

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL MINUTES

February 12, 2002

PRESENT:

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

STAFF MEMBERS:

Mr. George McLellan, 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 Kelly called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the Invocation being led by Councillor Smith.

2. PROCLAMATIONS

2.1 National Flag of Canada Day

February 15, 2002 was proclaimed to be National Flag of Canada Day in Halifax Regional Municipality.

Councillor Blumenthal welcomed home to HRM the members of HMCS Halifax.

Councillor Adams extended congratulations to the curling rink of Sean Adams, Bridgewater, who recently captured a berth in the 2002 Nokia Brier Canadian Curling Championship. The Councillor also extended congratulations to Ryan Flynn in becoming a member of the Los Angeles Kings in the National Hockey League.

Later in the meeting, Councillor Warshick extended congratulations to Mr. Paul Batchelor, a member of the 2001 Willingdon Cup (Canadian Men's Amateur Golf Championship) team and requested that the Mayor send a letter of congratulations to Mr. Batchelor on his accomplishment.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - NONE

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

The following items were added to the agenda:

- 13.1 Property Matter - Sale of 61 Portland Street
- 13.2 Property Matter - Sale of 5790 University Avenue

Councillor Smith requested a staff report for next week regarding an update with respect to the Shannon Park DND property to address the following:

- 1) an update on HRM negotiations regarding recreational facilities, fields, rink, etc.
- 2) any update on other pieces of land in Shannon Park
- 3) purchase, lease, etc., re: DND & Canada Lands

- 4) when, where, how, etc., will DND lands be turned over to Canada Lands?
- 5) can anything happen before that transfer takes place?
- 6) options and costs

Councillor Goucher requested that the following item be put on next week's Council agenda:
Proposed Speed Limit Reduction to 30 kph.

Councillor McInroy requested that Information Item #2 - MacPass Usage be put on next week's Council agenda.

5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - NONE

6. MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION - NONE

7. MOTIONS OF RESCISSION - NONE

At this time, Council agreed to deal with Item 9 - Public Hearings.

9. PUBLIC HEARINGS

9.1 Second Reading By-Law H-400 - Respecting Marketing Levy

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

Mr. Lew Rogers, Director, Tourism, Culture and Heritage, presented the staff report to Council.

Mayor Kelly called for members of the public wishing to speak either in favour of or against the By-law.

Mr. Bill Harrison, General Manager, Radisson Suite Hotel Halifax

Mr. Harrison, representing the Hotel Association of Nova Scotia, addressed Council in support of the By-Law noted this initiative has been a desire of the Association for at least ten years, as it will bring HRM to an equal level with some of the other major centres across Canada. Mr. Harrison stated this initiative will have long range effects throughout Nova Scotia. He applauded Council for looking at this to allow HRM to compete for the important tourism dollar.

Ms. Judith Cabrita, Tourism Industry Association of Nova Scotia (TIANS)

Ms. Cabrita tabled a letter from the Tourism Industry Association of Nova Scotia dated August 23, 2001 to Mr. Paul Stackhouse, President, Hotel Association of Nova Scotia, in support of the marketing levy.

Mayor Kelly called three times for any further speakers either in favour of or against the By-Law. Hearing none, the following motion was put on the floor:

MOVED by Councillor Blumenthal, seconded by Councillor Hetherington, that the Public Hearing be closed. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

COUNCIL DECISION

MOVED by Councillor Blumenthal, seconded by Councillor Hetherington, that Council give Second Reading to By-Law H-400 Marketing Levy.

Speaking in support of the motion, Deputy Mayor Harvey stated this is a partnership effort that has possible potential for both partners.

Responding to a question of Councillor Streach, Mr. Rogers stated a board will be set up to control the tax collected, and it will be used for the benefit of all of HRM. Mr. Rogers noted there will be staff and Councillor appointments to this board.

Speaking in support of the motion, Councillor Goucher stated it is great that HRM is taking a leadership approach to this issue. The Councillor noted the economic spin-offs for HRM and the Province need to be taken into consideration.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

8.1 Councillor Goucher - Green Cart Biodegradable Bags (info report Jan. 22) (deferred Jan. 29)

C An Information Report prepared for Brian T. Smith, Director of Solid Waste Resources, dated January 16, 2002, was previously circulated to Council.

Councillor Goucher stated this issue had arisen several weeks ago in response to concerns expressed by many residents in District 21, and the matter was referred to staff to examine the issue of biodegradable bags. The Councillor noted that he contacted a company in the

United States, BPI (Biodegradable Products Institute), and submitted correspondence from them regarding their efforts in the plastic industry. Councillor Goucher stated he was provided with samples of a product made in Europe which breaks down in 10-40 days and allows for moisture dissipation of 25 percent in a 5 - 7 day period, which none of the other products seem to allow. The Councillor requested that this matter be referred to the Solid Waste Resource Advisory Committee for further deliberation.

MOVED by Councillor Goucher, seconded by Councillor Hines, that this matter be referred to the Solid Waste Resource Advisory Committee for further deliberation.

Speaking in support of the motion, Councillor Walker suggested a pilot project could be implemented to see if this technology would work in HRM.

Also speaking in support of the motion, Councillor Sarto stated these bags would help with the pest and odour problem experienced with the green carts during the summer months.

Councillor Hines expressed concern that the contractors probably will not be willing to entertain much of a testing for the use of this product at this time. However, the Councillor suggested when it is time to renegotiate the contract, it could be part of it.

Councillor Goucher stated the waste diversion program is a very successful program, and he wants to make it as user friendly as possible.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**8.2 Ecological Wastewater Treatment / Solar Aquatics (supp report)
(deferred Feb. 5)**

C A supplementary report prepared for Dan English, Acting Chief Administrative Officer, dated February 8, 2002, regarding the above, was before Council for its consideration.

Mr. Kulvinder Dhillon, Director, Public Works and Transportation Services, presented the supplementary report to Council, noting staff has responded to questions raised by EDM.

MOVED by Councillor Mosher, seconded by Councillor Rankin, that Halifax Regional Council:

- 1. Not dedicate an outfall in the Harbour Solutions Project to Solar Aquatics technology,**

2. **Consider the use of Solar Aquatics technology in the future in a full cost/performance comparison with other innovative and conventional systems for a small plant, serving a small community.**

Councillor Smith stated solar aquatics is progressive technology and a good system, in his opinion. However, the Councillor stated each community has to decide when, where and how it will be implemented. Councillor Smith clarified that at no time did he advocate a solar aquatics plant in District 9. The Councillor stated he is in favour of the concept and the technology. Councillor Smith noted the idea for a plant in Burnside came from the private sector. The Councillor expressed concern with how the report came to Council, noting Council passed a motion a while ago to include solar aquatics in negotiations for harbour solutions. Councillor Smith stated the motion on floor is in conflict with this direction. In response, Mr. George McLellan, Chief Administrative Officer, stated it was his recollection that staff were asked to introduce items such as off-ramps, technology, etc., into the negotiations. However, the negotiations were not subject to any outcome with regard to those issues. Mr. McLellan stated staff is in a position now to deal with some of these issues, and he does not believe this is inconsistent with the direction given by Council. Mr. Wayne Anstey, Municipal Solicitor, stated negotiations are on-going, but, from time to time during the course of negotiations, issues reach a point where a decision can be made. In this particular case, staff is recommending that this issue no longer be considered in these negotiations. Councillor Smith stated he does not see any reason to reject this technology at this time. Mr. McLellan stated staff would like to come back to Council with a draft contract at the end of this month, and he does not see this motion as anything but progress in that direction.

Deputy Mayor Harvey stated he is more encouraged with this staff report and supports looking at this technology for future projects. In terms of ecological wastewater treatment, the Deputy Mayor stated, in his opinion, the embracing of such technology by a potential partner could have been a deal maker. Deputy Mayor Harvey requested that the recommendations be voted on separately.

Councillor Hines stated he is not opposed to solar aquatics, but noted as technology improves the operating costs will decrease, and he suggested Council could consider a plant at that time. However, at this time, the Councillor would encourage Council to stay away from this technology as it is currently not cost effective nor environmentally friendly.

Councillor Streach agreed with Councillor Hines and stated it is time to move forward. The Councillor stated he would be prepared to offer Sheet Harbour as a site to investigate this technology on a smaller scale in the future.

Speaking in support of the motion, Councillor Rankin stated solar aquatics is very expensive and land intensive. The Councillor noted solar aquatics has an application in areas outside

the core area, and the staff recommendation is supportive of that analysis, as the rural areas would not be as cost prohibitive.

Also speaking in favour of the motion, Councillor Cunningham stated he could support using solar aquatics in other smaller areas of the municipality.

Councillor Blumenthal, speaking in favour of the motion, stated Council needs to move forward with this project. The Councillor noted UNSM will be holding a workshop in May, and EDM will be invited to speak about solar aquatics.

Councillor Sarto stated he believes solar aquatics is workable in smaller communities, but does not believe it is appropriate for the harbour solutions project.

Speaking against the motion, Councillor Sloane stated solar aquatics should be kept in the negotiations for the proponent to make the decision.

Councillor Hetherington spoke in support of the motion, stating solar aquatics will not work in this project as it is too massive for the waterfront and it is cost prohibitive. However, the Councillor agreed that this technology can be considered in the future for smaller areas.

Councillor Smith stated he does not believe the motion on the floor is necessary, and the process could proceed with or without it.

Councillor Mosher noted Solar Aquatics is a company, and the technology should be referenced as ecological wastewater treatment. The Councillor noted the recommendation is not completely rejecting this technology, but the technology is not appropriate for the harbour solutions project.

As requested earlier, it was agreed to vote on the two recommendations separately.

MOVED by Councillor Mosher, seconded by Councillor Rankin, that Halifax Regional Council not dedicate an outfall in the Harbour Solutions Project to Solar Aquatics technology. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Councillor Mosher, seconded by Councillor Rankin, that Halifax Regional Council consider the use of Solar Aquatics technology in the future in a full cost/performance comparison with other innovative and conventional systems for a small plant, serving a small community. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

9. PUBLIC HEARINGS

9.1 Second Reading By-Law H-400 - Respecting Marketing Levy

This item was addressed earlier in the meeting.

10. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

10.1 Petitions

10.1.1 Councillor Smith - Environmental Policy

Councillor Smith submitted correspondence from a resident regarding an Environmental Policy which was proposed to the former City of Dartmouth by its Health Dartmouth Committee. The Councillor requested that the information be copied and circulated to members of Council for their information.

10.2 Presentations

10.2.1 Halifax Regional Trails Advisory Team

(i) Don Ambler, Chair

(ii) Jessie Debaie, Vice Chair

Mr. Don Ambler, Chair, Halifax Regional Trails Advisory Team, and Ms. Jessie Debaie, Vice Chair, made a presentation to Council, copies of which were circulated to Council.

Mayor Kelly thanked Mr. Ambler and Ms. Debaie for their presentation.

Councillor Hines inquired which trails, and what portion of them, are multi-use trails (ie. motorized and non-motorized trails). The Councillor noted motorized trails have an economic impact and related organizations will often help with the policing of motorized trails. It was agreed that staff would follow up on this question.

With regard to community consultation, Councillor Colwell stated this has been very successful in his area.

Responding to a question of Councillor Streach regarding insurance, Mr. Ambler stated this is an issue that has recently arisen. He noted the community trail groups' insurance policies have been negotiated nationally through the Trans Canada Trail Foundation. Recently, insurance groups have indicated that they will no longer continue underwriting insurance for trails. Therefore, as the community groups' policies lapse, there is no national source of getting a bulk rate for insurance. The Councillor suggested this point should be addressed.

Councillor Goucher spoke in support of the Team's work, stating it will help to connect HRM.

(Councillor Uteck took her place at the meeting at 7:25 p.m.)

Councillor Rankin expressed thanks to the representatives and noted that enabling legislation in HRM has been requested so trail associations could have effective management of the trails. The Councillor stated it is his understanding that the liability issue could be resolved if the Province took a position with respect to having the same view as its other public lands, such as picnic parks. In response, Mr. Ambler stated at the current time the trails groups negotiate with the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources on an agreement for the management of completed trails. It is his understanding that, when this is negotiated, each party has responsibilities, however he did not know the extent of the liability. Mr. Blair Blakeney, Regional Coordinator, Park Planning and Development, stated the insurance issue is of major concern. He noted the insurance being lost is the insurance to the community organizations, not the property liability of the trail owners. Mr. Blakeney stated the loss of this insurance could result in the loss of the volunteers.

Responding to a question of Councillor Blumenthal, Mr. Blakeney stated there is \$300,000 allocated in the Parks and Recreation budget for trails.

Councillor Hetherington spoke in support of the work on trails and stated he looks forward to the progress of the project over the next few years.

In response to a question of Councillor Sarto regarding the Cranberry Lake area, Mr. Blakeney stated this route is under consideration for a trail.

Deputy Mayor Harvey inquired about the status of proposed legislation to limit the liability of directors and volunteers involved in organizations. Mr. Anstey agreed to check to see whether or not this legislation was passed by the Province.

MOVED by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Streach, that a staff report be requested with respect to the possibility of staff negotiating with the Province for coverage for HRM community groups for insurance so that the rates would not be unreasonable relative to the usage of these former CNR rights-of-way. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

10.2.2 Prince Andrew High School Environmental Enhancement Conservation Association (PAWEECA)

(i) Meghan Johnstone, President

(ii) Erin Mason, Vice President

Ms. Meghan Johnstone, President, and Ms. Erin Mason, Vice President, presented the Prince Andrew High School Environmental Enhancement Conservation Association's semi-annual report to Council. Their brochure was distributed to Council.

Mayor Kelly thanked the students for their presentation and their work.

Councillor Uteck expressed thanks to the students and commended them for being an HRM-wide group. The Councillor stated an unbelievable amount of sponsorship has come forward for Point Pleasant Park as a result of PAWEECA's work.

Councillor Sloane congratulated the group for their work and presented the students with a \$51 donation from collections over the year from Councillors.

Councillor Sarto expressed thanks to PAWEECA noting they make a great contribution to the municipality.

Councillor Streach expressed congratulations to the students for their work and enthusiasm.

Councillor Hines also congratulated the students and suggested that they contact Nova Scotia Power regarding a possible donation of trees and shrubs for planting.

Councillor Warshick suggested Councillors should consider designating any remaining discretionary funding to PAWEECA.

Mayor Kelly thanked the students again for their presentation.

11. REPORTS

11.1 DISTRICT BOUNDARIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

11.1.1 District Boundaries Review

C A report from the District Boundaries Review Committee was before Council for its consideration.

MOVED by Councillor Goucher, seconded by Councillor Rankin, that Council approve the revised process for the district boundaries review process attached as Schedule "A" to the Committee report dated January 7, 2002.

Councillor McInroy suggested an amendment that the date for a decision of Regional Council on the size of Council be changed to "before October 15, 2002." Both the mover and seconder of the motion agreed to this change. The amended motion now read as follows:

MOVED by Councillor Goucher, seconded by Councillor Rankin, that Council approve the revised process for the district boundaries review process attached as Schedule "A" to the Committee report dated January 7, 2002, with the amendment that the date for a decision of Regional Council on the size of Council be changed to "before October 15, 2002."

Councillor Goucher noted the previous Committee did not have sufficient time to address the issue, and this schedule will permit a proper review.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

11.2 REGIONAL HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

11.2.1 Case H00063 - Heritage Registration, 2535 Robie Street (All Nations Christian Reformed Church)(to set Heritage Hearing date of Mar.19/02)

C A report from the Regional Heritage Advisory Committee, regarding the above, was before Council for its consideration.

MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Meade, that Regional Council set the date of March 19, 2002 to consider the registration of 2535 Robie Street (All Nations Christian Reformed Church) under the HRM Heritage Property Program.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

11.2.2 Case H00078 - Proposed addition to 1690 Bell Road (Bengal Lancers Property)

C A report from the Regional Heritage Advisory Committee, regarding the above, was before Council for its consideration.

MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Meade, that Regional Council approve the addition to 1690 Bell Road, as proposed in the staff report dated January 7, 2002, with the addition of landscaping being placed along the blank portion of the addition wall. **MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

11.3 PROGRAM AND SERVICE REVIEW COMMITTEE

11.3.1 2002/03 Budget and Business Plan Presentations (info memo)

C An Information Report from the Program and Service Review Committee, regarding the above, was before Council for its information.

Councillor Cooper, Chair, Program and Service Review Committee, expressed thanks to the members of the Program and Service Review Committee and members of Council who participated in the process.

**MOVED by Councillor Cooper, seconded by Councillor Hetherington, that the information report from the Program and Service Review Committee be tabled.
MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

11.4 CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

11.4.1 Quotation 2002M600 - Roll Up Doors - Metro Transit

C A staff report prepared for Dan English, Acting Chief Administrative Officer, regarding the above, was before Council for its consideration.

**MOVED by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Sarto, that Council award Quotation 2002M600 to the low bidder of Seacor Construction for the net sum of \$60,837 from account CBR00748 200 Ilsley Avenue - Air Quality Improvements.
MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

11.4.2 Civic Addressing Administrative Orders and Policies

**(i) Administrative Order 15 Amendment
Motion Councillor Cooper**

C A staff report prepared for Dan English, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, regarding the above, was previously circulated to Council.

Ms. Donna Davis, Civic Addressing Project/Program Manager, presented the report to Council. With regard to the concern raised at the February 5, 2002 Council meeting respecting signage at St. Margaret's Village Development, Ms. Davis stated that staff have come up with an amendment to the current policy set that will address the concern raised. Responding to a question of Councillor Meade, Ms. Davis explained the fee structure.

In response to a question of Councillor Uteck, Ms. Davis stated that, based on advice from legal staff, it was determined that there is no conflict with tying the posting of a civic number to the issuance of an occupancy permit. Mr. Anstey noted the Building Code deals with structural issues and the land use by-law deals with land use and zoning issues. The development permit comes first, followed by the building permit, and then the occupancy permit. Responding to a further question of the Councillor, Mr. Anstey stated there is an ability under the National Building Code Act to adopt the code in its standard form or with additions.

Councillor Uteck expressed concern adding another step to the process for developers to obtain an occupancy permit. In response, Ms. Davis stated this will just be another item on the checklist. She suggested the process could be evaluated over the next six months and, if it proves to be onerous on staff or the development community, it could be reviewed and amended, if necessary.

Responding to a question of Councillor Hines, Ms. Davis stated a budget for a corrective program is proposed for next year.

Councillor Whalen suggested the concern of the developers that they are being held to a different standard than private home builders should be examined.

MOVED by Councillor Cooper, seconded by Councillor Hetherington, that Council adopt the proposed amendment to Administrative Number 15, as stated in Attachment 4 of the staff report dated January 2, 2002. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

(ii) **Administrative Order 29**
Motion Councillor Cooper

C Copies of the Administrative Order #29 HRM Civic Addressing Policies, dated December 21, 2001, were before Council for its consideration.

MOVED by Councillor Cooper, seconded by Councillor Hetherington, that Council adopt Administrative Order 29 HRM Civic Addressing Policies. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

RECESS

A recess was taken at 8:20 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 8:30 p.m.

11.4.3 Eric Spicer Building Renovations - Funding

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

MOVED by Councillor Hetherington, seconded by Councillor Sarto, that Council approve a budget increase of \$188,000 to account CB100175 Eric Spicer Building Enhancements. Funding to be provide by withdrawal from account CRESPOOL.

In response to a question of Councillor Uteck, Mr. Phil Townsend, Manager, Capital Projects, Real Property Services, stated an information report will be provided regarding the total costs when the project is completed.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

11.4.4 Street Closure and Land Exchange - HRM / Nova Scotia Power Corp.

C A staff report prepared for Dan English, Acting Chief Administrative Officer, regarding the above, was before Council for its consideration.

MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Blumenthal, that:

- 1. Halifax Regional Council authorize staff to set a date for a public hearing for consideration of HRM Administrative Order 27 concerning the closure of Parcel "A", a portion of Lower Water Street, identified on Attachment "A" of the staff report dated January 21, 2001, based on a land exchange with Nova Scotia Power Corporation approved by the former City of Halifax on July 19, 1995, as detailed in the staff report.**
- 2. A Public Hearing be set for March 19, 2002.**

Councillor Uteck inquired what is the set value of the land that will be closed. Mr. Mike Woods, Real Property Services, responded it is approximately \$30 per square foot.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

11.4.5 Third Quarter 2001/2002 Financial Report (info memo)

C An Information Report prepared for Dale MacLennan, Director, Financial Services, regarding the above, was before Council for its information.

Ms. Pam Caswill, Financial Services, presented the Third Quarter 2001/2002 Financial Report to Council, copies of which were circulated to Council.

Responding to a question of Councillor Hetherington, Ms. Caswill stated \$4.3 million has been budgeted for costs related to assessments.

In response to a question of Councillor Smith, Ms. Caswill clarified that there is a net deficit for Metro Transit and the percentage should be negative.

Councillor Blumenthal congratulated Financial Services staff for the report. Mr. McLellan expressed thanks to all HRM staff and Council.

MOVED by Councillor Hetherington, seconded by Councillor Blumenthal, that the Third Quarter 2001/2002 Financial Report be received and filed. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

11.4.6 Temporary Borrowing Resolution

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

MOVED by Councillor Sarto, seconded by Councillor Hetherington, that Halifax Regional Council approve a Temporary Borrowing Resolution in the amount of \$3,291,000. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

11.4.7 Tabling of 2002/03 Capital & Operating Budgets (staff presentation)

C The 2002/02 Proposed Business Plans and Capital and Operating Budgets were circulated to Council.

C Supplementary documents regarding Roads and Streets and Parks and Playgrounds were circulated to Council, as well as a proposed budget deliberation meeting schedule.

MOVED by Councillor Hetherington, seconded by Councillor Blumenthal, that the 2002-2203 Capital and Operating Budgets be tabled. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Ms. Dale MacLennan, Director, Financial Services, and Mr. Bruce Fisher, Financial Services, presented the 2002/03 Capital and Operating Budgets to Council. Copies of the presentation were circulated to members of Council. The proposed Operating Budget is in the amount of \$493,506,000 gross expenditures, \$384,752,200 non-departmental revenues, and \$108,753,800 departmental revenues; and the proposed Capital Budget total is \$31,400.00.

Mr. McLellan addressed Council noting it has two options: a tax rate reduction or a tax rate flat. Mr. McLellan expressed appreciation, on behalf of Council, to Ms. MacLennan, senior staff and Financial Services for their work on the budget.

A discussion ensued regarding meeting dates, and it was agreed by Council that budget deliberations would commence on Wednesday, February 20, 2002, at a Committee of the

Whole meeting at 1:00 p.m. Future meeting dates will be arranged by staff in consultation with Council.

11.5 MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

11.5.1 Councillor Mosher

(i) Fleet Maintenance and Replacement of Public Works Vehicles

Councillor Mosher expressed concern regarding fleet maintenance and replacement of public works vehicles. Staff agreed to meet with Councillor Mosher directly to address her concerns.

(ii) Plowing of Sidewalks on Major Arterial Roads

Councillor Mosher requested a staff report pertaining to HRM taking over the responsibility of snow removal on sidewalks located on major arterial roads in HRM that abut an HRM street but do not have any grass plot for snow storage. The Councillor stated the snow plows are continually filling in these sidewalks, as there is no where else for the plow to push the snow. The onus is currently on the home owner to remove this snow, and it is becoming a safety and liability issue due to the number of vehicles travelling on these roads and the quantity of snow that must be removed. The Councillor cited Herring Cove Road as an example. Councillor Mosher stated when sidewalks are designed, consideration should be given to putting in a grass plot.

The Councillor noted there are major arterial roads, with no grass plots, in HRM that have 20,000 - 30,000 cars per day travelling on them and there is no where to put the snow. In many of these cases, they are sidewalks for which HRM is responsible. The Councillor stated the sidewalk plows will go down the sidewalk, then stop and not do the next 100 feet, and then continue. The Councillor suggested there could be economies of scale that could be achieved. Councillor asked for a staff report to identify the streets meeting this criteria and the cost to deliver the service including initial capital costs and operating costs.

MOVED by Councillor Mosher, seconded by Councillor Adams, that this matter be referred to staff for a report.

Councillor Hetherington asked that the staff report also include information regarding the cost as it would relate to an area rate if that were to be implemented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

11.5.2 Councillor Streach - Management Agreement - Eastern Shore Community Centre and Rink

Councillor Streach requested a staff report with an update with respect to the status of the management agreement with the Eastern Shore Community Centre and Rink.

MOVED by Councillor Streach, seconded by Councillor Hetherington, that this matter be referred to staff for a report. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

11.5.3 Councillor Hines - Sidewalk Snow Removal - Communications to Schools in the Event of Prolonged Closure

Councillor Hines requested a staff report with regards to the following: In the event that HRM cannot meet its mandate in terms of snow removal on sidewalks, that a mechanism be devised whereby the school principals can be notified, as well as the School Board, so they can notify the students and the information can be taken home to the parents. This would allow parents to make arrangements for children to be delivered safely to school.

MOVED by Councillor Hines, seconded by Councillor Goucher, that this matter be referred to staff for a report.

Councillor Blumenthal asked that the report also address why HRM is plowing the school sidewalks.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

12. MOTIONS - NONE

13. ADDED ITEMS

13.1 Property Matter - Sale of 611 Portland Street

C This matter was discussed during an In Camera session held prior to the Regular Session and was now before Council for ratification.

MOVED by Councillor Hetherington, seconded by Councillor Hines, that Council authorize the Mayor and Municipal Clerk to enter into an Agreement of Purchase and Sale with 3063463 Nova Scotia Limited for the sale of 611 Portland Street based on the key terms and conditions outlined in the February 5, 2002 Private and Confidential staff report; and that Council not release the contents of the staff report until the transaction has closed. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

13.2 Property Matter - Sale of 5790 University Avenue

- C This matter was discussed during an In Camera session held prior to the Regular Session and was now before Council for ratification.

MOVED by Councillor Uteck, seconded by Councillor Sloane, that Council authorize the Mayor and Municipal Clerk to enter into an Agreement of Purchase and Sale with the IWK Health Centre for the purchase of 5790 University Avenue based on the key terms and conditions outlined in the February 4, 2002 Private and Confidential staff report; and that Council not release the contents of the staff report until the Agreement of Purchase and Sale has been duly executed. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

14. NOTICES OF MOTION

14.1 Councillor Sloane - Administrative Order SC-27

TAKE NOTICE that at the regular Council meeting to be held on Tuesday, the 19th day of March 2002, I propose to introduce for adoption by Council as a Policy pursuant to Section 315 of the Municipal Government Act, Administrative Order SC-27. The purpose of which is to effect closure of a portion of Lower Water Street, described as Parcel A.

14.2 Councillor Warshick - By-Law T-208

TAKE NOTICE that at the regular Council meeting to be held on Tuesday, the 19th day of February 2002, I propose to introduce the First Reading of By-Law T-208 New Applications to By-Law T-201: Tax Exemptions for Non-Profit Organizations 2001-2002, the purpose of which is to add Saint Thomas More Church to the By-Law.

15. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Vi Carmichael
Municipal Clerk