

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

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HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
(EVENING SESSION)  
APRIL 21, 1998

PRESENT

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

STAFF MEMBERS

Mr. Ken Meech, Chief Administrative Officer  
Mr. Wayne Anstey, Municipal Solicitor  
Ms. Vi Carmichael, Municipal Clerk  
Ms. Jane Nauss, Assistant Municipal Clerk

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1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES - March 31 and April 7, 1998**

MOVED by Councilors Hetherington and Greenough to adopt the Committee of the Whole minutes dated March 31 and April 7, 1998. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. **APPROVAL OF ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS**

It was agreed to discuss those items carried forward from the afternoon Session after #5 - Recognition:

- 3.2.11 Call for Proposals for Western Commons Study - #98-019
- 3.2.14 Paving - Stonemount Subdivision
- 3.2.15 Local Improvement Charges - Greenwood Heights/Maplewood Subdivision (Info Item #2).

3. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES - None**

4. **PROCLAMATION**

4.1 **Canada Book Day - April 23, 1998**

Mayor Fitzgerald proclaimed April 23, 1998 as Canada Book Day.

5. **RECOGNITION**

5.1 **HRM Volunteers - Norma Oyler, Dorothy Graham, Melvin Boutilier, Debbie Ann Bishop, and Robert Ruggles**

Mayor Fitzgerald invited Members of Council to acknowledge the above-noted Volunteers who were recognized for their dedication in their communities, over the past year. Mayor Fitzgerald presented each individual with a Certificate of Appreciation.

5.2 **HRM Employees - Corinne Hartley-Robinson, Jan Skora, and George Taylor**

Mayor Fitzgerald presented each of the above-noted employees of HRM with Certificates of Achievement.

*At this point in the meeting, it was agreed to discuss the following items which had been referred from the afternoon Session (items 3.2.11, 3.2.14, and 3.2.15).*

**3.2.11        Call for Proposals for Western Commons Study #98-019**

- A memorandum prepared for Mr. George McLellan, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, on the above-noted, was before Council.

**MOVED by Councillors Mitchell and Snow that it be recommended to Council to approve the proposal by Environmental and Design Management Limited (EDM) to undertake the Western Commons Study. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

*It had been agreed at the afternoon Session to defer discussion on item 3.2.14 to this Session.*

**3.2.14        Paving - Stonemount Subdivision**

- A memorandum prepared for Mr. George McLellan, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, on the above-noted, was before Council.

**MOVED by Councillors Harvey and Sarto that it be recommended to Council to approve the revised priority list of streets to be paved and chipsealed in 1998, including Phase 1 of the Stonemount Subdivision. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Deputy Mayor Rankin anticipated staff would examine the entire list carried forward from the Capital Budget, including those in Kingswood.

*It had been agreed at the afternoon Session to defer discussion on item 3.2.15 to this Session.*

**3.2.15        Local Improvement Charges - Greenwood Heights/Maplewood Subdivision (Info Item #4)**

- A memorandum prepared for Mr. Ron Singer, Director of Finance, on the above-noted, was before Council.

During the March 31, 1998 Session of Council, Deputy Mayor Rankin requested staff provide a report on this issue.

**MOVED by Deputy Mayor Rankin and Councillor Walker that it be recommended to Council, to adopt Alternative #2 outlined in the April 16, 1998 staff report, which states "If Council wishes to reduce the unit charge to reflect the credit from the sale of property, Council can instruct staff to prepare an amendment to the By-Law." MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

*Discussion on the remainder of the Committee of the Whole agenda continued.*

**6. MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

**6.1.1 Councillor Epstein - Macdonald Bridge**

Councillor Epstein requested a staff report for a future meeting of Council. Further, that a presentation be made by the biking community as they had concerns which they wished Council to address.

**MOVED by Councillors Epstein and Walker that it be recommended to Council that staff prepare a report, for a future meeting of Council, on the ramp design of the Macdonald Bridge; further, that a presentation be made by the biking community. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**6.1.2 Councillor Schofield - Procurement Policy & Local Preference**

Councillor Schofield requested a staff report on implementing a Local Preference Policy where there are tenders under \$20,000. Further, the Councillor requested staff address the tender opening procedure. He expressed concern that bidders were not permitted to be in attendance when tenders were opened.

Councillor Epstein requested staff address, in the report, potential economic spinoffs if a policy, as recommended, was implemented.

**MOVED by Councillors Schofield and Cunningham that it be recommended to Council that staff prepare a report on implementing a Local Preference Policy where there are tenders under \$20,000; further, that staff consider the economic spin offs if this policy was implemented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**6.1.3 Councillor Schofield - Voice Mail**

Councillor Schofield expressed concern with the continued use of voice mail, noting the public must be frustrated as well.

**MOVED by Councillors Schofield and Stone that it be recommended to Council that staff prepare a report on the matter of Voice Mail. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**6.2            Presentation - Coopers & Lybrand - Program & Service Review Findings**

- A memorandum prepared for Mr. Ken Meech, Chief Administrative Officer, on the above-noted, was before Council. Copies of overheads prepared by Coopers & Lybrand Consulting, were distributed to Council.

Ms. Val Spencer, Director, Priority and Policy, addressed Council noting staff's recommendation, and the fact that Coopers & Lybrand would be making a brief presentation entitled "ABC Report Briefing."

**MOVED by Councillor Greenough and Deputy Mayor Rankin that it be recommended to Council that:**

- (a) The Audit Committee review the findings and options identified by Coopers & Lybrand and make recommendations to Council on how to proceed. In particular, the Audit Committee is to make recommendations on (1) the nature and extent of public input and consultation during the review process; and (2) the process Council should follow to change service levels and/or change the way services are delivered;**
- (b) Further, to direct staff to proceed with the implementation of Activity-Based Costing for all services offered by the Municipality. A 3-phase approach is suggested, with reports prepared and presented to Council at the conclusion of each phase. The work plan should be designed so that a full ABC model, covering all municipal services offered by HRM, will be available to support the budget debate for the 1999/2000 fiscal year.**

Prior to voting on the Motion, Mr. Donald Moors and Ms. Gloria Banks, Coopers & Lybrand, made a brief presentation on their findings for the following:

- Police Services - Response and Investigation Services
- Streets, Roads, Traffic & Transportation - Pedestrian Snow and Ice Control
- Recreational Facilities & Programming - Community Development
- Sewer and Drainage.

Mayor Fitzgerald thanked Mr. Moors and Ms. Banks for their presentation.

A vote on the Motion took place. **MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Councillor Cooper expressed an interest in participating on the expanded Audit Committee.

**6.3 Halifax Harbour Solutions Stakeholder Advisory Committee**

- Reports from the Halifax Harbour Solutions Advisory Committee - Final Report; Report of the Halifax Harbour Solutions Advisory Committee, and Halifax Harbour Solutions Project, had been previously circulated on March 31, 1998.
- Copies of overheads from Mr. John Woods, APENS, were distributed to Council. Mr. Woods was to make a brief presentation to Council. Also, correspondence from the Dartmouth Cove Area Residents Association was distributed to Council.

**MOVED by Councillors Cunningham and Hetherington that it be recommended to Council that:**

**(a) Council adopt the report of the Harbour Solutions Advisory Committee with its recommendations, and the framework it presents for the harbour solutions project. Appropriate elements of a "WINBY" approach should be adopted, as discussed on page 11 of the staff report dated March 19, 1998; and a final decision on ownership under possible public-private partnership approaches should be deferred for now, as discussed on page 16 of the staff report dated March 19, 1998;**

**(b) Further, that Council approve, in principle, concurrent action on the following next steps in this process:**

- **Identification of specific candidate sites for facilities, and working with landowners of such prospective sites to reach agreement on availability;**
- **Provide information on the process and solution scenarios to the general public and inform the public on progress to date as well as impending and future steps;**
- **Further consulting work to refine treatment scenarios and select specific solutions in terms of sites, technology, collection infrastructure, etc.;**
- **Issuance of a Request for Expressions of Interest to the private sector to identify prospective participants in further steps, should a PPP approach be adopted;**
- **Initiating of appropriate procurement processes to develop facility designs, provide funding mechanisms and develop contractual arrangements for**

**components of the selected treatment scenario.**

Mr. Woods addressed Council noting that APENS was willing to work with HRM on the harbour cleanup solution, to create maximum employment in the region. Further, Mr. Woods advised that over 50 percent of the membership of APENS resides within HRM.

Councillor Epstein referenced the possibility of agreeing to a PPP arrangement, cautioning Council there could be a potential of the water system being owned in its entirety by a private company.

Councillor Hetherington suggested that APENS should give the municipality the best possible price, if the project is publicly funded.

Councillor Cooper enquired if an ABC could be undertaken on the consulting process within the municipality. In response, Mr. Ken Meech, Chief Administrative Officer, advised this could be added to the list.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**6.4            CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

**6.4.1        Truck Troute By-Law**

Councillor Kelly referenced the community of Bedford - Duke Street Extension from Highway 102 to Rocky Lake Drive - and enquired if there was an opportunity to eliminate truck traffic, other than local traffic, from Duke Street down to Bedford Highway, along Rocky Lake Drive. The Councillor advised that Residents had been promised that once the overpass was opened, truck traffic would be almost eliminated, pending the final connection to Burnside.

In response, Mr. Ken Silver, Manager of Traffic and Transportation Services, suggested this would comprise part of the trunk highway system within the province. Implications of this suggestion would be that truck drivers would have to use Duke Street - come in the 102 and along the Bedford Highway.

Councillor Kelly referenced a diagram suggesting the full length of Rocky Lake Drive is not indicated on staff's map. Mr. Ken Silver advised that most of the trucking activity in the area is in the quarry area - therefore, truck traffic is encouraged from the quarry - if not servicing the immediate area - to travel back along Rocky Lake Drive - use Duke Street and access the 102.

In response, Councillor Kelly advised the area from Sunnyside, towards Duke Street, is not indicated on the map, however, truck traffic is extensive in this area. It is this area that he wants designated as a "no truck" route.

Councillor Kelly referenced the Hammonds Plains Road area heading towards Sunnyside, along to the #7 highway, requesting this area also be designated as a "no truck" route. This will reduce truck traffic through the community. Mr. Ken Silver noted this area is a critical link (Bedford Highway). If not used as a day time truck route, problems could result. Councillor Kelly expressed more concern with 18 wheelers more so than local traffic, as they are using the Bedford Highway as a shortcut to the 102 without travelling the Hammonds Plains Road or the Kearney Lake Road.

Mr. Khulvinder Dhillon, Director, Engineering & Transportation Services, advised that staff have designated the arterial road as a truck route. If not, it is anticipated trucks will utilize local roads instead. Mr. Dhillon referenced the possibility of this area being widened to 4 lanes. Councillor Kelly referenced Bedford's MPS noting it states 3 lanes of traffic as opposed to 4 lanes.

Councillor Kelly also referenced traffic lights on the Bedford Highway (only 13 seconds for vehicles to get through green light) noting that staff is addressing this.

As there were a number of Councillors who wished to speak to this issue, it was agreed that Councillors would forward their comments, in writing, on the Truck Route By-Law, directly to staff.

## **7. ADDED ITEMS**

### **7.1 RESIGNATION - COUNCILLOR HOWARD EPSTEIN**

Councillor Epstein addressed Council, expressing his gratitude to staff and fellow Councillors, over the past two years. The Councillor noted it had been an honour to serve with such a Council.

Members of Council offered their congratulations to Councillor Epstein and best wishes for the future as a Member of the Provincial Legislature.

On behalf of Council, Mayor Fitzgerald presented Councillor Epstein with a gift. In turn, Councillor Epstein presented Mayor Fitzgerald with a framed print.

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Councillors Epstein and Mitchell to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m.  
MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

  
Vi Carmichael  
MUNICIPAL CLERK