

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES JANUARY 8, 1998

PRESENT:

Mayor Walter Fitzgerald
Deputy Mayor Reg Rankin
Councillors: Bill Dooks
David Hendsbee
Ron Cooper
Jack Greenough
Clint Schofield
John Cunningham
Jerry Blumenthal
Graham L. Downey
Larry Uteck
Howard Epstein
Russell Walker
Bill Stone
Ron Hanson
Barry Barnet
Bob Harvey
Peter Kelly
Jack Mitchell

REGRETS:

Gordon R. Snow
Harry McInroy
Condo Sarto
Bruce Hetherington
Stephen Adams

STAFF MEMBERS:

Mr. Ken Meech, Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. Jane Nauss, Assistant Municipal Clerk
Ms. Patti Halliday, Assistant Municipal Clerk

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Mayor Fitzgerald called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

1. CAPITAL BUDGET

1.1 Fire Services

Chief Gary Greene addressed Council referencing Fire and Emergency Services (Core Area) - C-2 - Equipment - \$375,000; and D-10 - Fleet - \$184,000. The Chief continued by stating these are urban items and are to be covered through a general rate. Area rated items are referenced in the back of the Capital Budget document.

1.2 REGIONAL OPERATIONS SOLID WASTE (con't from Jan. 7/98)

Deputy Mayor Rankin referenced the fact that although the size of the Solid Waste budget was significant (\$38 million), this was a worthwhile project otherwise the municipality could not look after its own waste. Further, this does not impact negatively on the Operating Budget. Mayor Fitzgerald reminded Council this was a one year capital cost.

Mr. George McLellan, Commissioner, Regional Operations, advised staff had one concern, that being not having composting arrangements in place as originally scheduled. With respect to the interchange, Porter Dillon is completing the design and the project should be ready for tender by the spring (funds were approved in last year's capital budget).

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Greenough if the Cumberland site contract could be extended if the composting facility is not in place on time, Mr. George McLellan, Commissioner, Regional Operations, advised there is that possibility but discussions with those involved would have to take place (by the end of February, 1998).

Councillors Hendsbee and Barnet took their place at the meeting at 10:25 a.m.

Mr. McLellan further stated it was essential that the education process be put in place to enable the public to fully understand the facility off Highway 103.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Kelly on the Dartmouth Transfer Station, Mr. Brian Smith, Director, Business Operations, advised that the FEP/WSF/ RDF facility is overall on schedule. The municipality will be able to commence shifting garbage into that facility through July into December of this year. By January 1, 1999, a complete change over should be realized. Garbage will gradually be detoured from the Dartmouth facility. In summary, staff will replace the Dartmouth Transfer Station (Public Waste Depot - page K-6) and possibly move the public site to the Turner Drive area in Burnside.

With respect to the composting carts (K-4), Councillor Kelly enquired if this particular aspect of the project would be continuing. Further, the Councillor enquired as to costs for the pilot project and satellite tracking system.

In response, Mr. Smith advised a decision was made to lease the carts as opposed to purchasing same, with costs to be recovered through the Operating Budget. With respect to the satellite project, it was a small demonstration project of \$10,000 - \$15,000 and no specific dollars have been allocated to same.

Councillor Kelly reminded Council that province wide, no landfills can accept composting after January, 1999. Accordingly, the Councillor enquired as to how the contract with Cumberland could be extended. In response, Mr. Smith advised that the Province will work with the municipality in this regard.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Epstein on the life expectancy of the facility once it is up and running, Mr. Smith advised it is not known as yet, but that a new cell will be built every 2 - 4 years at a cost of \$5 - \$7 million each.

Councillor Epstein enquired on K-5 - Environmental Site Assessment - Cole Harbour - Bissett Road and if there were other similar sites in the municipality.

In response, Mr. Jim Bauld, Operations Co-ordinator, Waste Resources, advised this was brought to the attention of staff by the Department of the Environment. This parcel of land was originally used for the disposal of Shearwater waste. Subsequently, waste from Shearwater was diverted to the adjacent property (private). The Department of the Environment would like the ground water monitored. Further, Mr. Bauld advised that staff have met with the new owners and the regulators to resolve this issue. With respect to other sites being in this situation, Mr. Bauld advised that as far as he was aware, there were no other areas. Councillor Epstein suggested Councillors advise if they are aware of these types of situations on HRM land.

Councillor Stone took his place at the meeting at 10:40 a.m.

At this point in the meeting, Mayor Fitzgerald introduced Mr. Mark Bernard, the new Manager of Waste Resources.

Deputy Mayor Rankin assumed the Chair (10:45 a.m.).

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Blumenthal on the communication aspect of the strategy, Mr. Bauld advised that through discussions with schools and distribution of a newsletter, the appropriate information would be communicated to the public.

Earlier in the meeting, Deputy Mayor Rankin had commended Mr. George McLellan for his input into the Strategy. At this point in the meeting, Councillor Blumenthal also commended Mr. McLellan, as well as Deputy Mayor Rankin and Councillor Mitchell.

Councillor Schofield expressed concern with the number of seagulls in the vicinity of Burnside as a result of the Dartmouth Transfer Station. Mr. McLellan concurred there was a problem.

Councillor Mitchell referenced page 27 - K1 - K2 - K3 noting that reference to "Goodwood" should be amended to read "HRM" as it was not a district project. Councillor Mitchell also thanked everyone for their work on the Strategy. The Councillor also requested that a tour of the facility be held soon, while it is still in the construction stage.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Barnet if the Federal Government should be approached for cost sharing on the K-5 - Environmental Site Assessment - Cole Harbour - Bissett Road Project, Mr. Bauld advised that legal counsel is looking into this.

Councillor Barnet referenced K-7 - Leachate Plume Remedy Phase 1 - enquiring if staff was satisfied with the amount of last year's funding for this project. In response, Mr. Bauld advised this is to address other leachate plumes.

Councillor Barnet stated the community feels there is a need for them to be communicated with. Further, a developer has proposed a quarry adjacent to this site. Residents are concerned with the impact of rock blasting and quarrying. The Councillor suggested the close out committee, if established and up and running, should monitor this.

Councillor Dooks referenced the Sheet Harbour and Middle Musquodoboit Transfer Stations requesting they remain in place. In response, Mr. Bauld advised the following year's proposed Capital Budget does include figures to upgrade both depots.

Councillor Hendsbee hoped that the temporary Lake Charlotte station becomes permanent. The Councillor expressed concern with off-road dumping occurring between Districts 1, 3 and portions of District 4. A transfer station in Burnside would be still be inconvenient, and Council should consider an additional facility of this nature between Lake Charlotte and Dartmouth (i.e. Ross Road area or East Chezzetcook Industrial Park area).

Councillor Harvey referenced former Halifax County Mayor, Randy Ball, noting it was under his leadership that this project originated.

Deputy Mayor Rankin commended Mr. George McLellan, Mr. Ken Meech and the media for their support of this project. The Deputy Mayor agreed that former Halifax County Mayor, Randy Ball, was definitely to be commended for his achievement in this regard. Further, that the Stakeholder Committee would like to arrange tours of the facility through SWRAC.

Councillor Uteck took his place at the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

Mr. Dan English, Commissioner, Community Services, referenced an overhead entitled "Community Services Net Comparison" - a comparison of categories to last year's budget.

There are approximately 21 projects included in the 1998/99 Community Services Capital Budget, 3 of which are block funding type projects (buildings and park upgrades) and 3 which are significant (Parks & Playground - \$1.3 million; Community Councils Allocation \$1 million; and Dartmouth Waterfront - \$2,375).

Mr. Peter Bigelow, Manager, Recreation Facilities, referenced Summary Page 6 - Buildings, noting that staff have been concentrating on the preservation of existing infrastructure in order to keep these facilities available to the public. Those projects which are approximated at \$100,000 are generally targeting buildings that are near the end of their life cycle.

There are no new recreation facilities being proposed with the exception of the Dartmouth Waterfront project. Reference was made to the Burke Oliver Study which will recommend community facilities and regional building facilities. This will be elaborated upon in the form of a report within one month.

Provincial funding has been indicated where the municipality has been relatively assured of same.

Mr. Bill Campbell, Acting Manager, Community Development, referenced Planning & Service Studies, noting there was one study included as part of the Capital Budget - \$58,000 for a Partnership Planning Program with the Waterfront Development Corporation. This is to continue work which commenced at the time of amalgamation as a joint effort between the Waterfront Development Corporation, the Port Corporation, and Halifax Regional Municipality.

Councillor Stone enquired if there would be a follow up process as a result of the Burke Oliver Study. Mr. Bigelow advised that once the Study is received, same will be brought to Council. Any recommendations as a result of the Study will be followed up in the following year.

Councillor Hendsbee referenced two surplus schools provided to the municipality this past year from the School Board. In the past, any improvements to same would have been paid for through the general tax rate. This budget, however, was proposing that costs for improvements be covered through an area district rate. The Councillor suggested if his residents must pay for improvements such as these through an area district rate, then the debt service charges should be paid for in equivalent facilities elsewhere. Councillor Hendsbee suggested these types of projects be itemized for Council, indicating the manner of recouping improvement costs (general, urban, rural, or district rate).

With respect to the North Preston Recreation Centre, Councillor Hendsbee noted the community has decided to pass its ownership and title to the municipality. The Councillor enquired on the status of this process.

Councillor Cooper referenced possible expansion of the sewage capacity of the Mill Cove Sewage Treatment Plant and enquired if staff was aware of the lack of capacity available on the eastern side of Halifax Harbour and if consideration has been given to undertaking a study in that area (Cole Harbour - Eastern Passage has no sewage capacity available).

In response, Mr. Campbell advised there are no planning studies for servicing issues for 1998. However, with respect to servicing capacity, discussions are taking place with staff looking at a more integrated servicing study and to look at the larger picture. The concept of the Bedford study had been initiated prior to amalgamation.

Further, this is a combined effort on the part of Community Services (Community Planning) and Regional Operations due to the fact that growth and facility capacity are to be taken into consideration. A comprehensive report should be prepared within three to four months.

To clarify, Mr. Ken Meech, Chief Administrative Officer, advised that staff is ensuring this exercise will contribute essential information to identify existing infrastructure and limitations, if any. Staff want to ensure this is consistent with the municipality's objective in moving towards regional planning. Community Planning, Priority and Planning, and Regional Operations staff are currently reviewing the proposal. Further, staff is intending to provide an overview of same.

Councillor Schofield referenced a North Dartmouth Planning Study in the year 2000 and requested clarification. In response, Mr. Bill Campbell advised that the study is to deal with lands owned by the municipality (vacant land, east of Burnside, next to Highway 118). The intent is to undertake feasibility studies related to the necessary infrastructure, and of developing those lands to determine if they are marketable.

Councillor Epstein expressed concern over the fact there was no attempt at a comprehensive strategy for the entire municipality. Reference was made to the fact that each former unit had its own strategy which is still in force. In response, Mr. Campbell advised this is one of the top corporate priorities and that a team of staff are preparing a report for Council. Mr. Ken Meech, Chief Administrative Officer, advised that Priority and Planning staff will assist in facilitating the design of the process followed by Community Planning taking the lead.

Councillor Peter Kelly referenced the Bedford Servicing Study noting that the Department of Housing is attempting to develop 4000 units in the Jacks Lake area and wish to hook into the sewage system. They have been advised that when the current expansion is complete, the municipality would revisit this issue once again. Councillor Kelly requested that staff ensure this aspect is not forgotten.

With respect to one integrated Municipal Planning Strategy, Councillor Kelly reminded Council this is a community driven document, not a Council driven one. In response, Mr. Bill Campbell advised that Bedford's concerns will not be overlooked.

Councillor Hendsbee enquired if the municipality was in the process of formulating a policy to make available capital contributions to community facilities. The Councillor wanted to ensure that improvements to the Chezzetcook Fire Department were covered through the general district rate as opposed to the fire rate as it was considered more of a community facility. The Councillor also referenced the Lake Echo Community Centre and the proposal that the municipality take over full cost of the capital construction aspect with the Centre to take over full operational costs.

In reponse, Mr. Ken Meech advised there was no policy being developed in this regard.

Councillor Blumenthal referenced Bloomfield Centre being made fully accessible. On behalf of the members of the Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities, and the Board of the Bloomfield Centre, the Councillor thanked staff and Council. Further, for the record, the Councillor advised he will be cost sharing (with his discretionary funds) for locker room facilities at Needham Centre.

Councillor Walker took his place at the meeting at 12 Noon.

Mr. English, Commissioner, Community Services, referenced \$1 million - Community Councils Allocation; and Dartmouth Waterfront Project (\$2,375,000 net).

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Cooper if there was any cost-sharing on the part of the Metro Centre, to replace the air conditioner which has recently failed, Mr. English advised that the municipality inherited a tripartite agreement (municipal / provincial / federal) from the former City of Halifax. As a result, HRM is responsible for any deficits incurred by the Metro Centre. Last year the Centre made a profit of \$10,000. Profits are expected to increase over the next few years and a portion of any surplus is to be applied to HRM for the construction of the executive boxes. Further, staff is working with the Metro Centre as well as other major facilities, in building their reserves to enable them to handle replacement projects out of their own reserve funds in the future.

Mr. Bigelow referenced "Fleet" (\$100,000) noting these funds were to replace two Zamboni units - one in Bedford and the other in Cole Harbour. Cost sharing indicated (\$10,000) is a contribution from the Cole Harbour Lions Club.

Councillor Cunningham enquired if there were still funds in place for the trail system around Lake Banook. In response, Mr. Blakeney advised there were works in progress funds through the infrastructure program, for the completion of the trail around the lake. As a result of the change in route, staff undertook a complete re-evaluation through the Department of the Environment and the Coast Guard (this is ongoing). An information report will be made available to Council.

Councillor Hendsbee expressed concern, as Chair of the Halifax Regional Development Agency (HRDA), that there was no regional trail project for this year. The Councillor suggested funding in the Parkland Account be utilized for this project.

In response, Mr. Blakeney shared the Councillor's concern noting that staff do support the efforts of the HRDA. Further, an information report is to be distributed to Council during the upcoming Regional Council Session. With respect to the use of Parkland Funds for such a project, staff will research this and report back to Council.

With respect to Shubie Park, Mr. Blakeney advised that staff is preparing a report for Council (in consultation with Real Estate). Original expropriation costs have been increased by \$800,000 and staff will be recommending that said funds be derived from the Parkland Reserves and/or the Sale of Land Account.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Dooks on his interpretation of the parks and playgrounds in District one, Mr. Blakeney advised there is a history of playground programs which are located on school facilities. Further, District one is no different from any other rural area, i.e. deficiencies in recreational facilities.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Dooks if there will be park and playground upgrading, Mr. Blakeney advised if Council so approves.

Councillor Kelly referenced the Meadowbrook Field Upgrading Project, noting there is a steep drop on the Meadowbrook Street side. As a result, the Councillor requested fencing be erected at the same time as the field upgrading. In response, Mr. Blakeney advised this could be addressed in consultation with Stephen King, Manager, Parks and Natural Services.

Councillor Barnet referenced block funding for phasing in of washrooms on various beach sites. The Councillor questioned if temporary washrooms will be eliminated over time, at permanent beach sites. In response, Mr. Blakeney advised this is part of a long range program and that staff will be addressing lack of washroom facilities.

Councillor Barnet advised there was a misprint under G-14 - in that "Millwood High School" should read "Millwood Elementary School."

Councillor Barnet referenced a potential hazard - a baseball backstop located in the middle of a soccer field - and enquired if this was to be addressed. Further, the Councillor referenced fencing required, similar to that on Meadowbrook Drive, Bedford. In response, Mr. Blakeney advised that staff are attempting to deal with these types of issues.

Councillor Stone hoped the regional trails project included a regional walkway system along the Bedford Basin area. Further, reference was made to the Birch Cove project, noting that funds had been allocated last year for a roadway. To date, however, no activity has been realized. In response, Mr. Bigelow advised that staff will provide an information report on this and ensure there is a dedicated staff person involved, as per Councillor Stone's request.

Councillor Mitchell advised he would attempt to utilize his Council discretionary funds to cover the costs of fencing for Boutliers Point Elementary School Playground.

Councillor Mitchell referenced the water shed property in District 23 enquiring the status of same. In response, Mr. Campbell advised that the Western Needs Assessment Study, recently adopted by Council, will address this issue.

Mr. Campbell referenced Oversize Cost Sharing (Streets/Sewers), noting that staff was not including any funding in this year's budget. This was a difficult decision for staff to make as cost sharing on oversizing has been a long standing policy of the former City of Halifax, and other municipalities on a case by case basis. Mr. Campbell advised that staff were not certain how this will impact on the development industry, however, the industry will have three options - (a) not develop due to lack of funding for cost sharing; (b) pass charges on to the new owners; or (c) find land that doesn't require cost sharing.

The reason for not including funding in this year's budget is that the municipality is attempting to get provincial legislation to permit development charges to be made against new development. It is anticipated this system will be the means by which the municipality will fund oversizing in the future. It is hoped that the legislation will be approved this spring.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Cooper on the status of the Harbour East Recreation Survey, Ms. Karen MacTavish, Manager, Recreation Programs, provided an update on the process, noting it should be completed by the end of March. Further, that the results will be provided to the Harbour East Community Council.

Councillor Cooper referenced Colridge Estates enquiring if this area is still to be developed. In response, Mr. Blakeney advised that staff will provide an information report.

In addressing cost sharing for oversizing, Councillor Barnet enquired on the status of a policy. In response, Mr. Campbell advised that staff was developing a policy to be brought before Council in the near future. Staff was working with the province on the wording of the legislation.

Councillor Barnet suggested this was confusing - the municipality was charging development charges on one hand, and cost sharing with the other. In response, Mr. Campbell advised the Councillor was correct and that this aspect would be addressed in the staff report. It is staff's intent for charges to go against direct expenses in a particular development.

The meeting, after recessing at 12:45 p.m., resumed at 1:45 p.m. with the following Councillors in attendance: Dooks, Hendsbee, Cooper, McInroy (3:05 p.m.) Greenough, Sarto, Schofield, Cunningham, Blumenthal, Downey, Uteck, Walker, Stone, Hanson, Barnet, Harvey, Kelly, Mitchell, Deputy Mayor Rankin and Mayor Fitzgerald.

Absent were Councillors Snow, Epstein and Adams.

1.4 Police Services

Chief Vince MacDonald noted the only Capital Budget items in the Police Services are in the fleet area for a number of replacement vehicles. Councillor Blumenthal inquired if the Police Services could get by this year without buying any new vehicles. Chief MacDonald replied in the negative stating it would cause difficulties economically and with occupational health and safety. There were no further questions from Council.

1.5 Chief Administrative Officer

Mr. Tom Rath, Manager, Business Parks, stated there are nine Capital Budget projects for the business parks totally just under \$1.5 million. The projects are to upgrade existing infrastructure and for the overall enhancement of the Bayers Lake Park and the Burnside Park. The other item is a need for both of these parks to do some forward planning that will allow for future expansion of these parks in the next two to three years.

Councillor Walker inquired if the Dartmouth Transfer Station demolition needs to be in this year's budget or could it be postponed to next year. Mr. Rath replied it could be in next year's budget, but staff is anticipating once the transfer station is demolished and the site is graded and ready for sale, there will probably be quite a bit of interest in it. His understanding is the transfer station will be closed and ready to be decommissioned by July or August of this year.

Councillor Schofield recalled earlier in the year Council agreed that the appropriate Councillor would be notified whenever an agreement was signed for a lot in the Burnside or Bayers Lake Park. Mr. Rath stated it was his understanding that a quarterly report was to be provided detailing lots that have been sold and those under agreement of purchase and sale. However, he stated, in future, the Councillor can be informed when the land is under agreement.

In response to a question from Councillor Cooper regarding road improvements on Chain Lake Drive, Phase 2, Mr. Rath stated the \$1.4 million is the total cost of the project, and it is being funded over two years due to the size of the project. Therefore, Council will be asked to approve one-half of that amount this year and the same amount next year. Responding to concerns expressed by Mayor Fitzgerald regarding traffic on Chain Lake Drive, Mr. Rath stated the infrastructure on Chain Lake Drive is totally inadequate to support the level of traffic in that portion of the park, and these road improvements will help the situation.

Councillor Hendsbee suggested all projects in the industrial parks should be identified as HRM projects, and not be designated by District, as the whole area benefits from the parks. In response to a question from Councillor Hendsbee regarding major fill sites, Mr. Rath replied currently there is one major fill site in the Bayers Lake Park. Fill will be purchased as the opportunity arises with money allocated in the Capital Budget.

Councillor Blumenthal inquired how much it will cost in the future to change the infrastructure from industrial to commercial in the Bayers Lake Park. Mr. Rath replied a report of cost estimates will be coming to Council in the future.

Councillor Harvey raised safety concerns regarding the entrance to the Bayers Lake Park from Hwy. 102 coming from Sackville and Bedford. Mr. Rath stated it is his understanding that the Province has commissioned a study of this interchange situation and is examining ways to bring it up to an enhanced standard. Councillor Harvey suggested the Municipality should encourage the Province to move as quickly as possible on this issue as it is a very unsafe situation. He proposed one solution would be to double lane the ramp to increase its capacity.

Mayor Fitzgerald thanked Mr. Rath for his presentation.

Ms. Valerie Spencer, Commissioner, Priority and Planning, reviewed the Pollution Control - Harbour Clean Up Project, which is a continuation of a project initiated by Council. Council will make decisions as to how the \$550,000 is spent. All of this amount comes out of the reserves.

In response to a question from Councillor Kelly, Ms. Spencer stated HRM has the information, the studies, the work done by HHCI, and much of it is still valid and is being used. Ms. Spencer stated the Advisory Committee plans to be before Council with a report in February. The Committee is attempting to define the project in terms of the technology, water quality and other general parameters so Council can make the decision of how to proceed. Councillor Kelly asked what the total capital outlay would be over the next few years if three plants are chosen. Ms. Spencer replied it depends on how much is done, how it is done, whether or not there is cost sharing and what kind of partnership arrangements are made with the private sector. Once Council receives the report from the Committee, it can made a decision with respect to partnership arrangements with the private sector. Councillor Kelly expressed concern with the time frame for this project.

Councillor Harvey stated progress needs to be made with this project and some change in the water needs to be seen.

Ms. Spencer then reviewed the two items under Community and Property Development. The first being the Bedford Waterfront Development Breakwater. She noted this is HRM's share of the money required under the infrastructure program for this project.

The second project is Funds Proposed for Regional Planning. Ms. Spencer advised that staff will be before Council within weeks with a framework as to how the departments are going to proceed, and to present some proposals. This program is entirely dependent upon Council's decisions. The project is in response to improved community interest in terms of undertaking some kind of process that would involve people at some level in establishing a vision and performing some strategic planning at the community level. Ms. Spencer stated she believes progress can be made at both the department and community level this year.

Councillor Cooper stated Council needs a municipal development plan that covers the whole region, with the local community ones being secondary plan areas. He expressed concern with continuing massive developments in some areas before a regional plan is known and regional needs are addressed. In response, Ms. Spencer stated this municipality is not unplanned. HRM is in the hands of land use by-laws, community plans, community growth strategies, etc., which do give some direction in terms of the best known priorities of the people who developed them. With respect to community planning, Ms. Spencer stated she believes it will largely remain in the hands of the community. The major infrastructure decisions are very much regional matters. Ms. Spencer stated she does not see there being a full scale, two tiered planning process, such that there is one major regional planning document as it does not make cost or time sense. However, the fundamentals of what the region stands for need to be determined.

Mayor Fitzgerald thanked Ms. Spencer for her presentation.

1.6 Corporate Services

Mr. Larry Corrigan, Commissioner, Corporate Services, stated there are four Corporate Services projects in the Capital Budget totalling \$4.8 million. These projects will also commit Council to expenditures in the coming years. The projects are for the benefit of all of HRM and are being coordinated by Corporate Services.

Mr. Chuck Keith, Director, Information Services, reviewed the Radio Communications project for \$900,000.

In response to questions from Councillor Hendsbee, Mr. Barry Manuel, EMO Coordinator explained the technology used in the Ground Search and Rescue operations.

Councillor Hendsbee inquired if there will be any contribution through the provincial 911 system for this project. Mr. Keith replied he did not know at this time, but funding could be requested.

Responding to a question from Councillor Blumenthal, Mr. Manuel stated the core area system is a Motorola system. Councillor Blumenthal expressed concern with being restricted to one company.

Mr. Keith then reviewed the Police and Fire CAD and Records Management System. Councilor Kelly inquired if it would be wise to defer these projects until after the year 2000 change. Mr. Keith replied the RFI stipulates that it is Year 2000 compliant, as are all other information technology projects.

With the use of slides, Mr. Corrigan reviewed the Year 2000 Business Risk Project.

Councillor Cunningham congratulated Mr. Corrigan on his thorough presentation. In response to a question from the Councillor regarding duplication of efforts with respect to

the Year 2000, Mr. Corrigan stated Ottawa has been very helpful and HRM will be using a lot of information Ottawa has developed. The Province is also setting up a user group and HRM has been invited to participate.

In response to questions from Councillor Kelly, Mr. Corrigan stated the risk HRM is dealing with is risk in its own systems. Therefore, due to the risk, all these systems have to be tested.

(Councillor McInroy took his place at the meeting at 3:05 p.m.)

Mr. Ron Singer, Director, Finance, reviewed the new financial system project and introduced Mr. Kevin Leydon, Project Manager. Copies of his presentation were circulated to Council.

In response to a question from Councillor Kelly, Mr. Singer stated SAP is currently being used in two provincial departments and will eventually be rolled out to all departments. Mr. Corrigan added the Municipality of Cape Breton has just implemented SAP. Mr. Leydon noted the City of London, Ontario, has just started to implement J. D. Edwards.

Councillor Hendsbee asked if the new system will be able to identify pieces of properties and what taxes are applicable to them. Mr. Singer replied he envisions that this service will be available.

This concluded the Capital Budget deliberations for Corporate Services. Council agreed to adjourn until January 9, 10:00 a.m., at which time the Regional Library section of the Capital Budget will be discussed.

MOVED by Councillors Downey and Blumenthal that the meeting adjourn at 3:15 p.m. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Jane Nauss
ASSISTANT MUNICIPAL CLERK