



**BUDGET COMMITTEE  
(STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ON BUDGET)  
MINUTES  
December 13, 2017**

PRESENT: Councillor Bill Karsten, Chair  
Mayor Mike Savage  
Deputy Mayor Wayne Mason  
Councillors: Steve Streach  
David Hendsbee  
Lorelei Nicoll  
Sam Austin  
Tony Mancini  
Lindell Smith  
Shawn Cleary  
Russell Walker  
Stephen Adams  
Richard Zurawski  
Matt Whitman  
Lisa Blackburn  
Steve Craig  
Tim Outhit

STAFF: Jerry Blackwood, Acting Director of Finance and Asset Management/CFO  
John Traves, Municipal Solicitor  
Kevin Arjoon, Municipal Clerk  
Liam MacSween, 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 9:32 a.m. and adjourned at 12:13 p.m.*

## **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Councillor Karsten, Chair called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. in Council Chamber, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

## **2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – NONE**

## **3. Fiscal Direction**

The following was before Council:

- A staff recommendation report dated December 5, 2017

Jerry Blackwood, Acting Chief Financial Officer provided introductory remarks with respect to the Fiscal Direction presentation.

Louis De Montbrun, Manager of Financial Reporting provided a presentation with respect to the draft 2018-19 Capital Plan.

Bruce Fisher, Manager of Financial Policy and Planning provided a presentation with respect to the Multi-Year Budgeting process.

Councillor Karsten called three times for members of the public to address Regional Council on the Fiscal Direction presentation. There were no members of the public.

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Whitman

**THAT Budget Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council recommended that staff revise the 2018-2019 Budget according to Council’s approved priorities, and preliminary fiscal direction, including:**

- **Maintaining the appropriate level of existing services with the addition of the new services previously approved by Council;**
- **A stable capital budget that maintains state of good repair while also funding growth related issues and service improvements;**
- **A responsible and declining debt position;**
- **Appropriate reserve balances that allow for risk mitigation, future obligations and opportunities;**
- **Alignment of the current average tax bill for residential homes and commercial properties at a 1.9% increase, and that**

**Regional Council approve the “Advanced Tender Project List” in Appendix A of the Budget Committee report dated December 5, 2017.**

In response to concerns raised by Regional Council, Louis De Montbrun and Bruce Fisher provided clarification on the following:

- A summary of the street recapitalization projects outlined in Appendix B of the December 5, 2017 staff report.
- The impacts of the Halifax Regional Police and Halifax Regional Fire and Emergency Services Collective Agreements on the 2018/19 budget.
- Opportunities for partnerships with other levels of government to fund future capital projects.
- Current trends with respect to declining assessments for commercial properties.
- The inclusion of Integrated Mobility Plan projects, not already accounted for within future budget reporting.

- Strategic planning for future capital projects not currently approved by Council to redefine priorities.
- Potential reserve funding gaps if the sale of surplus municipal properties is not realized.

In response to a follow up questions, Jerry Blackwood, Acting Chief Financial Office advised that staff will bring forward a long-term capital plan after deliberations of the 2018-19 budget are complete.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

#### **4. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:13 p.m.

Kevin Arjoon  
Municipal Clerk