



**BUDGET COMMITTEE
(STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ON BUDGET)
MINUTES
March 6, 2024**

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

REGRETS: Councillors: Paul Russell, Budget Committee Chair - Leave of Absence
Becky Kent
Trish Purdy
Pam Lovelace

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
Catie Campbell, Legislative Assistant
Olawumi Odeyinka – Apantaku, 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 9:35 a.m., and adjourned at 9:49 a.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:35 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 – February 14, 2024

MOVED by Councillor Stoddard, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT the minutes of February 14, 2024 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 Smith, 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

Nick Greeno, Prospect Bay spoke to the importance of community safety and noted crime rates and prevention. Greeno encouraged a reallocation of resources and need to invest in community resources.

Frank Heimpl, District 8 spoke against the proposed 2024/25 Halifax Regional Police budget and encouraged investment in community resources.

6. ITEMS CONTINUED FROM A PREVIOUS MEETING – NONE

7. REPORTS

7.1 Halifax Regional Police and Royal Canadian Mounted Police Halifax Regional Detachment Budget and Business Plan

The following was before Budget Committee:

- Staff report dated January 24, 2024

The following motion was on the floor from the February 14, 2024 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

MOTION PUT AND PASSED. (10 in favour, 3 against)

In favour: Mayor Savage, Deputy Mayor Deagle Gammon, Councillors Hendsbee, Austin, Mancini, Mason, Morse, Stoddard, Blackburn, Outhit

Against: Councillors Smith, Cleary, Cuttell

Not present: Budget Committee Chair Russell, Councillors Kent, Purdy, Lovelace

The following motion was on the floor from the February 14, 2024 meeting:

MOVED by Councillor Kent, seconded by Councillor Lovelace

THAT the Budget Committee:

- 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.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED. (11 in favour, 2 against)

In favour: Mayor Savage, Deputy Mayor Deagle Gammon, Councillors Hendsbee, Austin, Mancini, Mason, Morse, Cuttell, Stoddard, Blackburn, Outhit

Against: Councillors Smith, Cleary

Not present: Budget Committee Chair Russell, Councillors Kent, Purdy, Lovelace

7.2 Corporate Services: Chief Administrative Office, Finance & Asset Management, Human Resources, Information Technology, and Legal & Legislative Services

7.2i Budget Adjustment List Briefing Note - Impacts of Freezing Corporate Services Full Time Employee (FTE) Counts at Approved 2023/24 Levels

The following was before Budget Committee:

- Staff report dated January 24, 2024, revised January 31, 2024
- Budget Adjustment List Briefing Note - Impacts of Freezing Corporate Services Full Time Employee (FTE) Counts at Approved 2023/24 Levels dated March 6, 2024

The following motion was on the floor from the January 31, 2024 meeting:

MOVED by Councillor Cuttell, seconded by Councillor Stoddard

THAT the Budget Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to

1. Incorporate the Chief Administrative Office proposed 2024/25 Budget and Business Plan, as set out and discussed in the accompanying plan and supporting presentation, dated January 24, 2024, into the Draft 2024/25 Operating Budget;
2. Incorporate the Finance & Asset Management proposed 2024/25 Budget and Business Plan, as set out and discussed in the accompanying plan and supporting presentation, dated January 24, 2024, into the Draft 2024/25 Operating Budget;
3. Incorporate the Human Resources proposed 2024/25 Budget and Business Plan, as set out and discussed in the accompanying plan and supporting presentation, dated January 24, 2024, into the Draft 2024/25 Operating Budget;
4. Incorporate the Information Technology proposed 2024/25 Budget and Business Plan, as set out and discussed in the accompanying plan and supporting presentation, dated January 24, 2024, into the Draft 2024/25 Operating Budget; and
5. Incorporate the Legal & Legislative Services proposed 2024/25 Budget and Business Plan, as set out and discussed in the accompanying plan and supporting presentation, dated January 24, 2024, into the Draft 2024/25 Operating Budget.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Budget Committee Chair Russell, Councillors Kent, Purdy, Lovelace

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:49 a.m.

Catie Campbell
Legislative Assistant