

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL 2002/2003 OPERATING AND CAPITAL FEBRUARY 22, 2002 MINUTES

- PRESENT:** Deputy Mayor Robert Harvey, Acting Chair
Councillors: Gary Hines
Keith Colwell
Ron Cooper
Harry McInroy
Brian Warshick
Condo Sarto
Jim Smith
John Cunningham
Jerry Blumenthal
Dawn Sloane
Sheila Fougere
Russell Walker
Diana Whalen
Linda Mosher
Stephen D. Adams
Brad Johns
Len Goucher
Reg Rankin
Gary Meade
- ABSENT WITH REGRETS:** Councillors: Steve Streach
Bruce Hetherington
Sue Uteck
- STAFF:** George McLellan, CAO
Dale MacLellan, Director, Financial Services
Bruce Fisher, Budget Coordinator
Sherryl Murphy, Assistant Municipal Clerk

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Deputy Mayor Harvey called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

- 2002/2003 Councillor's Capital Budget Requests were distributed to members of Council. An action summary for the previous two meetings, including a parking lot listing, were also distributed to Council.

1. **PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORTATION SERVICES**

- A graphic entitled HRM Road Network depicting both the Surface Stress Index and dollars spent on roads was distributed to members of Council.

Mr. Kulvinder Dhillon addressed Council providing a brief overview of the 2002/2003 Public Works and Transportation Services budget as distributed to Council in the Schedule/Presentation package on February 20, 2002. Mr. Dhillon then responded to various questions from members of Council.

Councillor Adams requested that the installation of concrete curb and gutter for Lieblin Drive, for which a Local Improvement Charge will apply, be placed on the list for consideration in next year's budget.

In response to concern expressed by Councillor Adams that there is no proposal for a stormwater project in Lieblin Park, Mr. Dhillon noted that \$130,000 had been budgeted. However, some legal difficulties with the contractor have arisen and it was decided to remove the item from the budget.

MOVED by Councillor Adams, seconded by Councillor Blumenthal that \$130,000 be placed in the parking lot for installation of storm water sewage for one of the Crescents in Lieblin Park. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councillor Cunningham referred to the poor condition of streets within the core of HRM and requested a listing of streets which require work and when this work will be done.

Mr. Dhillon indicated that streets are prioritized by category of street and noted that he would provide a tentative listing. Mr. Dhillon noted the listing is subject to changing priorities.

Councillor Mosher referred to the problems being experienced at the intersection of Williams Lake Road, Park Hill Road and Purcell's Cove Road and **MOVED, seconded by Councillor Adams that improvements to the Williams Lake Road, Park Hill Road and Purcell's Cove Road intersection be placed in the parking lot, and that staff examine methods to accomplish appropriate improvements and provide**

estimates in that regard. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councillor Rankin referred to the poor condition of roads outside the urban core and, in particular those in subdivisions located on the urban core boundary. He noted that Council had approved a motion to move forward with improving these roads, however, had not received agreement from the Province in this regard. He indicated that he believed that the roads located in subdivision on the urban core boundary needed immediate attention.

MOVED by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Meade that subject to Council receiving and considering a staff report, \$300,000 in municipal funds and \$300,000 in Local Improvement Charge monies be placed in the parking lot for a total of \$600,000, and further that this be subject to receiving sufficient monies as offset from the Province and with the understanding that taxpayers may be required to pay an increased level of tax in line with moving out the urban core boundary, such increase in tax to be from a rural tax rate to a suburban tax rate.

Mr. Dhillon noted that a report with regard to the expansion of the urban core could be back to Council within 4 to 6 weeks.

Mr. McLellan expressed concern regarding the municipality accepting financial responsibility for a Provincial mandate. He indicated that the municipality does not have the legal ability to challenge the Province when we carry out the work of the Province. Mr. McLellan indicated that staff would be pleased to address the issue, however, Council must clearly understand this is a governance issue. HRM must have the ability to redress these issues with the Province.

In response to concerns from Councillor Cooper, Mr. McLellan indicated that he did not see this report being developed in isolation of the work of the Tax Structure Committee.

After a further discussion, the **MOTION WAS PUT AND PASSED.**

Councillor Warshick requested that improvements to the parking lot at the Red Bridge Pond be placed on the listing for future years consideration.

Councillor Warshick referred to the lack of services in the Port Wallace area and requested that water and sewer in the Port Wallace area be considered during the Regional Planning exercise and that the allocation for the provision of these services begin in next year's budget.

MOVED by Councillor Cunningham, seconded by Councillor Sloane that \$40,000 be placed in the parking lot for a Mic Mac Traffic Survey, a study to be cost shared

with independents and the Province), the purpose of which is to address the back up of traffic onto Highway 111 accessing Mic Mac Mall. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councillor Cooper asked that sidewalk on John Stewart Drive be given priority over sidewalk on Serpentine Drive. He further suggested that the Humber Park sidewalk work could be split in order to cover off the difference in costs between the John Stewart Drive project and Serpentine Drive.

Councillor Cooper expressed concern that work in the Main Street area was not moving forward and **MOVED, seconded by Councillor Warshick that the Main Street area be included in the Regional Planning process. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Councillor Colwell referred to the traffic problems experienced on Main Street between the Ben's Thrift Shop and the lights at the next intersection. He requested a report on the cost of widening that portion of Main Street with a view to eliminating the problems being experienced.

Councillor Colwell noted that a safety concern existed with pedestrians walking along Williams Street in North Preston. He requested that staff provide a report with regard to the cost of widening Williams Street.

Mr. Dhillon indicated that this may be a matter of widening the shoulder of the road to improve pedestrian safety. He indicated that he would get back to the Councillor in this regard.

Councillor Sloane expressed concern regarding an apparent lack of maintenance on parking meters, and **MOVED, seconded by Councillor Blumenthal that one FTE be added to the parking lot for parking meter maintenance. MOTION PUT AND DEFEATED.**

Councillor Sloane submitted a letter dated February 21, 2002 directed to His Worship Mayor Kelly and copied to her from Messrs. Albert and Roger Sumarah, Co-owners of Argyle T.V. on Gottingen Street protesting a No Parking - No Stopping sign in front of their store. Councillor Sloane requested that staff respond to the concerns outlined in this correspondence.

Councillor Whalen noted that students attending Rockingham School routinely use Rocky Hill Road to access the school. She requested that staff provide a report regarding the feasibility of transferring the funds allocated to the upper portion of Tremont Drive to

undertake the work necessary on Rocky Hill Road.

Councillor Hines requested that monies be placed in the Public Works budget to allow staff to gain expertise with regard to on-site sewage and, in particular, cluster and community models.

MOVED by Councillor Goucher, seconded by Councillor Warshick that, subject to staff approval, work on Campbell Drive scheduled for this year be switched with work on Meadowlark Drive scheduled for next year, with the outcome being that work on Meadowlark Drive work would be done in present budget year. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting recessed at 3:10 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 3:15 p.m.

2. PARKS AND RECREATION SERVICES

- A staff report dated February 22, 2002 submitted by Karen MacTavish, Director, Parks and Recreation Services regarding the Shubie Municipal Campground was distributed to members of Council.

Ms. Karen MacTavish, Director, Parks and Recreation, addressed Council providing a brief overview of the 2002/2003 Parks and Recreation Services budget as distributed to Council in the Schedule/Presentation package on February 20, 2002. Ms. MacTavish then responded to various questions from members of Council.

Councillor Smith referred to the poor condition of the Farrell Walkway and asked why maintenance of the walkway had not been included in the Capital requests from Parks and Recreation. Ms. MacTavish indicated that if the work to be done is of a maintenance nature, the monies may be budgeted in operating. Ms. MacTavish indicated that she would investigate whether or not there were funds for this purpose in the operating portion of the budget.

3:20 p.m. His Worship Mayor Kelly assumes the Chair.

Councillor Smith noted that there were iron posts protruding from the ground along the Albro Lake Trail. He sought assurances that these posts would be removed and the benches fixed up during the present budget year. Ms. MacTavish indicated that she would provide information regarding this matter.

Councillor Smith referred to problems which occur (vandalism, etc) when the gates at the

North Brook Park remain open at night and **MOVED, seconded by Councillor Warshick that \$3,000 to cover the costs of opening and closing of the North Brook Park gates at night. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

MOVED by Councillor Mosher, seconded by Councillor Sloane that \$50,000 be added to the parking lot for freestanding, concrete washroom facilities at Sir Sanford Fleming Park. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

In response to a question from Councillor Sloane, Ms. MacTavish indicated that there was \$50,000 budgeted for park control. She noted that these monies primarily covered off patrols for the core area.

Councillor Sloane requested that staff look at a increased level of funding for Park Patrol in future years.

Councillor Goucher expressed concern regarding the quality of park security provided in his area last year. Councillor Goucher requested that staff contact him regarding these concerns prior to engaging security staff for the upcoming year.

Councillor Johns expressed concern that a guarded swimming location in his area which was closed last year is not being replaced in the Parks and Recreation Capital Budget. He indicated that he had been of the understanding that an alternative site would be opened for the upcoming year.

Ms. MacTavish indicated that perhaps these monies were allocated in the operating budget and advised that she would investigate the matter to determine if this was the case.

Councillor Warshick requested that staff add to the list for consideration in the 2003/2004 budget a skate board facility for District 6.

MOVED by Councillor Warshick, seconded by Councillor Sloane that the \$100,000 allocated in the budget for redevelopment of the Shubie Park/Campground be transferred to electrical work and that the property be continued to be used as a campground.

Mr. Bigelow indicated that staff had brought forward a report regarding the Shubie Campground and made a recommendation for closure based on the fact that HRM would probably not be able to afford to rehabilitate that facility to the required standard. Council deferred that report and requested that staff explore an alternative. Mr. Bigelow indicated that \$100,000 had been placed in the budget for redevelopment. If Council directs staff to move those monies over, staff will interpret that as Council's wish to negotiate with the current agent to come up with a method to keep that campground open.

A brief discussion and questioning of staff ensued.

In response to a question from Councillor Colwell regarding whether staff had pursued with the existing operator the possibility of him putting money into a refurbishment of the property, Mr. Jim Naugler indicated that the operator was willing, based upon a long term lease, to offer capital monies, as well as, money for the operation of the facility.

Mr. English, noting that it is apparent that the discussion relative to whether HRM should be in the campground business needed to be held, suggested that the \$100,000 remain in the budget, but that it's use not be identified until such time as the discussion has been held. Mr. English cautioned that a decision in this regard would have to be made by the end of March in order to allow for opening in the coming season.

In response to a request for clarification from Councillor Fougere, Mr. McLellan indicated that staff was prepared to come forward with a report which would analyze written commitments from the potential partners, outline the leverage the \$100,000 identified in the budget would bring, and to determine if more money would be required. Mr. McLellan went on to indicate that staff was requesting that the \$100,000 be retained in the budget without being attached to a particular purpose.

After a further discussion, **Councillors Warshick and Sloane withdrew the motion.**

Councillor Warshick requested that this matter be dealt with speedily.

The Chair indicated that staff would meet with the operator the week of February 25, 2002 to determine what he is willing to contribute if Council offers up the \$100,000.

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Sherryl Murphy
Assistant Municipal Clerk