



**BUDGET COMMITTEE  
(STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ON BUDGET)  
MINUTES  
December 12, 2023**

PRESENT: 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: Councillor Paul Russell, Chair  
Mayor Mike Savage

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  
Annie Sherry, 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 10:03 a.m. Budget Committee adjourned at 12:15 p.m.*

## **1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:03 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 – November 28, 2023**

MOVED by Councillor Cuttell, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee

**THAT the minutes of November 28, 2023 be approved as circulated.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

Additions: None

Deletions: None

MOVED by Councillor Kent, seconded by Councillor Lovelace

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

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Not present: Budget Committee Chair Russell, Mayor Savage, Councillors Austin, Outhit

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

## **5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**Addie Burkam, Halifax** spoke on behalf of the Climate Futures Lab Group about the importance of investing in active transportation infrastructure and affordable transportation in the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) and shared findings from a survey conducted by the Climate Futures Lab Group. Burkham noted the importance of investing in safe cycling infrastructure to ensure that residents have safe, reliable ways to get to where they need to go without fear and without having to rely on cars.

## **6. REPORTS**

### **6.1 Capital Update and Advanced Tenders**

The following was before Budget Committee:

- Staff report dated November 29, 2023
- Staff presentation dated December 12, 2023

Cathie O'Toole, Chief Administrative Officer, and Crystal Nowlan, Director, Asset Management gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

**THAT the Budget Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council approve the schedule of 2024/25 advanced tender requests as per Attachment 1 of the staff report dated November 29, 2023.**

Brad Anguish, Executive Director, Public Works & Chief Engineer responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee regarding the AAA Bikeways Project and noted that projects funded from debt do not impact the tax rate until the year the projects are completed.

Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance & Asset Management/Chief Financial Officer responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee regarding the scope of the report and noted that the Capital Budget book was forthcoming.

Peter Duncan, Director, Infrastructure Planning, John MacPherson, Executive Director, Property, Fleet & Environment, and Maggie MacDonald, Executive Director, Parks & Recreation responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Purdy, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee

**THAT the proposed capital advanced tender budget for Fire Fleet Expansion CV240003, Fire Fleet Replacement CV240004, Municipal Fleet Expansion CV240001, Municipal Fleet Replacement CV240002, Police Fleet Expansion V240005, and Police Fleet Replacement CV240006 be reduced by 50% for the 2024/2025 fiscal year.**

Crystal Nowlan, Director of Asset Management responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

John Traves, K.C., CD, Executive Director of Legal & Legislative Services/Municipal Solicitor/Chief Governance Officer responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee and noted that staff needed direction on the 2024/25 advanced tender list to proceed with the rest of the budget planning process.

John MacPherson, Executive Director, Property, Fleet & Environment responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee and noted that staff could return to a future meeting of Budget Committee with a vehicle-specific list for fleet advanced tendering.

Cathie O'Toole, Chief Administrative Officer, and Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance & Asset Management/Chief Financial Officer responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee and noted that approval of the advanced tender list would give staff authority to start the tendering process, but that Budget Committee could make changes to the list if direction was given before contractual obligations were made.

As provided for in section 66 of Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, the motion was withdrawn with consent of Budget Committee.

The question was called on the main motion:

MOVED by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

**THAT the Budget Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council approve the schedule of 2024/25 advanced tender requests as per Attachment 1 of the staff report dated November 29, 2023.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.** (14 in favour, 1 against)

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

Against: Councillor Purdy

Not present: Budget Committee Chair Russell, Mayor Savage

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Iain MacLean  
Municipal Clerk