

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL MINUTES February 16, 2010

PRESENT: Deputy Mayor Brad Johns
Councillors: Steve Streach
Barry Dalrymple
David Hendsbee
Lorelei Nicoll
Gloria McCluskey
Darren Fisher
Bill Karsten
Jackie Barkhouse
Jim Smith
Mary Wile
Dawn Sloane
Jennifer Watts
Russell Walker
Debbie Hum
Linda Mosher
Stephen D. Adams
Robert Harvey
Tim Outhit
Reg Rankin
Peter Lund

REGRETS: Mayor Peter Kelly
Councillors: Jerry Blumenthal
Sue Uteck

STAFF: Mr. Dan English, Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. Mary Ellen Donovan, Municipal Solicitor
Ms. Cathy Mellett, Acting Municipal Clerk
Ms. Krista Tidgwell, Legislative Assistant

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1. INVOCATION

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

Deputy Mayor Johns advised that His Worship, Mayor Kelly is in Ottawa representing the Municipality in discussions with Federal Ministers and sends his regrets.

2. SPECIAL COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Councillor Wile acknowledged that the Canada Games Host Society celebrated the one year away kickoff for the 2011 Canada Winter Games. A game of ground hockey was played in Grand Parade, City Hall between the Halifax Mooseheads hockey team and some of HRM's Councillors. Council viewed a video message from Premier Darrell Dexter, who is in Vancouver attending the Winter Olympics, as well as, a video message from Mayor Kelly regarding the new Canada Winter Games facility in Clayton Park West. Councillor Wile noted that volunteers are needed for Canada Winter Games.

Cathy Mellett, Acting Municipal Clerk, announced that Council, through its Governance and Boundary Review Committee, are commencing phase 1 of the public consultations on District Boundary Review. Discussions will involve the role of Councillors, size of Council and role of Community Councils. Ms. Mellett reviewed the list of the public hearing dates and noted that all residents are encouraged to participate in the discussion. Ms. Mellett further noted that the presentation and questionnaire are also available online at www.halifax.ca under Boundary Review.

Councillor McCluskey wished good luck to the Dalhousie Swim Team, including her granddaughter, Hannah Vaughan. The swim team left this morning for the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) in Toronto.

Councillor Dalrymple indicated that a public meeting will be held on February 17th at the Goffs Fire Hall in regard to the airport noise regulation. February 20th at the Sackville Heights Community Centre there will be a Monte Carlo night to support the Beaverbank Kinsac Community Centre rebuild. Councillor Dalrymple read a few excerpts from a press release from the Halifax Stanfield Airport.

Councillor Mosher announced that the Theatre Arts Guild production of *Thirteen Hands* by Carol Shields will be running until February 27th. Councillor Mosher provided a list of the performance dates. Tickets can be purchased at www.tagtheatre.com or by calling 451-1221, as well as, at any Atlantic Superstore. The J. L. Ilsley Alumni will be hosting a wine tasting on March 6th at the Armview Restaurant. Tickets can be purchased at the J. L. Ilsley High School or by calling 479-4612. Ticket are \$25, which includes the

wine tasting, light hors d'oeuvres and an opportunity to bid in the silent action. Councillor Mosher further noted that there are only 125 tickets available and encouraged those interested in attending to purchase their tickets early.

Councillor Sloane advised that the Metro Centre will be hosting a free event entitled Hockey Day for Haiti on February 21st. The event will include a broadcast of the Olympic Hockey Game between Canada and the United States and will also include family events and activities. Donations will be accepted in support of the Haiti relief fund. Councillor Sloane acknowledged the Park After Dark program on the Halifax Waterfront. From 6 p.m. to 8 a.m. residents can park their vehicles for \$6 until March 12th. Information regarding the program is available at www.wdcl.ca.

Councillor Smith announced that on February 21st the Dartmouth Boys and Girls Club on Farrell Street will be hosting their annual auction. He encourages all residents to attend.

Councillor Hum expressed her appreciation to Gerald Ferguson, a member of the West Division Citizens' on Patrol. Mr. Ferguson has been recognised as Police Volunteer of the Year. Councillor Hum requested a letter of congratulations from the Mayors Office be sent to Mr. Ferguson for his long time effort and dedication as well as recognizing his award. Councillor Hum introduced representatives of the Centre for Entrepreneurship and Economic Development. She noted that these young adults are from the greater community and are in attendance with their mentors to observe the political process from the Municipal level. She thanked them for coming and hoped they learned from the proceedings.

Councillor Hendsbee noted that on February 21st the North Preston Freedom Quilt Display will be held at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic and is open to the public. As well, on February 21st the Saint Thomas United Baptist Church in North Preston will host a Singing for Haiti Benefit Concert. The Concert will include local church choirs from throughout the community and all residents are welcome to attend.

Councillor Watts advised that the Girls Soar Physical Activity program starts February 19th. The program promotes young women and girls getting involved in physical activity. Information regarding the available activities can be found on the HRM website. She encouraged residents to take advantage of the program.

Councillor Fisher advised that he attended an announcement by General Rick Hillier at the East Dartmouth Community Centre last week. Mr. Hillier, on behalf of all Telus customers in Atlantic Canada, presented a cheque for over \$600,000, to be shared by all of the Boys and Girls Clubs within Atlantic Canada. Councillor Fisher expressed his appreciation for the donation.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - February 2, 2010

MOVED by Councillor McCluskey, seconded by Councillor Nicoll, that the minutes of February 2, 2010 as presented, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

Additions:

- 12.1 Councillor McCluskey - Request to add February 16, 2010 Information Item #3 to the Agenda - Residential Curbside Give-Away Weekend Event

Councillor Sloane requested Item #4 - Memorandum from Traffic Authority dated January 20, 2010 re: Petition to Rescind the Winter Parking Ban, from the February 9, 2010 Information Items, be added to the February 23, 2010 Regional Council Agenda.

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Sloane, that the Order of Business as amended, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

- 5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES**
6. MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION - NONE
7. MOTIONS OF RESCISSION - NONE
8. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - NONE
- 9. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS**
9.1 Correspondence - None
9.2 Petitions

9.2.1 Councillor Sloane

Councillor Sloane submitted a petition with 92 signatures requesting that Regional Council, Centennial Pool authorities, Province of Nova Scotia and MP Megan Leslie, support Platypus METT Inc. and further request that staff meet with representatives of the Platypus program including, the Councillor of the area and any other Councillors who have an interest, to discuss an alternate location for their programs during renovations to Centennial pool.

10. REPORTS

10.1 CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

10.1.1 Case 01356 - Municipal Planning Strategy Amendment & Rezoning - Windsor Street, Halifax

- A staff report dated January 25, 2010 was before Council.

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Sloane, that Halifax Regional Council:

- 1. Authorize staff to initiate the process to consider amending the Peninsula North Secondary Planning Strategy to allow for commercial uses on the north side of Windsor Street between Willow and North Streets; and**
- 2. Direct staff to follow the public participation program as approved by Council in February 1997.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10.1.2 Reserve Business Case - Q321 Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)

- A staff report dated February 16, 2010 was before Council.

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Sloane, that Halifax Regional Council approve the revised Reserve Business Case Q321 Information and Communication Technologies as per the attachment to the February 16, 2010 staff report. The key changes include:

- 1. Removal of the Enterprise Software exclusion;**
- 2. Allow for investment in new business tools;**
- 3. Include references to the role of the ICT Committee, which did not exist at the time of the Reserve establishment; and**
- 4. General cleanup of the language to reflect changes since 2006.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

**10.1.3 Second Reading Proposed By-Law T-140, An Amendment to By-Law T-108, Respecting Regulation of Taxis & Limousines - Hybrid and Smaller Fuel Efficient Vehicles
Motion - Councillor Dalrymple - Move Second Reading**

- A supplementary report dated January 25, 2010 was before Council.

MOVED by Councillor Dalrymple, seconded by Councillor Sloane, that Halifax Regional Council approve B-Law T-140, An Amendment to By-Law T-108, Respecting Regulation of Taxis and Limousines, to allow for hybrid and smaller fuel efficient vehicles that fit the performance standard of 7.8 litres per 100 km, have a door to door post measurement of 51 inches and have a wheel base of 101 inches.

In regard to concern raised by Councillor McCluskey relative to the Hybrid's trunk capacity, Kevin Hindle, Regional Coordinator, Taxi & Limousine Services, indicated that the trunk capacity will vary from make and model of vehicles. During staff consultation with the Taxi and Limousine Advisory Committee, it was determined that the taxi drivers and the industry will have to be cognitive of the trunk size when they purchase their vehicles. He further indicated that there are alternative solutions available to allow for more space in some of the smaller hybrid vehicles, such as lowering the back seats. Staff are confident that the industry will take this concern into consideration when purchasing their vehicles.

Mr. Hindle advised that the fuel efficiency rating that was presented from Conserve Nova Scotia is a combined highway and city ratio that is used by the Federal Government and the Automobile Association to determine the EPA ratings.

In response to a question raised by Councillor Walker, Mr. Hindle advised that staff do have a list of the vehicles that meet the fuel efficiency rating, reduced wheel base and door post to door post measurements.

Councillor Wile expressed concern with the taxi industry determining what vehicles will be used. She reminded staff that the vehicles must be large enough to accommodate an individual's wheelchair, luggage, as well as a service dog. Councillor Wile noted that there is legislation in place that drivers cannot refuse to transport passengers with disabilities. Mr. Hindle confirmed that these requirements are currently in HRM's legislation, with the stipulation that drivers have to option to refuse the call if they have a medical condition and it has been documented on file. This would include not being able to be in the presence of the dog, or the driver not having the physical capacity to handle the wheelchair.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10.2 MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

10.2.1 Councillor Hum - Request to Add February 9, 2010 Information Report to the Agenda - Halifax Regional Police and Halifax District RCMP Citizens on Patrol

- An information report dated January 13, 2010 was before Council.

Councillor Hum noted that the January 13, 2010 information report indicates that HRM currently has 15 active members in the West Division Citizens' on Patrol. It is her understanding that there are only five active members in the West Division, of which two have done approximately 61 shifts within a year. Councillor Hum asked how Halifax Regional Police (HRP) determined that there were 15 active members and asked what HRP classifies as active.

Sherry Burns, Coordinator, Volunteer Programs, Halifax Regional Police, advised that numbers are based on people who have identified themselves as wanting to be volunteers for the HRP. She noted that some volunteers are more active than others. Volunteers have the option to track their hours through an online calendar, therefore there may be active members that are not recording their shifts. HRP's records indicate that there are 15 active members in the West Division Citizens' on Patrol. Volunteers chose their shifts based on their personal schedules. HRP does not tell volunteers when they have to give their time.

Councillor Hum raised concern with inconsistencies in the schedules and the possibility of not having volunteers available during the evening.

MOVED by Councillor Hum, seconded by Councillor Walker, that Halifax Regional Council request Citizens' on Patrol requirements be considered in the upcoming budget deliberations.

Councillor Hum indicated that the volunteers are critical to HRM's neighbourhoods. HRM needs to support the volunteers in whatever way it can. Councillor Hum raised concern regarding volunteers not having proper clothing to identify them as Citizens' on Patrol. Volunteers are given a light jacket, which is not suitable for the winter months. She further indicated that the volunteers are using their own vehicles and gas. She noted that Imperial Oil donated \$3,000 worth of gas cards to the West Division Citizens' on Patrol and asked if those cards are used for all divisions of Citizens' on Patrol.

Ms. Burns advised that the gas cards are shared between the three Citizens' on Patrol divisions. HRP is thankful to Imperial Oil for their donation, which has been a great assistance to the volunteers. In regard to clothing, volunteers are given a light jacket that could be worn over a heavier fleece during the winter months, as well as, a hat to identify themselves. Ms. Burns noted that for the most part, volunteers try to remain anonymous to allow them to keep a low profile.

Councillor Hendsbee indicated that there is an allocation for funding to support volunteers within the HRP's budget. He asked how the funds should be allocated in regard to the RCMP areas, should Council allow for funding within the budget. He expressed concern regarding the rural volunteers not having the same benefits. He noted that local Councillors do receive requests to assist with funding and asked how Council might collaborate with the RCMP to assist the Citizen's on Patrol program. Councillor Hendsbee indicated that Council needs to recognize there is a need to assist

HRM's volunteers in the rural and suburban areas and asked how the RCMP would address funding for volunteers as well.

Superintendent Darrell Beaton, RCMP, advised that the Citizens' on Patrol is a valuable asset to HRM's communities. HRM has a very active group of Citizens' on Patrol in the rural and urban areas. The issue surrounding funding for this program is a very real issue. The Citizens' on Patrol program is not financially supported in the current RCMP budget. Volunteers raise their own money, provide their own vehicle, supply their own gas, cell phones and in some cases their own radios. When the RCMP is able to provide support to the divisions, it is coming from within the current operating budget.

Councillor Rankin suggested that if the RCMP does not have the resources to assist the Citizens' on Patrol program, that perhaps Council could offer some assistance in the 2011 budget. He requested that the 2011 budget address communication devices, such as cell phones and include the Sackville and Cole Harbour areas.

Councillor Mosher advised that the West Division Citizens' on Patrol was the first graduating class in November of 2003. The Councillors of the Chebucto Community Council and the Bedford Councillor provided the funding to purchase radios and jackets for the volunteers. Due to Council's funding guidelines, Council is not able to fund operational expenditures. Councillor Mosher raised concern that the volunteers are putting their own vehicles at risk and suggested using police vehicles that have been taken out of service, repainting them with Citizens' on Patrol on the sides and giving them to the volunteers to use. Ms. Burns noted that this would be a safety issue. Volunteers are not provided with protection and putting them in marked vehicles could potentially make them a target.

Councillor Lund noted that it appears that funding is dealt with differently by each of the Citizens' on Patrol districts.

MOVED by Councillor Lund, seconded by Councillor Hum, that the motion be amended to request a supplementary staff report to address the questions raised by Council.

During the ensuing discussion, Council requested that the following information be included in the supplementary report:

- different approaches by which Council and HRP can assist with funding
- recommendations on how to assist the Citizens' on Patrol
- how to ensure consistency in the future around funding Citizens' on Patrol
- should all of the areas have associations in order to secure funding
- the average amount of mileage that is being accumulated on the vehicles of volunteers and what volunteers are paying for gas
- funding options in regard to clothing, cell phones, radios and gas support
- Fund-raising options

- public awareness
- recruitment of volunteers

The motion now reads: **that Halifax Regional Council request Citizens on Patrol requirements be considered in the upcoming budget deliberations and request a supplementary staff report to address the questions raised by Council.**

Councillor Smith noted that staff may want to confirm whether this matter should be considered in the Police budget. The supplementary report may have to go to the Police Commission for their consideration.

MOTION, as amended, PUT AND PASSED.

11. MOTIONS - NONE

12. ADDED ITEMS

12.1 Councillor McCluskey - Request to add February 16, 2010 Information Item #3 to the Agenda - Residential Curbside Give-Away Weekend Event

- A staff report dated January 29, 2010 was before Council.

MOVED by Councillor McCluskey, seconded by Councillor Smith, that Halifax Regional Council instruct staff to proceed with the education/promotional campaign, as outlined in the information report of February 16, 2010, to implement two Curb Side Give-Away events for HRM - the first in June 2010, in conjunction with Environment Week, and the second in October 2010 in conjunction with Waste Reduction Week.

Councillor McCluskey expressed her excitement about diverting materials away from the landfill. She noted that curbside give-away events have been a practice in the City of Ottawa since 2007. She indicated that setting dates for the event will help raise public awareness. Staff have contacted representatives in Ottawa and are prepared to move forward.

During the discussion the following concerns and points were noted:

- potential risk of bedbugs associated with mattresses and upholstered furniture
- a risk that furniture will not be cleaned properly; risk of health issues

Gord Helm, Manager, Solid Waste Resources, advised that the issue surrounding bedbugs can be addressed through educating and notifying residents. Items can also be identified as not a part of the give-away event.

- important to have the proper education in place that items are taken at the resident's own risk; checking items before taking them
- there is a need to promote other organizations that will take in unwanted materials

Mr. Helm advised that under #2 of the Discussion section of the January 29th report, it will be part of HRM's education and communications package to work closely with all volunteer and charity organizations that accept the types of materials that will be a part of the give-away weekend event.

Mr. Helm further advised that as described in the January 12th report, based on Ottawa and Winnipeg's experiences with the give-away events, the municipalities have adjusted their programs based on various experiences with potential problems. Staff are aware of the potential risks and problems and will be applying this information to the program. Once the program is completed, staff will be promoting it in advance to the public through the various education and communication mechanisms.

Further points and concerns raised:

- the rules do not specify if the material would be left out overnight during the two day weekend event
- whether By-law Enforcement Officers will be patrolling the streets to enforce that only the correct materials allowed are at the curb; who will monitor this process

Mr. Helm advised that the event will be on the citizen's honour program. Items not removed from the curb, after the give-away weekend and before the regular garbage collection, will be ticketed under the By-law.

- option to do a trial run in June and if the event is not successful then the second event would be cancelled.
- there are opportunities in place such as yard sales or putting items by the curb if an individual wants to get rid of unwanted materials
- concern with the second give-away weekend falling on Halloween weekend; risk for mischief; possibility of changing the date
- concern regarding who will remove the items not taken
- concern regarding safety on the sides of the road while retrieving materials
- concern that event could take away from charity organizations
- beneficial for reducing the environmental footprint
- items sitting out overnight could end up all over the roads
- its often the same individuals collecting the materials
- will there be an alternative date due to bad weather

Mr. Helm noted that the give-away events are orchestrated around special weekends and those weekends often have an alternative date in case of bad weather.

- a way to encourage others to go out and look for materials they might not feel comfortable doing during a regular collection
- concern regarding how individuals will know its safe to take and it is not regular garbage

Mr. Helm indicated that citizens participating in the event would place their materials at the curb with a sign that indicates the item is free. The give-away event will be done on a weekend that is not a regular garbage collection. Staff will address this issue as part of the education and communication process.

- it is the responsibility of the homeowner to retrieve the materials from the curb or location if it is moved

During the ensuing discussion it was **MOVED by Councillor Dalrymple, seconded by Councillor Sloane, that the motion be amended to revise the October date so as not to fall on Halloween.**

The motion now reads:

MOVED by Councillor McCluskey, seconded by Councillor Smith, that Halifax Regional Council instruct staff to proceed with the education/promotional campaign, as outlined in the information report of February 16, 2010, to implement two Curb Side Give-away events for HRM - the first in June 2010, in conjunction with Environment Week and that the October date be revised so as not to fall on Halloween.

MOTION, as amended, PUT AND PASSED.

13. NOTICES OF MOTION - NONE

14. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Cathy Mellett
Acting Municipal Clerk

INFORMATION ITEMS
February 16, 2010

1. Proclamation - Random Acts of Kindness Week - February 15 - 21, 2010
2. Memorandum from Acting Director, Transportation & Public Works dated February 1, 2010 re: Petition for Sidewalk Snow Plowing on Roome Street, Halifax
3. Memorandum from Acting Director, Transportation & Public Works dated January 29, 2010 re: Residential Curbside Give-Away Weekend Event
4. Memorandum from Director, Infrastructure & Asset Management dated January 28, 2010 re: Green Fleet Initiative: HRM Drive Wisser Programme for 2010
5. Memorandum from Director, Infrastructure & Asset Management dated February 3, 2010 re: Corporate Knights 2010 Sustainability Rankings
6. Memorandum from Director, Infrastructure & Asset Management dated January 26, 2010 re: Advanced Funding for the 2010 / 2011 Capital Budget
7. Memorandum from Acting Director, Community Development dated January 25, 2010 re: Pettipas Lane - East Chezzetcook
8. Memorandum from Chief Director, Fire & Emergency dated February 10, 2010 re: Keefe Drive - Emergency Concerns due to Road Condition and Lack of Seawall
9. Memorandum from the Acting Clerk Manager dated February 12, 2010 re: Requests for Presentation to Council - None