



**HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES
March 7, 2017**

PRESENT: Councillor Bill Karsten, Chair
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

STAFF: Ms. Amanda Whitewood, Director of Finance & ICT / CFO
Ms. Karen Brown, Senior Solicitor
Mr. Kevin Arjoon, Municipal Clerk
Ms. Phoebe Rai, 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://www.halifax.ca/site/exit.php?url=http://archive.isiglobal.ca/vod/halifax/archive_2017-03-07_live.mp4.html

The agenda, supporting documents, and information items circulated to Council are available online:

<http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/170307cow-agenda.php>

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. and adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Councillor Karsten, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – January 25 and February 1, 2017

MOVED by Councillor Whitman, seconded by Councillor Mancini

THAT the minutes of January 25 and February 1, 2017 be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. 17/18 and 18/19 Fiscal and Consolidated Accounts

The following was before Council:

- A staff recommendation report dated February 27, 2017
- A handout dated March 7, 2017 entitled *Fiscal and Consolidated Accounts Multi-Year Budget & Business Plan*

Ms. Amanda Whitewood, Director of Finance & ICT / CFO provided introductory remarks and advised that the full budget will come forward on April 11, 2017.

Mr. Bruce Fisher, Manager of Financial Policy and Planning provided a presentation in relation to 17/18 and 18/19 Fiscal and Consolidated Accounts as outlined in the staff report dated February 27, 2017. Mr. Fisher spoke to the handout provided to Council, regarding service and cost increases to municipal expenditures in 17/18, and he added that municipal expenditures for 16/17 were artificially low due to a one-time savings from solid waste.

Councillor Karsten thanked staff for their presentation and invited members of the public to come forward to speak on the budget.

Mr. Gordon Hammond, representing an ad hoc committee of HRM community museums, addressed Council with respect to the municipal grants program. Mr. Hammond provided commentary on his vision of an equitable assistance program for community museums and requested that Council provide \$220,000 to assist 18 museums.

The Chair called three times for anyone else wishing to address Council, and there were none.

MOVED by Councillor Outhit, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend that Halifax Regional Council direct staff to

- 1. Proceed to prepare the 2017/2018 Multi-year Fiscal and Consolidated Accounts, including 2018/2019 in principle, as proposed in the accompanying presentation and consistent with the preliminary fiscal direction,**
- 2. Review the approach to Grants during the 2017-18 year,**
- 3. Reduce Capital from Operating by**
 - a. \$1.970m in 2017-18 and**
 - b. \$1.809m in 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21, and,****Withdraw from Capital Fund Reserve (Q526)**
 - a. \$1.970m in 2017-18 and**
 - b. \$1.809m in 2018-19.**

A discussion ensued with Councillors asking questions of clarification. Regarding a question of tax relief to non-profits, staff advised that part of the grants review would be to consider additional funding to cover

the mandatory collection of at least the residential tax rate. Councillors also requested information regarding whether or not other municipalities have a cap for grants programs based on overall revenue. Staff agreed to consider this in the grants review.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Kevin Arjoon
Municipal Clerk