

HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MINUTES
April 5, 2005

PRESENT:

Mayor Peter J. Kelly
Deputy Mayor Len Goucher
Councillors: Steve Streach
Krista Snow
David Hendsbee
Harry McInroy
Gloria McCluskey
Andrew Younger
Bill Karsten
Becky Kent
Jim Smith
Mary Wile
Patrick Murphy
Dawn Sloane (3:15 p.m.)
Sheila Fougere (3:45 p.m.)
Russell Walker (3:40 p.m.)
Debbie Hum (3:15 p.m.)
Linda Mosher (3:20 p.m.)
Stephen Adams
Brad Johns
Robert Harvey
Reg Rankin
Gary Meade

REGRETS:

Councillor Sue Uteck

STAFF:

Mr. George McLellan, Chief Administrative Officer
Mr. Wayne Anstey, Municipal Solicitor
Ms. Jan Gibson, Municipal Clerk
Ms. Julia Horncastle, Legislative Assistant

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1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES - March 22, 2005**

MOVED by Councillor McCluskey, seconded by Councillor Karsten, that the minutes of March 22, 2005 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

Deletions

Item #6 was deleted from the agenda.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Goucher, seconded by Councillor Smith, that the Order of Business, as amended, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. **FEASIBILITY STUDY - EXPAND WORLD TRADE AND CONVENTION CENTRE AND REPLACE HALIFAX METRO CENTRE**

- An information report dated March 30, 2005 on the above noted was before Council.

Mr. Mike Labrecque, Director, Transportation and Public Works Services, presented the report.

Councillor Younger stated there is a need to expand the current centre but cautioned that it not be funded at the expense of such things as roads.

MOVED by Councillor Harvey, seconded by Councillor Wile that Regional Council support 1/3 funding up to \$80,000 towards a feasibility study to expand the World Trade and Convention Centre and replace the Halifax Metro Centre, subject to the participation by the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency and the Province of Nova Scotia at the same level.

Councillor Karsten expressed concern with spending a large amount of money on such a facility without there being long term contracts in place such as the one with the Mooseheads.

Mayor Kelly noted the study was to determine the feasibility of expanding the current facility

or building a new one. He noted that if it is determined that a new facility is needed then the study would also look at possible sites.

In response to Councillor Hendsbee, Council was advised that should this move forward thirty to thirty five percent of the funds would be raised privately.

Mr. George McLellan, Chief Administrative Officer, advised the other levels of government have indicated they are prepared to be supportive of this. He noted the HRM share would come from hotel tax monies and any initiative would have to be tied very seriously to the commitments of other levels of government.

In response to Councillor Kent, Council was advised that in providing funding towards the study HRM is not making any form of a commitment.

Councillor Smith stated this study needs to look at the economic benefit and in doing so needs to take into consideration the demographic changes in the areas of population growth.

Councillor Mosher stated this study will allow HRM to establish a business case. She suggested there could be support from other than just the business community as this ties into the regional planning process.

Without a vote being taken, the following motion was placed.

MOVED by Councillor Streach, seconded by Councillor McCluskey, that this item be deferred pending further information being provided to Council. MOTION DEFEATED.

Councillor Sloane suggested the Cogswell Interchange lands be included as part of the study. On further question, Council was advised this study would be back no sooner than six months.

In response to Mayor Kelly, Council was advised expansion of the current facility is part of the study.

In response to Councillor Snow, Ms. Dale McLennan, Director of Financial Services, advised she would get the stats from the Metro Centre regarding usage.

In response to Councillor Streach, Council was advised the original capital debt on the Metro Centre has been retired.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5. SIGN BY-LAW - UPDATE

Due to time constraints, this item was deferred for one week.

6. INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS - UPDATE

This item was deleted under the approval of the Order of Business.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Jan Gibson
Municipal Clerk