



**BUDGET COMMITTEE  
(STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ON BUDGET)  
MINUTES  
February 9, 2024**

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

REGRETS: Budget Committee Chair Paul Russell – Leave of Absence

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](http://halifax.ca).*

*The meeting was called to order at 9:34 a.m., and recessed at 12:11 p.m. Budget Committee reconvened at 1:10 p.m. and adjourned at 3:01 p.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 Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Cuttell

**THAT the agenda be approved as presented.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

## **4. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS – NONE**

## **5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**Martyn Williams, Clayton Park** spoke to the proposed Public Works budget and noted concerns with road safety measures, 2023 road safety data, lack of engagement with community stakeholders, key performance indicators and the 2018 Road Safety Framework.

## **6. ITEMS CONTINUED FROM A PREVIOUS MEETING – February 7, 2024**

### **6.1 Halifax Regional Police and Royal Canadian Mounted Police Halifax Regional Detachment**

The following was before Budget Committee:

- Staff report dated January 24, 2024
- Correspondence from Hannah Cameron
- Staff presentation dated January 24, 2024
- Royal Canadian Mounted Police Halifax Regional Detachment presentation January 24, 2024

Chief Superintendent Jeffrey Christie, Halifax Regional Detachment Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP HRD) and Darrell Harvey, Strategic Business Planner, HRD RCMP and gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

The following motion was on the floor from the February 7, 2024 Budget Committee meeting:

MOVED by Councillor Kent, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

**THAT the Budget Committee:**

- 1. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to incorporate the Halifax Regional Police (HRP) proposed 2024/25 Budget and Business Plan, as set out and discussed in the accompanying plan and supporting presentation attached to the report dated January 24, 2024, into the Draft 2024/25 Operating Budget;**

MOVED by Councillor Kent, seconded by Councillor Lovelace

2. **Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to incorporate the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) proposed 2024/25 Budget and Business Plan, as set out and discussed in the accompanying plan and supporting presentation attached to the report dated January 24, 2024, into the Draft 2024/25 Operating Budget; and**
3. **Include an estimated increase of \$1,145,000 (pro-rated at \$572,300 for 2024/25) for six RCMP Regular Member positions as outlined in Attachment 5 of the report dated January 24, 2024– RCMP Contract Enhancements Request within the proposed 2024/25 RCMP budget to the Budget Adjustment List as an expense over budget option for consideration.**

Chief Superintendent Christie, Inspector Don Moser, RCMP HRD, Haley Crichton, Executive Director of Public Safety and Security, Department of Justice and Acting Chief Don MacLean, Halifax Regional Police responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee. Chief Superintendent Christie spoke to the Wortley Report, healthy and safety measures for officers, crime statistics, response times, challenges with rural policing, the role of the Board of Police Commissioners for the Halifax Regional Municipality, emergency management and intimate partner violence response.

Inspector Moser noted the ongoing work on the Nova Scotia RCMP apology to the African Nova Scotian community. Crichton spoke to the RCMP budgeting process. Acting Chief MacLean noted the 'cop to population' ratio and the criminal investigation division.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Mancini

**THAT the Budget Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer prepare a supplementary report that identifies potential funding sources in order to fully fund the Community Safety requests for community safety alternatives and defer further consideration of item 6.1 pending Budget Committee's decision on the Community Safety budget and consideration of alternatives.**

Cathie O'Toole, Chief Administrative Officer Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance & Asset Management/Chief Financial Officer and John Traves, K.C., CD, Executive Director of Legal & Legislative Services/Municipal Solicitor/Chief Governance Officer responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee. O'Toole noted collaboration with the Municipality's Community Safety business unit. Blackwood and Traves spoke to the budgeting process and contract obligations.

**MOTION TO DEFER PUT AND PASSED.** (15 in favour, 1 against)

In favour: Mayor Savage, Deputy Mayor Deagle Gammon, Councillors Hendsbee, Kent, Austin, Mancini, Mason, Smith, Cleary, Morse, Cuttall, Stoddard, Lovelace, Blackburn, Outhit

Against: Councillor Purdy

Not present: Budget Committee Chair Russell

## **7. REPORTS**

### **7.1 Public Works**

The following was before Budget Committee:

- Staff report dated January 29, 2024, revised February 8, 2024
- Correspondence from Martyn Williams, Barbara and Winston French
- Staff presentation dated January 29, 2024

Mayor Savage stepped down from the Chair and Deputy Mayor Deagle Gammon assumed the Chair.

Brad Anguish, Executive Director of Public Works/Chief Engineer and Tracey Dickson, Coordinator gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

Mayor Savage resumed the Chair.

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

**THAT the Budget Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to incorporate the Public Works 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 January 29, 2024, into the Draft 2024/25 Operating Budget.**

Anguish, David MacIsaac, Manager, Active Transportation, Beverley Audet, Director, Infrastructure Maintenance and Operations and Crispin Wood, Manager, Urban Forestry responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee. Anguish noted upcoming road safety metrics, employee retention challenges, the provincial road transfer process, potential for license plate automation, speed enforcement automation and traffic calming measures.

MacIsaac spoke to the Active Transportation Priority Plan. Audet spoke to public contractors accessing Municipal salt reserves and Wood noted collaboration with the Environment division.

MOVED by Councillor Purdy, seconded by Councillor Mason

**THAT the motion be amended to include a new section that reads as follows:**

2. **Direct savings in the amount of \$250,000 for the micromobility pilot, to be added as an option under budget on the budget adjustment list (BAL) for Budget Committee to consider in the 2024/25 Budget.**

**MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Not present: Budget Committee Chair Russell, Councillors Blackburn, Outhit

Anguish responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee regarding government agreements, infrastructure painting requirements, traffic calming measures and collaboration with Planning and Development.

The question was called on the main motion:

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

**THAT the Budget Committee:**

1. **Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to incorporate the Public Works 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 January 29, 2024, into the Draft 2024/25 Operating Budget; and**
2. **Direct savings in the amount of \$250,000 for the micromobility pilot, to be added as an option under budget on the budget adjustment list (BAL) for Budget Committee to consider in the 2024/25 Budget.**

**MOTION AS AMENDED PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Not present: Budget Committee Chair Russell, Councillors Blackburn, Outhit

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:01 p.m.

Iain MacLean  
Municipal Clerk