



**BUDGET COMMITTEE
(STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ON BUDGET)
MINUTES
February 2, 2024**

PRESENT: Mayor Mike Savage, Vice Chair
Deputy Mayor Cathy Deagle Gammon
Councillors: David Hendsbee
Trish Purdy
Tony Mancini
Waye Mason
Lindell Smith
Shawn Cleary
Kathryn Morse
Patty Cuttell
Iona Stoddard
Pam Lovelace
Lisa Blackburn
Tim Outhit

REGRETS: Councillors: Paul Russell, Budget Committee Chair – Leave of Absence
Becky Kent
Sam Austin

STAFF: Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance & Asset Management/Chief
Financial Officer
John Traves, K.C., CD, Executive Director of Legal & Legislative
Services/Municipal Solicitor/Chief Governance Officer
Iain MacLean, Municipal Clerk
Catie Campbell, Legislative Assistant

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

The agenda, reports, supporting documents, information items circulated, and video (if available) are online at halifax.ca.

The meeting was called to order at 9:34 a.m. and adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m. and acknowledged that the meeting took place in the traditional and ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq people, and that we are all treaty people.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – NONE

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

Additions: None

Deletions: None

MOVED by Councillor Mason seconded by Councillor Stoddard

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS – NONE

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mayor Savage noted there were no registered speakers and called three times for any other members of the public wishing to speak; there were none.

6. REPORTS

6.1 Halifax Public Libraries

The following was before Budget Committee:

- Staff report dated February 2, 2024
- Staff presentation dated February 2, 2024

Asa Kachan, Chief Executive Officer, Halifax Public Libraries gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Mancini, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT the Budget Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to incorporate the Halifax Public Libraries proposed 2024/25 Budget and Business Plan, as set out and discussed in the accompanying plan and supporting presentation attached to the staff report dated February 2, 2024, into the Draft 2024/25 Operating Budget.

Kachan, Mairead Barry, Director, Strategy and Megan Gainer, Director, Facilities responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee regarding collection expenses, number of branches, rural service enhancements, upcoming strategic planning, library national standards and branch renovations. Gainer spoke to the costs and benefits of leasing versus owning facilities. Barry noted collaboration with Municipal departments.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Budget Committee Chair Russell, Councillors Kent, Austin

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Iain MacLean
Municipal Clerk