

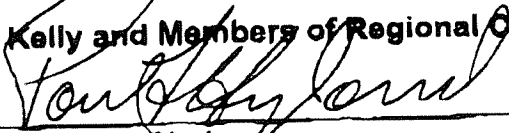


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4.

Halifax Regional Council
March 25, 2003

To: Mayor Kelly and Members of Regional Council

Submitted By: 
Paul F. Hyland, Chairman
District Boundaries Advisory Committee

Date: March 13, 2003

Subject: District Boundaries Advisory Committee Final Report - Extension
of Timeline

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

A meeting of the District Boundary Advisory Committee held on March 5, 2003.

BACKGROUND

On January 21, 2003 Council approved a motion directing that the recommendation of the District Boundary Advisory Committee respecting the delineation of the appropriate district boundaries be forwarded to Council on or before March 25, 2003.

Since January 21, 2003, the Committee has presented to Council proposed boundaries for 20 Districts and undertaken an extensive public process receiving input which will require a great number of changes to the proposed boundaries.

DISCUSSION

The Committee recognized at the March 5, 2003 meeting that in order to give appropriate consideration to the public input, a further extension for submission of the final report to Council would be required.

The Committee is meeting two to three times per week in an effort to adjust the proposed boundaries in line with input received from the public. However, given the number and complexity of the changes required, the March 25, 2003 submission date is not achievable.

The Committee will continue to work toward submission of a final report and keep Council up to date on its progress.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

As the Committee is a volunteer Committee, budget implications relate to the cost of ongoing staff support.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Capital and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Capital and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

ALTERNATIVES

N/A

ATTACHMENTS

1. Extract of January 21, 2003 Halifax Regional Council Minutes
2. January 13, 2003 Report of the District Boundaries Advisory Committee requesting a time extension

Additional copies of this report, and information on its status, can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by: Sherryll Murphy, Legislative Assistant 490-6517

EXTRACT - HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL - JANUARY 21, 2003

9.3.1 Request for Time Extension - Final Report to Council

- A report from the District Boundaries Advisory Committee, dated January 13, 2003, regarding the above, was before Council for its consideration.

Deputy Mayor McNroy stated it is his view that any report being taken to a public process should be brought to Council first, similar to what took place for the tax structure review. Mr. Paul Hyland, Chair, District Boundaries Advisory Committee, stated its work on boundaries is just about complete, and it was the intent to provide the draft map to Councillors before going to the public. Following the public process, a final report would be brought to Council for its consideration. In response, Deputy Mayor McNroy suggested Council should have input before the public process takes place. Mr. Hyland stated the Committee will finalize its work next Monday, and it is hoped the map will be ready two or three days following that meeting.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor McNroy, seconded by Councillor Walker, that a presentation be provided to Council by the District Boundaries Committee before the issue is taken forward to the public process.

Councillor Walker expressed concern with the public meeting schedule, noting it is very Halifax/Dartmouth oriented. The Councillor suggested the process should be more outreaching to obtain public input. In response, Mr. Hyland stated the locations were chosen based on where the community councils meet.

Councillor Uteck stated the recommendation from the Committee regarding boundaries should go directly to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board and not come back to Council for debate. Councillors Streach, Blumenthal, Harvey, Goucher, and Hines voiced similar concerns.

With respect to the location of meetings, Councillor Streach stated did not see the need for more than one meeting in District 1.

Councillor Rankin supported the idea of providing a Council with a copy of the map as a courtesy but stated if the intent is for Council to deliberate the issue before it goes to the public, it will unfairly biases the process and jeopardize the integrity of obtaining public input. The Councillor stated individual Councillors can attend the public meetings to to provide input if so desired.

Councillor Sloane clarified the purpose of the presentation to Council would be for information purposes only and not for debate or discussion. Councillor Walker added it would be a presentation similar to what was done for the tax structure issue before it went to the public. The Councillor stated he would support a presentation so Councillors will be aware of what is being taken to public.

EXTRACT - HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL - JANUARY 21, 2003

Councillor Smith stated he would support a presentation only if it was held during a regular televised Council session. Mayor Kelly indicated this would be the intent.

Both the Mover and Seconder of the motion agreed to reword the motion as follows:

MOVED by Deputy Mayor McInroy, seconded by Councillor Walker, that a non-debatable presentation be provided to Council by the District Boundaries Committee at a regular Council session on February 4, 2003 to provide Council with the information that will be taken forward to the public during the public process.


Mr. Hyland inquired if the Committee could still go to the public as scheduled. Mayor Kelly responded that Council had no issue with the Committee's schedule.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED. (Councillors Hetherington, Uteck and Fougere voted against the motion. Councillor Mosher was absent.)

MOVED by Councillor Fougere, seconded by Councillor Goucher, that the recommendation of the District Boundaries Advisory Committee respecting the delineation of the appropriate district boundaries be forwarded to Regional Council on or before March 25, 2003. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Halifax Regional Council
January 21, 2003
6:00 p.m.

To: Mayor Kelly and Members of Regional Council

Submitted By: 
Paul F. Hyland, Chairman
District Boundaries Advisory Committee

Date: 13 January 2002

Subject: District Boundaries Advisory Committee Request For Time Extension

Origin:

On October 08, 2002, Halifax Regional Council adopted the following resolution:

The recommendation of District Boundary Advisory Committee respecting the delineation of the appropriate district boundaries be forwarded to Regional Council on or before February 04, 2003.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the recommendation of District Boundary Advisory Committee respecting the delineation of the appropriate district boundaries be forwarded to Regional Council on or before March 25, 2003.

Background:

It was the original intention of the District Boundary Advisory Committee to have its report recommending the boundaries of the 20 Districts approved by Regional Council on October 08, 2002 to Council for consideration on or before February 04, 2003. The task of the Committee in delineating the boundaries has been challenging given the population growth patterns since the last detailed assessment of the boundaries prior to amalgamation. Overall, re-districting is significant and the Committee feels this must be widely communicated to the public. As a result the Committee has determined that it desires to hold seven public meetings throughout the municipality to begin the week of February 10, 2003 (two per week). The Committee proposes to hold a public meeting for each Community Council area except for Harbour East where two will be held. With balancing out these meetings around other established meetings and support staff schedules, the last meeting will be held on March 3, 2003. This will permit the Committee to complete its report to Council the week of March 17, 2003 (including review by the CAO) and to submit that report on March 25, 2003. The Committee is therefore requesting Regional Council amend its terms of reference to provide for this time extension. Since the application to the Utility and Review Board does not have to be made until June 30, 2003, if this extension is approved, Regional Council will still have almost 3 months to consider the recommendation including seeking public input of its own if it so desires.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no budgetary implications arising out of the approval of this recommendation.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES/BUSINESS PLAN

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approval Operating, Capital and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

ALTERNATIVES

If Council does not adopt the recommendation, the Committee will have to forego any public input before submitting its report which will presumably mean that Regional Council will have to provide more of an opportunity for public input itself.

ATTACHMENTS:

None

<p>Additional copies of this report and information on its status can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208. Report prepared by and Approved by Wayne Anstey, Q.C.</p>
