

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES

January 25, 2011

PRESENT:

Deputy Mayor Jim Smith
Councillors: Steve Streach
Barry Dalrymple
David Hendsbee
Lorelei Nicoll
Gloria McCluskey
Darren Fisher
Bill Karsten
Jackie Barkhouse
Mary Wile
Jerry Blumenthal
Dawn Sloane
Sue Uteck
Jennifer Watts
Russell Walker
Debbie Hum
Stephen Adams
Brad Johns
Robert Harvey
Reg Rankin
Peter Lund

REGRETS:

Mayor Peter Kelly
Councillors: Linda Mosher
Tim Outhit

STAFF:

Mr. Wayne Anstey, Acting Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. Mary Ellen Donovan, Municipal Solicitor
Ms. Sherrill Murphy, Acting Municipal Clerk
Ms. Krista Tidgwell, Legislative Assistant

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. CALL TO ORDER.....	3
2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – January 11, 2011.....	3
3. DARTMOUTH BRIDGE TERMINAL PROPOSED TENDER CHANGES	3
4. ADJOURNMENT	5

1. CALL TO ORDER

Deputy Mayor Smith called the meeting to order at 2:24 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – January 11, 2011

Councillor Harvey advised that he was not in attendance at the January 11th session and should be noted as giving regrets.

MOVED by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Blumenthal, that the January 11, 2011 minutes be approved, as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Councillors Karsten, Wile and Hum entered the meeting at 2:27 p.m.

3. DARTMOUTH BRIDGE TERMINAL PROPOSED TENDER CHANGES

A staff report dated January 20, 2011 was before Council.

Mr. Terry Gallagher, Manager, Facility Development, Infrastructure and Asset Management, delivered a presentation respecting the two proposed design options for Council's consideration. He indicated that although it is not reflected in the new architectural drawing, people will be able to transition from the terminal up onto the Commons by way of a sidewalk.

Staff responded to questions raised by members of Council respecting the new proposed design. The following points were noted by staff:

- as part of the project's review, staff met with Laughlin Rutt, Diversity Consultant, Organizational Development, Human Resources; Mr. Rutt saw no particular advantage or disadvantage over each of the proposed designs

Councillor Adams entered the meeting at 2:32 p.m.

- access to the terminal has been centralized with one entry point from the Dartmouth Sportsplex parking lot, which leads directly to an information desk inside the terminal; this improvement makes it easier for visually impaired persons to remember and locate the building's entrance

MOVED by Councillor McCluskey, seconded by Councillor Sloane, that Halifax Regional Council refer this matter to Harbour East Community Council for a public information meeting and then come back to Halifax Regional Council for final decision.

Council entered into discussion. Highlights were as follows:

- concern for with pedestrians crossing in front of the buses; lack of a pathway from the school to the terminal

- concerned with how visually impaired persons will locate their buses without an announcement system

In response to a question raised by Councillor Blumenthal, Mr. Gallagher confirmed that there was no additional cost in consultant fees to prepare the second set of drawings.

Councillor Streach entered the meeting at 2:59 p.m.

In response to concerns raised by members of Council respecting the changes in pedestrian access, Mr. David Raege, Coordinator, Project Planning, Metro Transit - Service Development, Transportation and Public Works, advised that passengers would access the terminal at grade as opposed to going over the overpass.

In response to a question raised by Councillor Lund, Mr. Raege indicated that the idea for the bridge structure was brought forward by the architects, as their interpretation of comments received from the public.

Further points noted by staff in response to questions raised by Council:

- it is difficult to determine whether safety would be compromised; however, the island style design with grade access is standard across the industry and pedestrian safety has been taken into account
- additional pedestrian crossings added in place of the bridge structure have clear sight lines for buses passing through the terminal
- only a small portion of passengers would access the bridge structure from the Commons; the majority of passengers would access the terminal from the sidewalks and street and would not have necessarily used the bridge structure; only the portion of passengers coming from the Commons would not have to cross through the buses

Deputy Mayor Smith stepped down as Chair at 3:20 p.m. and Councillor Johns assumed the Chair.

Deputy Mayor Smith commented that the terminal will be used by passengers from all parts of HRM, not just specific to Dartmouth. He indicated that all HRM residents would be invited to attend the Harbour East Community Council meeting.

Deputy Mayor Smith resumed as Chair at 3:26 p.m. and Councillor Johns took his seat.

Councillor McCluskey requested clarification regarding whether staff was aware of the large amounts of pyritic slate at the time the site was chosen. Mr. Gallagher indicated that his understanding was that the initial geotechnical reports did not uncover the pyritic slate; however, he would review this and report back to Council.

In response to a question raised by Councillor McCluskey, Mr. Gallagher advised that within the original design there were significant excavation costs for the storm management system. In order to install the system, approximately 10 feet of pyritic

slate would have to have been removed. However, the new design option includes raising the platform of the terminal by five feet, which avoids a cost of approximately \$750,000 in excavation fees. He confirmed that there is a possibility that this site may not have been chosen had the pyritic slate been uncovered at the time of testing.

Councillor Sloane suggested that a policy be implemented to address pyritic slate and require testing be done prior to the planning stages of a development. Mr. Gallagher indicated that unfortunately random samples are taken from the site during testing. Staff prepared an analysis of the number of holes dug relative to the consultant's advice/expectation of the soils in the adjacent area. He commented that, in this case, pyritic slate was not present where test holes were dug.

In response to a question raised by Councillor Johns, Mr. Gallagher advised that the cost for removing and dumping the pyritic slate would be included within the tender price.

Councillor Lund requested clarification respecting the geotechnical testing and whether it was done with a backhoe or through drilling. Mr. Gallagher advised that he would review and report back to Council.

In response to a request made by Council, the Clerk read the motion as follows:

MOVED by Councillor McCluskey, seconded by Councillor Sloane, that Halifax Regional Council refer this matter to Harbour East Community Council for a public information meeting and then come back to Halifax Regional Council for final decision.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:42 p.m.

Cathy Mellett
Municipal Clerk