



**HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES
February 21, 2017**

PRESENT: Mayor Mike Savage
Deputy Mayor Steve Craig
Councillors: Steve Streach
David Hendsbee
Lorelei Nicoll
Sam Austin
Tony Mancini
Waye Mason
Lindell Smith
Shawn Cleary
Russell Walker
Stephen Adams
Richard Zurawski
Matt Whitman
Lisa Blackburn
Tim Outhit

REGRETS: Councillor: Bill Karsten

STAFF: Mr. John Traves, Acting Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. Karen Brown, Acting Municipal Solicitor
Mr. Kevin Arjoon, Municipal Clerk
Ms. Krista Vining, Legislative Assistant

The following does not represent a verbatim record of the proceedings of this meeting.

A video recording of this meeting is available: http://archive.isiglobal.ca/vod/halifax/archive_2017-02-21_live.mp4.html

The agenda, supporting documents, and information items circulated to Council are available online: <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/170221cow-agenda.php>

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p. m. and adjourned at 2:09 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – NONE

3. Stormwater Right-of-Way (ROW) Funding Options
(i) Public Participation

The following was before Council:

- Staff recommendation report dated February 1, 2017

Mayor Savage called three times for any members of the public wishing to speak on the matter; there were none.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Smith

THAT Halifax Regional council fund the annual Stormwater Right of Way charge, billed by Halifax Water, through an area rate on the Halifax Water Stormwater Service Area (Option 3 in the Discussion section of the staff report dated February 1, 2017), effective April 1, 2017, and that staff include this area rate in the final 2017-18 operating budget.

Discussion was held with staff responding to questions around stormwater management, past billing practices through Halifax Water and alternatives, such as placing it on the general tax rate.

Members who supported the motion saw this as the fairest way to pay for the stormwater right of way charge placed on the Municipality by the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board. Members commented on how everyone uses the roads and sidewalks equality and saw it as inappropriate to place this charge on the water bill or general tax rate.

Members who were not in support of funding the charge through an area rate or the general tax rate pointed out drawbacks in the system, with an example of land leased communities (i.e. townhouses, condos and mobile home parks) being double taxed. These members supported the charge being on the water bill and recognizing the benefits of density and the cost savings to service.

MOTION PUT AND DEFEATED.

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Streach

THAT Halifax Regional Council direct staff to draft a by-law setting a stormwater charge based on the Halifax Water service area and that staff return to Council for consideration of it and request Halifax Water to collect the stormwater right of way charge on the water bill.

Clarification was sought on whether the properties currently exempt from the “ditch tax” would not be exempt from this charge. Mr. Fisher explained that staff would bring back information on whether the Municipality had legal authority to tax those properties.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:09 p.m.

Kevin Arjoon
Municipal Clerk