councillor Rankin requested Council support the library proposal.

Mr. McLellan referenced the Reserve Business Cases and advised these will be presented to Council formally in the next few weeks. He stated that the amounts in the reserves would be justified with policies outlining the terms whereby funds would be allocated to or accessed from these accounts.

In response to Councillor Kelly as to how the outstanding planning issues can be addressed, Mr. English advised a work plan will be coming to Council.

Mr. Meech advised there is a need to identify all those streets, over and above those put forward, which are now gravel and at some point will need asphalt or paving and reconstruction. He suggested a listing of these streets be developed over the next number

of months.

5. **RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE 2000/2001 CAPITAL AND OPERATING BUDGET**

**MOVED** by Councillors Walker and Mitchell that the Operating and Capital Budget 2000/2001 with noted exceptions be recommended to Regional Council for ratification. **MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOVED** by Councillors Blumenthal and Greenough that the meeting be adjourned at 3:00 p.m. **MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Julia Horncastle  
Assistant Municipal Clerk

