



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

PRESENT: Councillor Paul Russell, Chair
 Mayor Mike Savage, Vice Chair
 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

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 9:32 a.m., and recessed at 11:56 a.m. Budget Committee reconvened in In Camera (In Private) at 1:00 p.m. and reconvened in public at 2:56 p.m. Budget Committee adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:32 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 28, March 1, and March 6, 2024

MOVED by Councillor Cuttell, seconded by Councillor Lovelace

THAT the minutes of February 28, March 1, and March 6, 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 Deputy Mayor Deagle Gammon, seconded by Mayor Savage

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS – NONE

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Douglas Butchett, Glen Arbour spoke to the Station 50 fire station operations, service area, response times and encouraged that the station be made a full-time operation. Butchett noted community involvement in the fire station and other stations inability to service the area.

6. 2024/25 Budget Committee Adjustment List for Consideration

The following was before Budget Committee:

- Staff report dated March 27, 2024
- Correspondence from Nora Dickson, Mike Bebee, Judy Beaton and Ron Shanks, Bernice Wilson, Gary Glenn, Jackie Poirier, Randy Trimper, Rick Burns, Maggy Burns
- Staff presentation dated April 2, 2024

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

MOVED by Mayor Savage, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

THAT the Budget Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to:

- 1. Finalize a Proposed Operating Budget for Regional Council that includes items BAL-01 through BAL05 and BAL-07 through BAL-14 from the Budget Adjustment List schedule in**

Attachment A of the staff report dated March 27, 2024 to be added/removed to/from the 2024/25 Proposed Operating Budget;

- 2. Finalize a Proposed Operating Budget including the budget revisions BAL-16 to BAL-21 as listed in the Budget Adjustment List schedule in Attachment A of the staff report dated March 27, 2024; and**
- 3. Finalize the Capital Plan for Regional Council that includes BAL-13b from the Budget Adjustment List schedule in Attachment A to be added to the 2024/25 approved Capital Plan.**

Tyler Higgins, Manager, Budget Reserves responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

Deputy Chief Corey Beals, Halifax Regional Fire and Emergency and Chief Ken Stuebing, Halifax Fire and Emergency responded to question of clarification from Budget Committee regarding response times, volunteer firefighters, onboarding of new positions and collaboration with other Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) Business Units.

Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance & Asset Management/Chief Financial Officer responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee regarding debt funding and reserve strategies.

Brad Anguish, Commissioner of Operations and John MacPherson, Executive Director of Property, Fleet & Environment responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee regarding streetscape projects and use of HRM facilities.

MOVED by Councillor Cuttell, seconded by Councillor Purdy

THAT the motion be amended to 'direct the Chief Administrative Officer to remove BAL-04 from the 2024/25 Proposed Operating Budget in order to fully fund Parks and Recreation staffing.

Maggie MacDonald, Executive Director of Parks and Recreation and Ray Walsh, Director, Parks responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee regarding Parks and Recreation staffing requirements.

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED. (11 in favour, 6 against)

In favour: Budget Committee Chair Russell, Councillors Hendsbee, Kent, Purdy, Austin, Cleary, Morse, Cuttell, Stoddard, Blackburn, Outhit

Against: Mayor Mike Savage, Deputy Mayor Deagle Gammon, Councillors Mancini, Mason, Smith, Lovelace

Leticia Smillie, Planner III responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee regarding community and food bank capacity.

O'Toole 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 regarding asset maintenance and staff requirements.

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

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Morse

THAT the motion be amended to 'add BAL-06 to the Halifax Transit 2024/25 business plan to implement a Transit Route'.

Dave Reage, Executive Director of Halifax Transit responded to questions of clarification regarding service plans and route evaluations.

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Budget Committee Chair Russell, Mayor Savage

Reage responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee regarding fare increases and discounts.

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Purdy

THAT the Budget Committee amend the main motion to 'direct the Chief Administrative Officer to include BAL-06, Halifax Transit, in the 2024/25 Proposed Operating Budget to remove a \$.25 fare increase, from the 2024/25 Proposed Operating Budget'.

Reage responded to questions of clarification regarding ridership estimates.

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND DEFEATED. (6 in favour, 9 against)

In favour: Councillors Purdy, Austin, Smith, Cleary, Morse, Outhit

Against: Deputy Mayor Deagle Gammon, Councillors Hendsbee, Kent, Mancini, Mason, Cuttall, Stoddard, Lovelace, Blackburn

Not present: Budget Committee Chair Russell, Mayor Savage

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Mancini

THAT the Budget Committee convene to In Camera (In Private) to discuss Item 7.1 INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Smith

THAT the Budget Committee amend the main motion and 'direct the Chief Administrative Officer to remove BAL-14 from the 2024/25 Proposed Operating Budget'.

Chief Superintendent Jeffrey Christie, Officer in Charge, Royal Canadian Mounted Police Halifax Regional Detachment (RCMP HRD) responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee regarding resourcing and staffing for domestic violence cases.

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND DEFEATED. (2 in favour, 14 against)

In favour: Councillors Smith, Cleary

Against: Mayor Savage, Deputy Mayor Deagle Gammon, Councillors Hendsbee, Kent, Purdy, Austin, Mancini, Mason, Morse, Cuttall, Stoddard, Lovelace, Blackburn, Outhit

Not present: Budget Committee Chair Russell

Smillie responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee regarding HRM's role in food security and noted provincial collaboration.

MOVED by Councillor Cuttell, seconded by Councillor Mancini

THAT the Budget Committee amend the main motion and 'direct the Chief Administrative Officer to remove BAL-02 from the 2024/25 Proposed Operating Budget'.

Higgins responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee regarding tax rates.

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED. (10 in favour, 6 against)

In favour: Deputy Mayor Deagle Gammon, Councillors Hendsbee, Kent, Purdy, Mancini, Cleary, Cuttell, Stoddard, Lovelace, Outhit

Against: Mayor Savage, Councillors Austin, Mason, Smith, Morse, Blackburn

Not present: Budget Committee Chair Russell

The question was called on the main motion:

MOVED by Mayor Savage, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

THAT the Budget Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to:

- 1. Finalize a Proposed Operating Budget for Regional Council that include the following Budget Adjustment List items from the Budget Adjustment List schedule in Attachment A of the staff report dated March 27, 2024 to be added to the 2024/25 Proposed Operating Budget:**
 - a. BAL-01**
 - b. BAL-03**
 - c. BAL-05**
 - d. BAL-07 through BAL-14**
- 2. Finalize a Proposed Operating Budget including the budget revisions BAL-16 to BAL-21 as listed in the Budget Adjustment List schedule in Attachment A of the staff report dated March 27, 2024; and**
- 3. Finalize the Capital Plan for Regional Council that includes BAL-13b from the Budget Adjustment List schedule in Attachment A to be added to the 2024/25 approved Capital Plan;**
- 4. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to implement Transit Route 26 in the 2024/25 Halifax Transit Business Plan, as outlined in BN-006.**

MOTION AS AMENDED PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Budget Committee Chair Russell

7.1 INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS – Private and Confidential Report

This matter was dealt with In Camera (In Private) and ratified in public as follows:

The following was before Budget Committee:

- Private and confidential staff report dated March 27, 2024

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

MOVED by Councillor Austin, seconded by Councillor Lovelace

THAT Budget Committee:

- 1. Adopt the amendment to the main motion, as discussed in-camera; and**
- 2. Direct that the private and confidential report dated March 27, 2024 be maintained private and confidential.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Budget Committee Chair Russell

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Iain MacLean
Municipal Clerk