



**BUDGET COMMITTEE
(STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ON BUDGET)
MINUTES
January 25, 2023**

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

REGRETS: Councillor Trish Purdy

STAFF: Cathie O'Toole, Chief Administrative Officer
 Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance & Asset Management/Chief
 Financial Officer
 John Traves, Municipal Solicitor
 Krista Vining, Acting Deputy 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.*

The meeting was called to order at 9:34 a.m. and adjourned at 11:20 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 Lovelace, seconded by Councillor Stoddard

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Not present: Councillors Purdy, Cuttell, Outhit

4. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS – NONE

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chair noted there were no registered speakers and called three times for any speakers present.

Brendan Meagher, President of the Halifax Professional Firefighters Association, spoke to their appreciation for Regional Council's budgetary support for fire services, highlighted the importance of continued investments in fire services as a means for upholding response time standards, and that deferrals of the construction of new fire stations result in more expenditures in the long run. Meagher responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

6. 2023 Budget Direction, Assessment, and Revenue Update

The following was before Budget Committee:

- Revised staff report dated January 19, 2023
- Correspondence from Lisa Walsh, Norm Collins, and Ann-Louise McKinnon
- Staff presentation dated January 25, 2023

MOVED by Councillor Outhit, seconded by Councillor Deagle Gammon

THAT Budget Committee receive a presentation on the 2023 Budget Direction, Assessment and Revenue Update.

Cathie O'Toole, Chief Administrative Officer, and Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance & Asset Management/Chief Financial Officer gave a presentation on the 2023 Budget Direction, Assessment, and Revenue updates.

Blackwood responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee regarding the process for considering budget reductions, noting that reductions could be put forward and voted on from the floor of a meeting or referred to the Budget Adjustment List. Blackwood further noted that all potential reductions

or increases would be accompanied by briefing notes for Budget Committee's consideration as attachments to each Business Unit budget presentation report.

O'Toole responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee regarding Administrative Order 2022-003-ADM, *Respecting Commercial Property Taxation in Certain Areas of the Municipality*, noting that conversations with the Government of Nova Scotia were forthcoming as the implementation of the by-law requires approval by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

Renée Towns, Director of Revenue/Treasurer, and Caroline Blair-Smith, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Corporate Services, responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillor Purdy

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Iain MacLean
Municipal Clerk