

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL MINUTES April 13, 2004

PRESENT:

Mayor Peter J. Kelly (Regrets to 7:40 p.m.)
Deputy Mayor Steve Streach
Councillors: Krista Snow
David Hendsbee
Ron Cooper
Harry McInroy
Brian Warshick
Condo Sarto
Jim Smith
John Cunningham
Jerry Blumenthal
Dawn Sloane
Sue Uteck
Sheila Fougere (Regrets to 6:25 p.m.)
Russell Walker
Debbie Hum
Linda Mosher
Stephen Adams
Brad Johns (Regrets to 7:30 p.m.)
Robert Harvey
Len Goucher
Reg Rankin
Gary Meade

ABSENT

WITH REGRETS:

Councillor: Bruce Hetherington

STAFF:

Mr. George McLellan, Chief Administrative Officer
Mr. Barry Allen, Acting Municipal Solicitor
Ms. Jan Gibson, Acting Municipal Clerk
Ms. Patti Halliday, Legislative Assistant

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1. **INVOCATION**

Deputy Mayor Streach called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the Invocation being led by Councillor Mosher.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES - March 30 & 31, 2004**

MOVED by Councillor Blumenthal, seconded by Councillor Cunningham, that the minutes of March 30 & 31, 2004 be approved, as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. **APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS**

The following items were added to the agenda:

12.1 Councillor Blumenthal - By-Law Offenses

12.2 Councillor Hetherington - Motion of Reconsideration re: Establishment of Standard Protocols for Watershed Advisory Boards - April 6/04)

It was agreed to defer Item 12.2 to April 20, 2004 at which time a verbatim transcript of the April 6, 2004 discussion is to be provided to Council clarifying the Notice of Motion of Reconsideration.

12.3 Councillor Cooper - Information Item #3 - Hurricane Juan Update

The following item was deleted at the request of the Councillor as staff is currently preparing a report which will be coming to Council shortly on the matter.

10.6.1 Councillor Uteck - Public Sector Accounting Board

At the request of Councillor Warshick, it was agreed to add the following Information Item to tomorrow's COW meeting:

C Memorandum from Director, Recreation, Tourism & Culture dated April 8, 2004
re: Night of Excellence

MOVED by Councillor Cooper, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee, that the Order of Business, Additions and Deletions be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. **BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES**

5. **MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION - NONE**

6. **MOTIONS OF RESCISSION - NONE**

7. **CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - NONE**

8. **PUBLIC HEARINGS - 6:00 p.m.**

8.1 **By-Law T-129, An Amendment to By-Law T-108, Respecting the Regulation of Taxis and Limousines re: Cancellation of Insurance**

C By-Law T-129, An Amendment to By-Law T-108, Respecting the Regulation of Taxis and Limousines re: Cancellation of Insurance, passed First Reading on March 23, 2004, and was now before Council for Second Reading.

C A supplementary staff report prepared for Brad Anguish, Director, Environmental Management Services, was before Council for its consideration.

Ms. Andrea MacDonald, Manager, Community Projects, presented the staff report to Council and responded to questions of clarification.

Deputy Mayor Streach called three times for members of the public wishing to speak either in favour of or against the by-law. Hearing none, the following motion was put:

MOVED by Councillor Blumenthal, seconded by Councillor Walker, that the Public Hearing be closed. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

COUNCIL DECISION

MOVED by Councillor Cooper, seconded by Councillor Snow, that Council give Second Reading to By-Law T-129, an Amendment to By-Law T-108, Respecting the Regulation of Taxis and Limousines re: Cancellation of Insurance. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

9. **CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS**

9.1 **Correspondence - None**

9.2 **Petitions**

There were no petitions served at this meeting.

10. REPORTS

10.1 CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

10.1.1 Tender 04-218, Pavement Resurfacing, Lacewood Dr. - West Region

C A staff report prepared for Dan English, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, regarding the above, was before Council for its consideration.

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Hum, that Regional Council award Tender No. 04-218, Pavement Resurfacing - Lacewood Drive to Lafarge Canada Incorporated for materials and services listed at the unit prices quoted for a Tender Price of \$139,000.00 plus net HST for a total of \$147,936.00 from Capital Account No. CZU00565, Resurfacing, with funding authorized as per the Budget Implications Section of the staff report dated March 29, 2004. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

10.1.2 Tender 04-215, Traffic Improvements - Connaught Ave. at Quinpool Road and Queen St. at Sackville St. - West Region

C A staff report prepared for Dan English, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, regarding the above, was before Council for its consideration.

MOVED by Councillor Uteck, seconded by Councillor Sloane, that Regional Council award Tender No. 04-215, Traffic Improvements - Connaught Avenue at Quinpool Road and Queen Street at Sackville Street - West Region to G. & R. Kelly Enterprises Limited for materials and services listed at the unit prices quoted for a Tender Price of \$62,739.60, plus net HST for a total of \$66,773.00 from Capital Account No. CTR00905, Intersection Improvement, with funding authorized as per the Budget Implications Section of the staff report dated April 5, 2004. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

10.1.3 RFP 04-316, Plymouth Road and Balcome Drive Pumping Stations

C A staff report prepared for Dan English, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, regarding the above, was before Council for its consideration.

MOVED by Councillor Warshick, seconded by Councillor Mosher, that Terrain Group Inc. be awarded the engineering design for the Plymouth Road and Balcome Drive

Pumping Stations for an estimated cost of \$49,744.00 plus net HST for a total of \$52,942.00 from Capital Account No`s: CGU00572, Plymouth Rd. Pumping Station and CGU00582, Balcome Dr. Pumping Station. Funding is to be authorized as per the Budget Implications Section of the staff report dated April 8, 2004. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

(Councillor Fougere took her place at the meeting at 6:25 p.m.)

10.1.4 Tender 03-248, Morris Lake Sewage Pumping Station Upgrade

C A staff report prepared for Dan English, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, regarding the above, was before Council for its consideration.

MOVED by Councillor McInroy, seconded by Councillor Sarto, that Regional Council:

- 1. Increase Capital Account CSU00120, Morris Lake Pumping Station, in the amount of \$58,255.00 with funding from the Environmental Protection Reserve, Q105.**
- 2. Approve the appointment of CBCL Limited for construction inspection services for an estimated fee of \$60,000.00 plus net HST for a total of \$63,857.00 with funding from Capital Account No. CSU00120, Morris Lake Pumping Station, as outlined in the Budget Implications Section of the staff report dated April 8, 2004.**
- 3. Award Tender 03-248, Morris Lake Sewage Pumping Station Upgrade to Blunden Construction for materials and services listed at the unit prices quoted for a Tender Price of \$770,100.00 plus net HST for a total of \$819,609.00. There are also anticipated costs for extra work and materials related to this job; therefore, the total project is anticipated to cost \$901,570.00 and will be charged to Account No. CSU00120, Morris Lake Sewage Pumping Station Upgrade, with funding authorized as per the Budget Implications Section of the staff report dated April 8, 2004.**

Responding to a question of Councillor Hendsbee regarding any potential for serviceable areas in the Westphal/Forest Hills being expanded, Mr. Rick Paynter, Director, Public Works and Transportation Services, stated when major pumping station upgrades are conducted, there is always a potential for expansion or opening up of additional capacity, and he stated staff could look into this.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

10.1.5 Temporary Borrowing Resolution and 2004 Spring Debenture

C A staff report prepared for Dan English, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, regarding the above, was before Council for its consideration.

MOVED by Councillor Sarto, seconded by Councillor Warshick, that:

1. **Halifax Regional Council approve a twelve month Temporary Borrowing Resolution in the amount of \$1,437,500.00 for refinancing of the balloon payment from the 94A1 debenture.**
2. **The Mayor and Municipal Clerk be authorized to sign the Resolution for Pre-Approval of Debenture Issuance Subject to Interest Rate confirmation, not to exceed 6.5%, to enable the Halifax Regional Municipality to issue a debenture in the amount of \$19,800.00. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

10.1.6 Interim Growth Management Strategy, Regional Planning

C A staff report prepared for Dan English, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, regarding the above, was before Council for its consideration.

C A memorandum from Regional Planning Staff to Mayor Kelly and Members of Regional Council, dated April 13, 2004, regarding the above, was circulated to Council.

C A memorandum from Jan Gibson, Acting Municipal Clerk, regarding public submissions, was before Council for its consideration.

At this time, Councillor McInroy assumed the Chair.

Mr. George McLellan, Chief Administrative Officer, introduced the staff report to Council, noting the recommendation contained in the report is the same recommendation that was before Council at the Public Hearing. Mr. McLellan noted a lot of information was received at the Public Hearing. He acknowledged that a lot of this information stemmed from a genuine concern of the public, but he noted much of it stems still from misunderstanding. The report now before Council responded to a lot of the questions raised during the Public Hearing.

Mr. McLellan stated fairness is very important from staff's point of view, noting several recommendations staff are putting forward, such as flag lots, are not perfect solutions but go

to the heart of the genuine concern registered about kinship lots, personal property lots, etc. Mr. McLellan stressed that these are interim amendments which greatly limit the as of rights that many property owners have in the areas affected. However, he noted the limitations may have been somewhat misunderstood and staff have sought to clarify them. Staff knew there would be implications to many, however, they have tried to control the implications to the larger mass in terms of health, water, transportation, etc.

Mr. McLellan reviewed some of the recommendations and alternatives in the report which addressed some of the concerns raised. In closing, Mr. McLellan stated staff have listened to the public and Council, and the recommendations before Council are balanced and are solely intended to maximize the preservation of the future impact for the Regional Plan. He noted the greatest risk is having nothing happen at all as a result of this process.

MOVED by Councillor Fougere, seconded by Councillor Walker, that Council:

- 1. Implement the plan amendments contained in the Interim Growth Management (IGM) Plan Amendment report as brought forward at First Reading on March 11, 2004. This includes:**
 - C Provision for a small scale rural subdivision**
 - C Provides for traditional location choice and construction employment within communities**

Further, that Regional Council direct Planning staff to implement the following actions in support of the Interim Growth Management Plan Amendment:

- 1. Form a development industry stakeholder group, in addition to the existing Development Liaison Group, target inclusion from rural communities.**
- 2. Increase communication tools/techniques to specifically target rural communities; focus on partnerships with existing community groups, community newspapers, etc. (while maintaining a regional planning perspective)**
- 3. Create a simple, voluntary registry in the Clerk's Office for all interest groups undertaking their own regional planning public participation process with the general public; such groups be invited to register (a) the level of funding and (b) sources of funding that they are investing in communicating regional planning issues to the general public. Report results to the Regional Planning Committee and Council.**
- 4. Monitor interim growth management impacts and report at 6 month intervals; address issues if negative impacts occur; and,**

Further, that Council request the Province of Nova Scotia provide HRM the authority to require hydrogeological assessments during the development application process; and,

Further, that Council approve the proposed amendments contained in the memo from Regional Planning to Council dated April 13, 2004 which were provided for clarification and to address clerical oversights in the March 30, 2004 staff report.

Deputy Mayor Streach requested Council's support for an amendment to respect the needs and desires of the communities in Districts 1, 2 and 3.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Streach, seconded by Councillor Snow that, further to the motion on the floor, Council request staff to return on April 15, 2004 with a report and proposed amendments which would apply only to Districts 1, 2 and 3 by adopting the alternative approach as outlined on Page 8 of the supplementary staff report dated April 6, 2004.

Speaking in support of the amendment, Councillor Hendsbee stated he would like further clarification on what is meant by "provision for small scale rural subdivision" and "provide for traditional location choice and construction employment within communities." The Councillor also expressed concern with the over-subscription of flag lots and access to properties by flag lots, stating they are a precursor to confusion and property disputes regarding easements.

Responding to a question of Councillor Sloane, Ms. Carol Macomber, Project Manager, Regional Planning, stated the amendment could see up to 20 years supply of land grandfathered and then that area would not have the opportunities of the Regional Plan available to them.

In response to a question of Councillor Smith, Ms. Macomber stated the staff recommended approach provides for approximately 5,100 lots, plus more could be added through subdivision along frontage or through flag lots.

Mr. McLellan stated the amendment is not something staff would recommend but it is an alternative staff can live with.

Councillor Uteck stated she could not support the amendment as she believes that staff have already compromised in its recommendation. The Councillor expressed concern that the interim measures and regional growth have become one. Councillor Uteck stated the misinterpretation concerns raised at the Public Hearing have been addressed by staff. The Councillor noted there are needs in the rural areas that have not been addressed and, if

continued development is permitted, they will not be addressed.

Speaking against the amendment, Councillor Harvey stated the amendment waters the process down too much and it treats the landowners of three Districts in a different way than the rest of HRM. The Councillor stated this creates a fairness issue.

Councillor Cooper expressed concern that the amendment is still undefined and stated he could not support it until it is further defined. If the amendment passes, the Councillor stated he would like the following issues addressed in the staff report: the number of new roads, a date for lots in existence at a certain date, a definite closure at the time the Regional Plan is brought forward and the implications of flag lots that might arise.

A brief discussion took place regarding procedure. Mr. McLellan noted the essence of the amendment was an alternative in the staff report so a lot of the work has already been completed. Ms. Macomber stated she would also like to clarify the number of PIDs for the three Districts.

Following a brief discussion on how to proceed with the main motion and the amendment, it was agreed that the amendment would be treated as a separate motion, and with a two-thirds majority consent of Council, it was agreed to vote on the Deputy Mayor's motion first. (Councillor Johns took his place at the meeting at 7:30 p.m.)

The vote was then taken on the motion which now read as follows:

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Streach, seconded by Councillor Snow, that Council request staff to return on April 15, 2004 with a report and proposed amendments which would apply only to Districts 1, 2 and 3 by adopting the alternative approach as outlined on Page 8 of the supplementary staff report dated April 6, 2004. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Debate on the main motion ensued.

Responding to a question of Councillor Adams regarding a definition of small scale rural subdivision, Mr. Kurt Pyle, Planning and Development Services, stated it allows for rural development as was the case before January 22, 2004. The only difference is no new roads will be created as a result of any subdivision.

Councillor Hendsbee stated his main concern was with regard to flag lots, noting what happened in Hammonds Plains was deplorable and he would not want to see this occur in any other area.

Councillor Adams stated he could not support the motion due to the negative affect it will have

on those in a number of industries. The Councillor also questioned the validity of statement that snow removal costs in the areas outside the core are a financial strain on the downtown area.

Councillor Mosher spoke in support of the motion stating planned growth is necessary for the benefit of all residents of HRM.

Councillor Cooper requested a **Recorded Vote**.

(Mayor Kelly took his place at the meeting at 7:40 p.m. and assumed the Chair.)

Speaking in support of the motion, Councillor Blumenthal stated transportation is the most important issue in the growth management strategy.

Deputy Mayor Streach spoke about the impacts this motion would have on the residents of his District and stated he could not support it for those reasons.

Councillor Hendsbee expressed concern with water quality and quantity and transportation and traffic.

Closing the debate, Councillor Fougere noted the purpose of this motion is to allow work to be done on a regional plan to address in the long-term how and where people live in the municipality to help Council ensure people can preserve the kind of lifestyle they want. Councillor Fougere stated change is inevitable, but it does not have to be unpredictable, and there needs to be some coordination between what HRM does and how it grows. The only way to accomplish this is to plan growth and that is what the Regional Plan is all about. Councillor Fougere noted a positive outcome of this process has been public participation, and she stated she hopes this continues in other municipal issues that affect the residents.

Councillor Warshick expressed concern that if the motion does not pass, there will be no opportunity to address the Deputy Mayor's request passed earlier in the meeting. He urged Council to take this into consideration in the vote.

A **Recorded Vote** was taken, as requested.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Members of Council voting **in favour** of the motion: Mayor Kelly, Councillors: Cooper, McInroy, Warshick, Sarto, Smith, Cunningham, Blumenthal, Sloane, Uteck, Fougere, Walker, Hum, Mosher, Johns, Harvey, Goucher, Rankin and Meade.

Members of Council voting **against** the motion: Deputy Mayor Streach, Councillors: Snow,

Hendsbee and Adams.

(Councillor Hetherington was absent for the vote.)

RECESS

A recess was taken at 8:00 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 8:10 p.m.

10.1.7 Use of Provincial Election List - October 16, 2004 Municipal and School Board Elections

C A staff report prepared for Dan English, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, regarding the above, was before Council for its consideration.

MOVED by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Sarto, that Halifax Regional Council approve the use of the Provincial Voters List used in the Provincial Election held on August 5, 2003, for the regular municipal election to be held on October 16, 2004.

Responding to questions of Councillor Smith, Ms. Jan Gibson, Acting Municipal Clerk, explained that the voter list is no longer publicly posted due to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act regulations. Individual voters can phone or come to one of the advertised locations during the revision period to confirm whether or not they are on the list.

Ms. Gibson also explained the process for a voter to be added to the list at the polls. Councillor Smith stated he would like some consideration given to conducting some enumeration in high transient areas.

Councillor Uteck requested that, as part of the education piece, an advertisement be placed in the local university newspapers, and a letter be sent directly to the student councils, informing them of the process to be added to the list.

In response to concerns expressed by Councillor Hendsbee regarding the accuracy of the voters list, Ms. Gibson stated the provincial list was used in the last special election and election staff have worked diligently with GIS mapping and citizens in those areas to ensure all the streets were captured minimizing any difficulties at the polls.

Councillor Mosher described problems that were encountered in the last provincial election with the voters list and stated she would support enumeration. In response, Ms. Gibson noted that following the last provincial election, the Province cleaned up its list and added any information collected at the polls or inadvertently missed before giving the list to the Municipality.

Councillor McInroy stated he supports the use of the provincial list as long as HRM does a cross reference check District by District to ensure no areas have been missed.

Councillor Sloane suggested libraries and recreational facilities should also be utilized as locations during the revision period.

In response to a question of Councillor Hum regarding how the boundary changes will be addressed, Ms. Gibson stated work has already commenced with GIS in this regard. In response to a further question of the Councillor, Ms. Gibson stated there will be polls located in nursing homes for the general election. Councillor Hum inquired about the process to remove deceased persons from the voters list. Ms. Gibson responded the Act stipulates the process for this and confirmation must be received by a relative or a person close to the deceased. Councillor Hum requested that this information be included in the election literature.

Responding to a question of Councillor Johns, Ms. Gibson indicated the election web site will be up shortly and information will be added to it throughout the process.

In response to a question of Councillor Hendsbee, Mr. Barry Allen, Acting Municipal Solicitor, stated there has been no decision from the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board as to the effective date of the revised boundaries.

Councillor Cooper noted Civic Addressing should be involved in the process as well due to the changes taking place with respect to civic addresses.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

10.2 REGIONAL TAXI AND LIMOUSINE COMMITTEE

(i) By-Law T-130, An Amendment to By-Law T-108, Respecting the Regulation of Taxis and Limousines re: Various Amendments

(ii) Staff Report re: Taxi Owner License Limitations in the Halifax County Zone

C A report from the Taxi and Limousine Committee, regarding the above, was before Council for its consideration.

MOVED by Councillor Adams, seconded by Councillor Johns, that Council approve in principle the amendments to By-Law T-108 found in Appendix A of the Committee report dated April 6, 2004, and direct staff to arrange for their formal adoption by Council. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

10.3 HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

10.3.1 Case 00527 - Substantial Alteration to Heritage Property - Gerrard Lodge, 1226-30 Barrington St., Halifax

- C A report from the Heritage Advisory Committee, dated April 7, 2004, regarding the above, was before Council for its consideration.

MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Fougere, that Regional Council approve the substantial alteration to the registered heritage property known as Gerrard Lodge at 1230 Barrington Street, Halifax, to permit an additional eight residential units as described in the staff report dated January 12, 2004. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

10.4 CHEBUCTO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

10.4.1 Case 00562: Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-Law Amendment - Evergreen Place, Halifax

- C A report from the Chebucto Community Council, dated April 5, 2004, regarding the above, was before Council for its consideration.

MOVED by Councillor Adams, seconded by Councillor Walker, that Council give First Reading to consider amendments to the Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-Law for Halifax and schedule a public hearing. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Public Hearing will be held on May 4, 2004.

10.5 HARBOUR EAST COMMUNITY COUNCIL

10.5.1 Case 00525: Application by Lake Loon Developments Ltd., to amend the Municipal Planing Strategies for Cole Harbour/Westphal and Dartmouth

- C A report from the Harbour East Community Council, dated April 2, 2004, regarding the above, was before Council for its consideration.

MOVED by Councillor Cooper, seconded by Councillor McInroy, that Halifax Regional Council:

- 1. Proceed with the request by Loon Lake Development Ltd. to amend the**

Municipal Planning Strategy for Dartmouth to remove only their parcel of land and include it in the Cole Harbour/Westphal Plan area.

2. Initiate the process to amend the Municipal Planning Strategy to extend the Water Service District boundary to lands owned by Lake Loon Development on the south side of Loon Lake, Westphal.
3. Request staff to follow the public participation program as approved by Council in February 1997. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

10.6 MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

10.6.1 Councillor Uteck - Public Sector Accounting Board

During Approval of the Order of Business, this item was deleted.

11. MOTIONS

11.1 Councillor Smith

MOVED by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Sarto, that Council request a staff report regarding possible amendments to the appropriate municipal by-law relating to a requirement to ensure that foundations for turf in new development have a minimum depth of topsoil and the soil have a certain mixture or level of compost added, and that compost in this instance not include bio-solids. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

12. ADDED ITEMS

12.1 Councillor Blumenthal - By-Law Offenses

Councillor Blumenthal expressed concern that the municipality is not pro-active enough dealing with chronic by-law offenders, and requested a staff report from By-Law Enforcement to address this.

MOVED by Councillor Blumenthal, seconded by Councillor Smith, that this matter be referred to staff for a report.

Councillor Smith expressed similar concerns with incidents in his District and suggested HRM petition the Province to reduce the seven day order to 24 hours. In response, Mr. McLellan advised Council there are a number of proposed amendments before the Province that deal

with increasing the punitive side of non-compliance which indicates the municipality has been more pro-active than it appears, and he suggested the report will likely reflect this.

Councillor Uteck noted by-law prosecutions have not been cost effective for HRM as the cost from complaint to prosecution can be approximately \$2,400 yet the resulting fine may only be a couple hundred dollars.

Councillor Hendsbee expressed concern that By-Law Enforcement staff is often needlessly called into situations to referee disputes between neighbours with respect to dangerous and unsightly premises.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

12.2 Councillor Hetherington - Motion of Reconsideration re: Establishment of Standard Protocols for Watershed Advisory Boards - April 6/04)

During the Approval of the Order of Business, this item was deferred to April 20, 2004.

12.3 Councillor Cooper - Information Item #3 - Hurricane Juan Update

C An Information Report prepared for Mike Eddy, Chief Director, Fire and Emergency Services, dated April 7, 2004, was before Council for its information.

Mr. Mike Eddy, Chief Director, Fire and Emergency Services, briefly reviewed the Information Report for Council.

Councillor Adams requested an update on a previous suggestion of having groups such as the Boy Scouts or air cadets assisting in the clean up efforts in return for a contribution from HRM.

Councillor Hendsbee agreed there should be a fee for service rather than just issuing grants and honorariums. The Councillor requested a list of sites visited and assessed in District 3 as well as a copy of the handout given out at Point Pleasant Park regarding fire smart information to provide further information to the residents. In response to a question of Councillor Hendsbee regarding beetle infestation, Mr. Mike Lerue, Coordination, Safe Communities Initiative, stated there is a section in the by-law that relates to beetle infestation and special burning permits.

Responding to questions of Councillor Cooper, staff made the following points:

- C Of the 70 remaining properties, approximately 40 are currently being actioned.
- C Approximately 15 sites will be coming to Council for tender award next week.

- C An additional 15 will come in a final tender.
- C The Department of Natural Resources is responsible for all forested lands outside of the former boundaries of Halifax, Dartmouth and Bedford. However, HRM Fire Services has always provided aid, if needed, and are working diligently with DNR. Mr. Lerue briefly reviewed components of the communications plan.

Councillor Mosher suggested information could also be provided in the Councillors' newsletters. In response to a question of the Councillor regarding Sir Sandford Fleming Park, Mr. Bigelow agreed to address the issue with the Councillor directly.

In response to a question of Councillor Sarto regarding Mount Edward Road, Mr. Bigelow advised Council that staff are addressing this issue by working with the Halifax Regional Water Commission.

Councillor Cooper requested that staff come back in the early summer with the two other forthcoming reports and provide a further update at this time regarding the status of fire risk in the municipality.

Mayor Kelly thanked staff for their comments.

13. NOTICES OF MOTION

13.1 Councillor Hendsbee - Amendment to Open Air Burning By-Law

TAKE NOTICE that at the next regular meeting of Halifax Regional Council to be held on April 20, 2004, I intend to introduce a motion to give First Reading of a By-Law to amend the HRM Open Air Burning By-Law to exclude Districts 2 and 3 from its jurisdiction and transfer the authority of the issuance of burning permits to be under the auspices and control of provincial legislation and regulations and set a date for a public hearing.

13.2 Councillor Adams - Amendments to By-law T-109

TAKE NOTICE that at the next regular meeting of Halifax Regional Council to be held on Tuesday, April 20, 2004, I intend to move First Reading of By-Law T-130, various amendments to By-law T-108, relative to advance payment of fees, limitation in the County Zone and frequency of geography testing.

14. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Jan Gibson
Acting Municipal Clerk