

# HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

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## HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES MARCH 5, 2001

PRESENT: Mayor Peter J. Kelly  
Deputy Mayor Jerry Blumenthal  
Councillors: Steve Streach  
Gary Hines  
Keith Colwell  
Ron Cooper  
Harry McInroy  
Brian Warshick  
Condo Sarto  
Bruce Hetherington  
Jim Smith  
John Cunningham  
Dawn Sloane  
Sue Uteck  
Sheila Fougere  
Russell Walker  
Diana Whalen  
Linda Mosher  
Stephen Adams  
Brad Johns  
Robert Harvey  
Len Goucher  
Reg Rankin  
Gary Meade

STAFF: Mr. Ken Meech, Chief Administrative Officer  
Mr. Wayne Anstey, Municipal Solicitor  
Ms. Vi Carmichael, Municipal Clerk  
Ms. Julia Horncastle, Assistant Municipal Clerk

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The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

**1. 2001/2002 OPERATING BUDGET DELIBERATIONS**

**1.1 Administrative Services**

Mr. Wayne Anstey, Director of Administrative Services, outlined the proposed Administrative Services budget advising there are no changes in the level of legal services but there are changes in external legal costs. There is provision under the Corporate Support budget for one new FTE, a Deputy Municipal Clerk as well as reinstatement of overtime. He also noted there is an allocation of funds to an election reserve account.

**MOVED by Councillor Uteck, seconded by Councillor Sloane, that one additional staff member (\$36,000) for the clerk's office be listed in the "Parking Lot" for consideration. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**1.2 Building Management Services**

Mr. George McLellan, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, advised there are no change in service levels as a result of the budget.

In response to Councillor Walker, Council was advised the figures under Goods and Services is the amount that is spent on leased space in Duke Tower and Alderney Gate. Mr. McLellan advised he would break those figures out and provide the information to Council.

**MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Whalen, that restoration or renovation of the fence around the Halifax Commons fountain be added to the "Parking Lot" items. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

In response to Councillor Hetherington, Mr. Labrecque, General Manager, Building Management Services, advised he would provide a report as to how the space in the Eric Spicer Building will be utilized.

**1.3 Corporate Real Estate**

Mr. George McLellan, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, advised there are no changes. He advised in the upcoming year concentration will be on closing the sale of the surplus properties with a value of \$2 million, closing the sale of business park lots with a value of \$3 million and development of the strategic business plan for the development of the parks.

**1.4 Community Projects**

Mr. Dan English, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, advised there is a change in the level of services relative to the administration of the Dangerous and Unsightly Premises By-law. He noted the budget reflects a \$5,000 transfer out of community projects into information services and \$15,000 in building management services for the line costs associated with the network system at the Fairbanks Centre. He advised the total net cost of HRM taking over the Fairbanks Centre for a one year period is approximately \$50,000 and this particular budget reflects \$30,000 of that amount.

In response to Councillor Uteck, Mr. English advised he would provide a separate report on why HRM took over the Fairbanks Centre.

Councillor Cooper requested the report separate the units of gross expenditures for each project.

**MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Whalen, that an additional five By-Law Enforcement Officers be placed in the "Parking Lot" for consideration. MOTION DEFEATED.**

**MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Goucher, that an additional three By-Law Enforcement Officers be placed in the "Parking Lot" for consideration. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

In response to Councillor Fougere, Mr. English advised he would provide a breakdown on the costs for wages, salaries and stipends. The Councillor also requested the report include a breakdown on conference and travel costs.

Councillor Colwell stated all costs including administrative costs associated with Dangerous and Unsightly should be recoverable.

Councillor Walker stated the budget should show how snow and ice removal is being handled.

In response to Councillor Smith, Council was advised information would be provided on the revenue generated by recycling and the residential and commercial enviro depots.

Councillor Cooper requested the report also provide information on the revenues that are coming from the other levels of government as well as the number of people participating in this program.

## **1.5 Emergency 911**

Mr. George McLellan, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, advised there is a modification of

\$81,000 to hire four replacement dispatchers noting, the operation runs twenty four hours a day, seven days a week. He advised there is a \$75,000 allocation to replace current dictaphones which are not capable of handling call volumes.

**1.6 Finance**

This item was carried forward to the March 6<sup>th</sup> agenda.

**1.7 Fire and Emergency Services (EMO)**

Deputy Chief Director, Bill Mosher, outlined the proposed budget.

Councillor Streach noted the small rural departments in his district are funded by area rate and questioned whether they should be included in this budget.

**MOVED by Councillor Streach, seconded by Councillor Hines, that the area rates for fire budgets be sent back to the Marine Drive, Valley and Canal Community Council. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Deputy Mayor Blumenthal, that six (6) new firefighters be placed in the "Parking Lot" for consideration. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**1.8 Fiscal**

This item was carried forward to the March 6<sup>th</sup> agenda.

**2. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Julia Horncastle  
Assistant Municipal Clerk