

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

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HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL  
**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**  
1996/97 OPERATING BUDGET SESSION  
August 22, 1996

PRESENT:

Mayor Walter Fitzgerald  
Councillors: Gordon R. Snow  
David Hendsbee  
Ron Cooper  
Harry McInroy  
Jack Greenough  
Condo Sarto  
Bruce Hetherington  
Clint Schofield  
John Cunningham  
Jerry Blumenthal  
Graham L. Downey  
Russell Walker  
Howard Epstein  
Bill Stone  
Ron Hanson  
Barry Barnet  
Robert Harvey  
Peter Kelly  
Reg Rankin  
Jack Mitchell

REGRETS:

Councillor Bill Dooks  
Larry Uteck  
Stephen Adams

STAFF MEMBERS:

Gary Greene, Commissioner of Fire Services  
Mike Eddy, Deputy Commissioner of Operations  
Bill Mosher, Deputy Commissioner of Support Services  
Larry Corrigan, Commissioner of Corporate Services  
Ron Singer, Director of Finance  
Wayne Anstey, Q.C. Director of Administration & Legal  
Services  
Julia Horncastle, Assistant Municipal Clerk

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The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

**MOVED by Councillor Harvey and Stone that Council move to Committee of the Whole. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**OPERATING BUDGET DELIBERATIONS**

**FIRE SERVICES**

Councillor Epstein noted he had asked for a copy of the salary structure in place for senior levels of administration. He stated he had specifically asked for a comparison between individual salaries paid to the three levels of directors prior to and after amalgamation.

Mayor Fitzgerald advised this information would be made available.

Commissioner Gary Greene, with the aid of overheads, presented the Fire Services operating budget to Council.

Deputy Commissioner Mike Eddy continued the presentation on the operational aspects of Fire Services.

Deputy Commissioner Bill Mosher continued the presentation on the support services aspect of Fire Services.

Councillor Schofield received confirmation that volunteer fire departments do submit yearly budgets and fundraise in order to balance these budgets. Commissioner Greene stated although there is no requirement for volunteer fire fighters to live in the community, most do live in the area they serve.

Councillor Cooper questioned funds allocated to reserve being used for general purposes.

In response to a question from Councillor Hendsbee, Commissioner Greene advised that three quotes are required for any purchase over \$150.00 with departments having the option of obtaining these quotes.

In response to Councillor Hendsbee regarding the inclusion of the North Preston Sub Station proposal, Commissioner Greene advised it was not reflected in the proposed budget for 1996/97.

Councillor Snow questioned the requirement for standards of training and equipment

by Millford and Enfield who, although they are in adjacent Municipalities, supplies fire service to his area. He complimented the Commissioner on the level of service being provided by the fire departments in his area.

In response to a question from Councillor Blumenthal, Commissioner Greene advised defibrillators will be in all fire stations in the coming year.

In response to a question from Councillor Stone with regards to deficits for volunteer fire departments, Deputy Eddy advised that a deficit is carried forward as the first item the following year and shown as an expenditure out of the next years budget.

In response to a question from Councillor Barnet, Commissioner Greene advised that the deficit and surplus for each department will be dealt with by each individual department.

In response to a question from Councillor Kelly, Commissioner Greene advised fire area rates would remain the same for this year.

Councillor Kelly suggested a policy be established with regards to costs associated with travel for training and business. Commissioner Greene stated a policy is in place and can be provided. He stated many programs have been standardized throughout the Regional Municipality.

In response to Councillor Rankin, Commissioner Greene advised honorariums for rural areas was included under salaries for part time staff.

The meeting was recessed for lunch at 12:30 p.m. and reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

### **CORPORATE SERVICES**

Mr. Larry Corrigan, Commissioner of Corporate Services, with the aid of overheads, presented the Corporate Services operating budget.

In response to Councillor Blumenthal, Commissioner Corrigan advised the amount entitled "membership dues" is allocated for UNSM and FCM.

Councillor Downey requested a breakdown on salaries.

In response to Councillor Stone, Commissioner Corrigan advised most of the positions in Corporate Services are filled.

Councillor Stone suggested a hiring freeze be implemented after necessary positions

are filled.

Councillor Kelly questioned issuance and use of Municipal credit cards.

Councillor Hetherington questioned the requirement and attendance of legal staff at Board and Commission meetings.

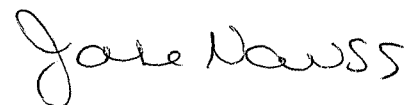
In response to Councillor Sarto, Commissioner Corrigan advised the allocation for overtime would decrease over the next year.

Councillor Cooper questioned the allocation of funds for part time clerical support for Councillors, to which Mr. Meech advised if support is needed it will be provided.

In response to Councillor Hendsbee, Commissioner Corrigan advised that there is an allocation for external auditors. He also stated there is allocation for an internal audit function which will be out sourced.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOVED by Councillor Sarto and Blumenthal that the meeting be adjourned 3:34 p.m. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**



Jane Naus  
ACTING MUNICIPAL CLERK