

## **HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY**

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### **HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES**

January 22, 2008

**PRESENT:** Deputy Mayor Stephen D. Adams  
Councillors: Krista Snow  
David Hendsbee  
Harry McInroy  
Gloria McCluskey  
Andrew Younger  
Bill Karsten  
Jackie Barkhouse  
Jim Smith  
Mary Wile  
Patrick Murphy  
Dawn Sloane  
Sue Uteck  
Sheila Fougere  
Russell Walker  
Debbie Hum  
Linda Mosher  
Robert P. Harvey  
Reg Rankin  
Gary G. Meade

**REGRETS:** Mayor Peter Kelly  
Steve Streach  
Brad Johns  
Gary Martin

**STAFF:** Mr. Dan English, Chief Administrative Officer  
Ms. Mary Ellen Donovan, Municipal Solicitor  
Ms. Julia Horncastle, Acting Municipal Clerk  
Ms. Barbara Coleman, Legislative Assistant

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - January 8, 2008**

**MOVED by Councillor Wile, seconded by Councillor Karsten, that the minutes from January 8, 2008 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**3. ATLANTIC GATEWAY**

C A report dated January 9, 2008, on the above noted, was before Council.

Mr. Peter Stickings, Manager of Real Property, Public Works gave a presentation on The Atlantic Gateway.

He advised the purpose of today's presentation is to allow Council the time to consider staff's role in supporting the Atlantic Gateway, provide staff with some feedback and direction with respect with what this should look like, leaving here today with a level of endorsement.

Mr. Stickings noted that there were many benefits of going forward with the Atlantic Gateway, some of which are:

- C Increased traffic through the Suez Canal to Atlantic Canada
- C Growth in cruise activity both as a port of call and home port
- C Improvement of transportation infrastructure throughout the region
- C Growth in air cargo, passenger travel and tourism
- C Increased access to foreign markets.

Improvements need to be made to the following areas:

- C Marketing and product development
- C Gateway infrastructure and the protection of the same
- C Security and border efficiency imposements
- C The collaboration of the all the stakeholders
- C The need to improve competitiveness
- C The need to develop the region's human resources

Staff have identified HRM's role in the attached Position Paper as a strong strategic support with those of the Atlantic Gateway initiative.

Three key focus areas are:

- C Distripark/Transload Sector
- C Air Cargo Facility
- C Home Port Cruise Strategy

Staff explained the different areas where the Atlantic Gateway Action plan, the Municipal Stakeholder Initiatives/Plans and HRM actions are aligned.

**MOVED by Councillor Snow, seconded by Councillor McCluskey , that Halifax Regional Council endorse the municipal role and alignment of strategies as set out in Staff Report dated January 9, 2008 with the attached Position Paper to support and, subject to future budget approval, enable HRM to respond effectively to the Atlantic Gateway opportunities over the long term.**

Discussion followed with Staff addressing the questions and concerns of Council. Some of the highlights were:

- C The current situation in United States will have some impact on the cruise business but we need to be in it for the long haul;
- C The Greater Burnside Business Association has been involved from the beginning
- C The Expressway Service would be off the end of the Burnside Drive;
- C This project does not compete with other priorities of HRM - it is a chance to obtain more monies for infrastructure;
- C CN rail will be moving cargo for this project.

#### **MOTION PUT AND PASSED**

Council recessed at 2:10 p.m.

Council reconvened at 2:20 p.m.

#### **4. REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL 07-138 - INTEGRATED TELEPHONE & INTERNET ADVANCED VOTING**

- C A report dated January 4, 2008, on the above noted, was before Council.

Cathy Mellett, Division Manager, BPIM Client Services, gave a presentation on Integrated Telephone & Internet Advanced Voting seeking Council's decision on the award of RFP No. 07-138 and explaining what the next steps would be.

Ms. Mellett provided background of when this started in January 2004 until January 2007 at which time Council approved internet/phone advanced voting and the addition of \$400,000 to the election reserve.

Some of the highlights of the presentation were:

- C Should increase voter access;
- C Voters who are away at the time an election is held will be able to vote from anywhere;
- C To be used for advanced polling only to mitigate the risk;
- C First municipality to implement electronic voting;
- C The integrity of the vote is ensured;
- C Live tests were completed to conduct a proof of concept with HRM data;
- C Testament to HRM's focus on citizen centred service and commitment to citizen's engagement;
- C HRM will award the contract subject to protocol, by-laws and legislation being in place by May 15, 2008 to ensure mitigation of any risk to HRM;

**MOVED by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Younger, that**

- (A) Halifax Regional Council award RFP No. 07-138, Integrated Telephone and Internet Advanced Voting to Intelivote Systems Incorporated, the highest scoring proponent, for a Total price of \$487,151.00 (net HST included) with funding from the 2008 Election Reserve Account No. Q313 as outlined in the Budget Implications section of the report dated January 4, 2008. The cost is inclusive of the proof of Concept valued at \$21,721.00 (net HST included).**
- (B) Halifax Regional Council enter into a 36-month agreement with Intelivote Systems incorporated for additional e-voting opportunities at a cost of \$2.00 (plus net HST) per eligible voter, contingent upon the successful delivery of the 2008 e-voting advanced poll. The utilization of any additional e-voting opportunities would be at HRM's sole discretion and funding availability.**
- (C) This award be conditional on all of the necessary protocol , bylaws, and legislation be in place by May 15, 2008, to the satisfaction of staff, to enable successful implementation and provide value for money.**
- (D) subject to the above recommendations, authorize the Mayor and Municipal Clerk to execute a contract with Intelivote to that effect.**

Discussion followed with Ms. Mellett and other staff addressing questions or concerns of Council. Some of the highlights were:

- C Pin numbers would be assigned to a voter but there would be other information such as personal information that only the voter would know that the voter would need to

log on to vote - this would alleviate the problem of a pin number being used by the wrong person;

Councillor Debbie Hum entered at 1:19 p.m.

- C For this election HRM would be running a dual system, voters could choose to vote electronically or as they historically did, therefore the cost for this election would be higher than previous elections.

Councillors Patrick Murphy and David Hendsbee entered at 1:20 p.m.

- C Information on electronic voting needs to be widely made available with a help line in place for voters to be able to vote;
- C Alive report would be available to the polling stations to prevent someone from voting online and then trying to vote again at the polling stations;

Councillor Reg Rankin entered at 1:22 p.m.

- C A rigorous monitoring system will be in place to show any irregularities in voting as they are happening;

Councillor Dawn Sloan entered at 1:29 p.m.

- C System will allow us to know not whom voters voted for but what method they used to vote;

The voter's list can change right up to and including the day of the election. Staff will take this under advisement and get back to Council.

- C Council was concerned about the 36 month term of the contract as opposed to the 48 month term of office;

**MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Barkhouse that the term of the contract be amended from 36 months to 42 months. MOTION DEFEATED.**

**MOVED by Councillor Smith and seconded by Councillor Snow to defer the main motion. MOTION DEFEATED.**

**MAIN MOTION PUT AND PASSED**

**5. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Julia Horncastle,  
Acting Municipal Clerk