



**BUDGET COMMITTEE
(STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ON BUDGET)
MINUTES
January 18 and 20, 2023**

PRESENT: Councillor Paul Russell, Chair
 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: Mayor Mike Savage
 Councillor Trish Purdy (January 20)

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

The meeting was called to order at 9:37 a.m. and recessed at 12:01 p.m. Budget Committee reconvened at 1:02 p.m. and recessed at 2:50 p.m. Budget Committee reconvened at 3:05 p.m. and recessed at 3:14 p.m. Budget Committee reconvened at 3:19 p.m. and recessed at 3:37 p.m. Budget Committee reconvened on January 20, 2023, at 9:35 a.m. and recessed at 11:57 a.m. Budget Committee reconvened at 1:01 p.m. and recessed at 2:45 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:37 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 – December 13, 2022

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Deagle Gammon

THAT the minutes of December 13, 2022, 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 Stoddard, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Not present: Mayor Savage, Deputy Mayor Austin, Councillors Cleary, Cuttell

4. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS – NONE

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Dustin O'Leary, District 13, spoke in favour of funding in the 2023/24 budget for the Westwood Hills Trail project and thanked Councillors, staff, and other levels of government for their support.

Paul Card, Halifax, spoke to the timeline of discussions and decisions regarding the Halifax Forum re-development at Regional Council, the status of residential and commercial development in the area, the positive community impact of the services and programs at the Forum, and asked for Budget Committee's support in proceeding with the Forum re-development. Card responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee and clarified that the board is in support of selling a portion of the Forum land to contribute to the cost of the re-development.

6. 2023/24 Multi-Year Capital Plan

The following was before Budget Committee:

- Staff report dated January 11, 2023
- Correspondence from Jordan Poste, Sue Uteck, Norm Collins, Martyn Williams, Janice Kirkbright, Dale Prest, MLA Kent Smith, and Thomas McInnis
- Staff presentations dated January 18, 2023, and January 20, 2023

- 2023-2024 Draft Capital Plan

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 Mancini, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

THAT the Budget Committee recommends that Halifax Regional Council:

- 1. Approve the Base Capital Budget for 2023/24, and approve in-principle the Schedule of 2024/25, 2025/26, 2026/27 Base Capital Plan set out in Attachment 1 of the staff report dated January 11, 2023;**
- 2. Approve the Strategic Initiatives Capital Budget for 2023/24, and approve in-principle the Schedule of 2024/25, 2025/26, 2026/27 Strategic Initiatives Capital Plan as per Attachment 2 of the staff report dated January 11, 2023;**
- 3. Approve the schedule of 2023/24 Capital Reserves Withdrawals as per Attachment 4 of the staff report dated January 11, 2023;**
- 4. Approve the schedule of 2023/24 Multi-year Capital Projects as per Attachment 5 of the staff report dated January 11, 2023.**

Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance & Asset Management/Chief Financial Officer, and John MacPherson, Executive Director, Property, Fleet & Environment responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee regarding the prioritization of library renovation projects.

Asa Kachan, Chief Executive Officer, Halifax Public Libraries, responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee regarding cost estimation of the Mill Cove Library and state of repair of the Halifax North Public Library.

MOVED by Councillor Outhit, seconded by Councillor Lovelace

THAT the motion be amended to include a new section that reads as follows:

- 5. Direct the Chief Administrative Office to prepare a staff report with options, funding sources and strategies for the 2024/25 and 2025/26 Capital Budgets for the Bedford Library within Mill Cove and a Fire Station in the Larry Uteck West Bedford Area.**

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

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED. (15 in favour, 1 against)

In favour: Budget Committee Chair Russell, Deputy Mayor Austin, Councillors Deagle Gammon, Hendsbee, Kent, Purdy, Mancini, Mason, Smith, Cleary, Morse, Cuttall, Stoddard, Blackburn, Outhit

Against: Councillor Lovelace

Not present: Mayor Savage

MOVED by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Mancini

THAT the motion be amended to include a new section that reads as follows:

6. Request a briefing note with options to fund library Capital budget projects at their 2022/23 approved allocations for 2023/24 budget approvals within the proposed 2023/24 Multi-Year Capital Plan to the Budget Adjustment List.

John MacPherson, Executive Director, Property, Fleet & Environment responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance & Asset Management/Chief Financial Officer and Crystal Nowlan, Director, Asset Management responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee regarding reprioritization of 2023/24 Capital planning as directed by Budget Committee at their November 25, 2022 meeting, and work undertaken by staff to reduce the proposed tax increase prior to that meeting.

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED. (13 in favour, 3 against)

In favour: Budget Committee Chair Russell, Deputy Mayor Austin, Councillors Deagle Gammon, Mancini, Mason, Smith, Cleary, Morse, Cuttell, Stoddard, Lovelace, Blackburn, Outhit

Against: Councillors Hendsbee, Kent, Purdy

Not present: Mayor Savage

John MacPherson, Executive Director, Property, Fleet & Environment, Crystal Nowlan, Director, Asset Management, and Cathie O'Toole, Chief Administrative Officer responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee regarding adjustments to the 2023/24 capital planning process.

Patricia Hughes, Director, Planning & Customer Engagement, David Thorpe, Executive Director, Information Technology/Chief Information Officer, and Brad Anguish, Executive Director, Public Works responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance & Asset Management/Chief Financial Officer responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee regarding prioritization of reductions for multi-year budget impact and noted that the Alternatives section of the staff report dated January 11, 2023, outlined potential budget reduction areas for Budget Committee's consideration to reduce the proposed tax increase from 8.0 percent to 4.0 percent.

Chief Ken Stuebing, Executive Director, Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee regarding urban and rural emergency response time targets.

MOVED by Councillor Lovelace, seconded by Councillor Outhit

THAT the motion be amended to include a new section that reads as follows:

7. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to prepare a briefing note to provide options to fund the West Bedford Fire Station on Science Park Drive within the proposed 2023/24 Multi-Year Capital Plan and refer the matter for discussion as part of the Budget Adjustment List.

John MacPherson, Executive Director, Property, Fleet & Environment responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee regarding the scope of the briefing note, highlighting that options for facility design, constructability, funding, timelines, and tendering would be included.

Cathie O'Toole, Chief Administrative Officer and John Traves, Municipal Solicitor responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

Chief Ken Stuebing, Executive Director, Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee regarding the estimated cost of the build, training, and staffing for the proposed fire station. Stuebing further noted that information regarding urban and rural emergency response time targets and risk considerations would be included in the forthcoming Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency budget presentation.

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Mayor Savage, Councillor Kent

Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance & Asset Management/Chief Financial Officer, David Thorpe, Executive Director, Information Technology/Chief Information Officer, and Nalini Naidoo, Director, Strategic Planning & Design responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

Brad Anguish, Executive Director, Public Works and Anne Sherwood, Director, Design Construction responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee regarding tendering timelines for projects starting in the spring of 2024.

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Mancini

THAT the motion be amended to include alternative motions 1-11 from the staff report dated January 11, 2023, as new sections that read as follows:

- 8. Include Alternative 1, a reduction of \$750,000 for an ongoing reduction to CCV02X01-CCV02X16: District Capital Funds as outlined the Briefing Note BN001 within the proposed 2023/24 Capital budget to the Budget Adjustment List as a capital under budget option for consideration.**
- 9. Include Alternative 2, a reduction of \$1,510,000 for one-time reduction to CR21001: Urban Forestry Plan Implementation as outlined the Briefing Note BN002 within the proposed 2023/24 Capital budget to the Budget Adjustment List as a capital under budget option for consideration.**
- 10. Include Alternative 3, a reduction of \$3,000,000 for one-time deferral to CR200007: Regional Centre AAA Bikeways as outlined the Briefing Note BN003 within the proposed 2023/24 Capital budget to the Budget Adjustment List as a capital under budget option for consideration.**
- 11. Include Alternative 4, a reduction of \$500,000 for one-time deferral to CT190006: Road Safety Improvement as outlined the Briefing Note BN004 within the proposed 2023/24 Capital budget to the Budget Adjustment List as a capital under budget option for consideration.**
- 12. Include Alternative 5, of \$600,000 for one-time deferral to CP210013: Middle Musquodoboit Park - new development as outlined the Briefing Note BN005 within the proposed 2023/24 Capital budget to the Budget Adjustment List as a capital under budget option for consideration.**
- 13. Include Alternative 6, a reduction of \$50,000 for one-time deferral to CP210013: Glen Arbour Way Park - new Ninja Warrior Course as outlined the Briefing Note BN005 within the proposed 2023/24 Capital budget to the Budget Adjustment List as a capital under budget option for consideration.**
- 14. Include Alternative 7, a reduction of \$125,000 for one-time deferral to CP210013: Park Road Park - Park development as outlined the Briefing Note BN005 within the proposed 2023/24**

Capital budget to the Budget Adjustment List as a capital under budget option for consideration.

15. Include Alternative 8, a reduction of \$150,000 for one-time deferral to CP200001: Bridge Upgrades - Grassy Brook Park as outlined the Briefing Note BN005 within the proposed 2023/24 Capital budget to the Budget Adjustment List as a capital under budget option for consideration.
16. Include Alternative 9, a reduction of \$100,000 for one-time deferral to CP200001: Playing Field Rehabilitation - Gorsebrook Park - sport field (design) as outlined the Briefing Note BN005 within the proposed 2023/24 Capital budget to the Budget Adjustment List as a capital under budget option for consideration.
17. Include Alternative 10, a reduction of \$750,000 for one-time deferral to CP200001: Eastern Passage Common Park - skatepark replacement as outlined the Briefing Note BN005 within the proposed 2023/24 Capital budget to the Budget Adjustment List as a capital under budget option for consideration.
18. Include Alternative 11, a reduction of \$200,000 for one-time deferral to CP200001: Playing Field Rehabilitation - Mount Edward Elementary School Park - ball diamond as outlined the Briefing Note BN005 within the proposed 2023/24 Capital budget to the Budget Adjustment List as a capital under budget option for consideration.

As provided for in section 90 of Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, the motion was separated for voting purposes.

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Mancini

THAT the motion be amended to include alternative motion 1 from the staff report dated January 11, 2023, as a new section that reads as follows:

8. Include Alternative 1, a reduction of \$750,000 for an ongoing reduction to CCV02X01-CCV02X16: District Capital Funds as outlined the Briefing Note BN001 within the proposed 2023/24 Capital budget to the Budget Adjustment List as a capital under budget option for consideration.

Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance & Asset Management/Chief Financial Officer, Cathie O'Toole, Chief Administrative Officer, and John Traves, Municipal Solicitor responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

Councillor Mancini proposed to strike "an ongoing" and replace it with "a one-time". As provided for in section 53 (2) of Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, the amendment was accepted as friendly.

The motion now read:

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Mancini

THAT the motion be amended to include alternative motion 1 from the staff report dated January 11, 2023, as a new section that reads as follows:

8. Include Alternative 1 a reduction of \$750,000 for a one-time reduction to CCV02X01-CCV02X16: District Capital Funds as outlined the Briefing Note BN001 within the proposed 2023/24 Capital budget to the Budget Adjustment List as a capital under budget option for consideration.

Blackwood responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

MOTION AS AMENDED PUT AND DEFEATED. (3 in favour, 13 against)

In favour: Deputy Mayor Austin, Councillors Mancini, Cleary

Against: Budget Committee Chair Russell, Councillors Deagle Gammon, Hendsbee, Kent, Purdy, Mason, Smith, Morse, Cuttell, Stoddard, Lovelace, Blackburn, Outhit

Not present: Mayor Savage

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Mancini

THAT the motion be amended to include alternative motion 2 from the staff report dated January 11, 2023, as a new section that reads as follows:

- 8. Include Alternative 2, a reduction of \$1,510,000 for one-time reduction to CR21001: Urban Forestry Plan Implementation as outlined the Briefing Note BN002 within the proposed 2023/24 Capital budget to the Budget Adjustment List as a capital under budget option for consideration.**

Brad Anguish, Executive Director, Public Works responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee regarding staff capacity and noted that staff required a decision at the current meeting to adhere to tendering timelines.

MOVED by Councillor Outhit seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT the motion be amended to strike “\$1,510,000” and replace it with “\$755,000.”

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED. (9 in favour, 7 against)

In favour: Deputy Mayor Austin, Councillors Kent, Mancini, Mason, Smith, Cleary, Morse, Stoddard, Outhit

Against: Budget Committee Chair Russell, Councillors Deagle Gammon, Hendsbee, Purdy, Cuttell, Lovelace, Blackburn

Not present: Mayor Savage

The motion as amended now read:

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Mancini

THAT the motion be amended to include alternative motion 2 from the staff report dated January 11, 2023, as a new section that reads as follows:

- 8. Include Alternative 2, a reduction of \$755,000 for one-time reduction to CR21001: Urban Forestry Plan Implementation as outlined the Briefing Note BN002 within the proposed 2023/24 Capital budget as amended to the Budget Adjustment List as a capital under budget option for consideration.**

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Mancini

THAT the motion be amended to strike “to the Budget Adjustment List as a capital under budget option for consideration.”

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED. (15 in favour, 1 against)

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

Against: Councillor Purdy

Not present: Mayor Savage

The motion as amended now read:

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Mancini

THAT the motion be amended to include alternative motion 2 from the staff report dated January 11, 2023, as a new section that reads as follows:

- 8. Include Alternative 2, a reduction of \$755,000 for one-time reduction to CR21001: Urban Forestry Plan Implementation as outlined the Briefing Note BN002 within the proposed 2023/24 Capital budget as amended.**

MOTION AS AMENDED PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Mayor Savage

Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance & Asset Management/Chief Financial Officer gave a presentation reviewing the sequence of discussions and actions taken by staff for the 2023/24 budget process from November 25, 2022, to present day and responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

Cathie O’Toole, Chief Administrative Officer responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Mancini

THAT the motion be amended to include alternative motion 3 from the staff report dated January 11, 2023, as a new section that reads as follows:

- 9. Include Alternative 3, a reduction of \$3,000,000 for one-time deferral to CR200007: Regional Centre AAA Bikeways as outlined the Briefing Note BN003 within the proposed 2023/24 Capital budget to the Budget Adjustment List as a capital under budget option for consideration.**

Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance & Asset Management/Chief Financial Officer, John Traves, Municipal Solicitor, and Brad Anguish, Executive Director, Public Works responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

Councillor Mason proposed that the motion be amended to read as “Include deferrals to CR200007: Regional Centre AAA Bikeways beginning with reductions of \$3,000,000 in 2024/25, \$2.1M in 2025/26, and \$3.8M in 2026/27.” As provided for in section 53 (2) of Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, the amendment was accepted as friendly.

The motion now read:

THAT the motion be amended to include alternative motion 3 from the staff report dated January 11, 2023, as a new section that reads as follows:

- 9. Include deferrals to CR200007: Regional Centre AAA Bikeways beginning with reductions of \$3,000,000 in 2024/25, \$2.1M in 2025/26, and \$3.8M in 2026/27.**

MOTION AS AMENDED PUT AND DEFEATED. (13 in favour, 2 against)

In favour: Budget Committee Chair Russell, Councillor Hendsbee

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

Not present: Mayor Savage, Councillor Purdy

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Mancini

THAT the motion be amended to include alternative motion 4 from the staff report dated January 11, 2023, as a new section that reads as follows:

- 9. Include Alternative 4, a reduction of \$500,000 for one-time deferral to CT190006: Road Safety Improvement as outlined the Briefing Note BN004 within the proposed 2023/24 Capital budget to the Budget Adjustment List as a capital under budget option for consideration.**

Brad Anguish, Executive Director, Public Works responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND DEFEATED. (7 in favour, 8 against)

In favour: Budget Committee Chair Russell, Councillors Deagle Gammon, Hendsbee, Mancini, Cleary, Lovelace, Blackburn

Against: Deputy Mayor Austin, Councillors Kent, Mason, Smith, Morse, Cuttell, Stoddard, Outhit

Not present: Mayor Savage, Councillor Purdy

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Mancini

THAT the motion be amended to include alternative motion 5 from the staff report dated January 11, 2023, as a new section that reads as follows:

- 9. Include Alternative 5, a reduction of \$600,000 for one-time deferral to CP210013: Middle Musquodoboit Park - new development as outlined the Briefing Note BN005 within the proposed 2023/24 Capital budget to the Budget Adjustment List as a capital under budget option for consideration.**

Councillor Cleary proposed that Alternative motions 5-11 from the staff report dated January 11, 2023, be considered as an omnibus motion. As provided for in section 53 (2) of Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, the amendment was accepted as friendly.

John Traves, Municipal Solicitor responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

Cathie O'Toole, Chief Administrative Officer responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee regarding processes for considering budgetary reductions outside of the recommendations put forward by staff report dated January 11, 2023.

The motion now read:

THAT the motion be amended to include alternative motions 5-11 from the staff report dated January 11, 2023, as new sections that read as follows:

- 9. Include Alternative 5, of \$600,000 for one-time deferral to CP210013: Middle Musquodoboit Park - new development as outlined the Briefing Note BN005 within the proposed 2023/24 Capital budget to the Budget Adjustment List as a capital under budget option for consideration.**
- 10. Include Alternative 6, a reduction of \$50,000 for one-time deferral to CP210013: Glen Arbour Way Park - new Ninja Warrior Course as outlined the Briefing Note BN005 within the proposed 2023/24 Capital budget to the Budget Adjustment List as a capital under budget option for consideration.**
- 11. Include Alternative 7, a reduction of \$125,000 for one-time deferral to CP210013: Park Road Park - Park development as outlined the Briefing Note BN005 within the proposed 2023/24 Capital budget to the Budget Adjustment List as a capital under budget option for consideration.**
- 12. Include Alternative 8, a reduction of \$150,000 for one-time deferral to CP200001: Bridge Upgrades - Grassy Brook Park as outlined the Briefing Note BN005 within the proposed 2023/24 Capital budget to the Budget Adjustment List as a capital under budget option for consideration.**
- 13. Include Alternative 9, a reduction of \$100,000 for one-time deferral to CP200001: Playing Field Rehabilitation - Gorsebrook Park - sport field (design) as outlined the Briefing Note BN005 within the proposed 2023/24 Capital budget to the Budget Adjustment List as a capital under budget option for consideration.**
- 14. Include Alternative 10, a reduction of \$750,000 for one-time deferral to CP200001: Eastern Passage Common Park - skatepark replacement as outlined the Briefing Note BN005 within the proposed 2023/24 Capital budget to the Budget Adjustment List as a capital under budget option for consideration.**
- 15. Include Alternative 11, a reduction of \$200,000 for one-time deferral to CP200001: Playing Field Rehabilitation - Mount Edward Elementary School Park - ball diamond as outlined the Briefing Note BN005 within the proposed 2023/24 Capital budget to the Budget Adjustment List as a capital under budget option for consideration.**

Councillor Cleary proposed to amend a drafting error in alternative motion 6 from the staff report dated January 11, 2023, by striking "\$50,000" and replacing it with "\$75,000." As provided for in section 53 (2) of Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, the amendment was accepted as friendly.

The motion now read:

THAT the motion be amended to include alternative motions 5-11 from the staff report dated January 11, 2023, as new sections that read as follows:

9. **Include Alternative 5, of \$600,000 for one-time deferral to CP210013: Middle Musquodoboit Park - new development as outlined the Briefing Note BN005 within the proposed 2023/24 Capital budget to the Budget Adjustment List as a capital under budget option for consideration.**
10. **Include Alternative 6, a reduction of \$75,000 for one-time deferral to CP210013: Glen Harbour Way Park - new Ninja Warrior Course as outlined the Briefing Note BN005 within the proposed 2023/24 Capital budget to the Budget Adjustment List as a capital under budget option for consideration.**
11. **Include Alternative 7, a reduction of \$125,000 for one-time deferral to CP210013: Park Road Park - Park development as outlined the Briefing Note BN005 within the proposed 2023/24 Capital budget to the Budget Adjustment List as a capital under budget option for consideration.**
12. **Include Alternative 8, a reduction of \$150,000 for one-time deferral to CP200001: Bridge Upgrades - Grassy Brook Park as outlined the Briefing Note BN005 within the proposed 2023/24 Capital budget to the Budget Adjustment List as a capital under budget option for consideration.**
13. **Include Alternative 9, a reduction of \$100,000 for one-time deferral to CP200001: Playing Field Rehabilitation - Gorsebrook Park - sport field (design) as outlined the Briefing Note BN005 within the proposed 2023/24 Capital budget to the Budget Adjustment List as a capital under budget option for consideration.**
14. **Include Alternative 10, a reduction of \$750,000 for one-time deferral to CP200001: Eastern Passage Common Park - skatepark replacement as outlined the Briefing Note BN005 within the proposed 2023/24 Capital budget to the Budget Adjustment List as a capital under budget option for consideration.**
15. **Include Alternative 11, a reduction of \$200,000 for one-time deferral to CP200001: Playing Field Rehabilitation - Mount Edward Elementary School Park - ball diamond as outlined the Briefing Note BN005 within the proposed 2023/24 Capital budget to the Budget Adjustment List as a capital under budget option for consideration.**

Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance & Asset Management/Chief Financial Officer responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

MOTION AS AMENDED PUT AND DEFEATED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Mayor Savage, Councillor Purdy

John MacPherson, Executive Director, Property, Fleet & Environment, Nalini Naidoo, Director, Strategic Planning & Design, Philip Dugandzic, Director, Corporate Facility Design & Construction, and Jeff Spares, Manager, Parks Capital Projects responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Morse, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT the motion be amended to include a new section that reads as follows:

9. **Include an increase of \$3,000,000 for new sidewalks, Active Transportation CR 200001, within the proposed 2023/24 Capital budget to the Budget Adjustment List as a capital over budget option for consideration beginning in 2024/25 to be funded by debt.**

Cathie O'Toole, Chief Administrative Officer and Brad Anguish, Executive Director, Public Works

responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

Councillor Outhit proposed to strike “to be funded by debt” from the end of the motion and replace it with “including funding options” after “within the proposed 2023/24 Capital budget.” As provided for in section 53 (2) of Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, the amendment was accepted as friendly.

The motion now read:

MOVED by Councillor Morse, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT the motion be amended to include a new section that reads as follows:

- 9. Include an increase of \$3,000,000 for new sidewalks, Active Transportation CR 200001, within the proposed 2023/24 Capital budget, including funding options, to the Budget Adjustment List as a capital over budget option for consideration, beginning in 2024/25.**

Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance & Asset Management/Chief Financial Officer and Crystal Nowlan, Director, Asset Management responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

MOTION AS AMENDED PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Mayor Savage, Councillor Purdy

MOVED by Councillor Deagle Gammon, seconded by Councillor Stoddard

THAT the motion be amended to include a new section that reads as follows:

- 10. Request a Briefing Note with an update on the 2014/15 approved project, “MacDonald Park Ball Field Lighting” (deferred due to land tenure) including:**
 - a. Confirmation of the continuation of project planning in 23/24;**
 - b. Information on tenure arrangements, leasing, timing related to land tenure, design & construction, and operating implications; and**
 - c. A recommendation for inclusion in the capital budget for design and construction to the Budget Adjustment List.**

Nalini Naidoo, Director, Strategic Planning & Design, and Maggie MacDonald, Executive Director, Parks & Recreation responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Mayor Savage, Councillors Purdy, Mason

Philip Dugandzic, Director, Corporate Facility Design & Construction, Cathie O’Toole, Chief Administrative Officer, and Brad Anguish, Executive Director, Public Works responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee regarding the road repair list.

John MacPherson, Executive Director, Property, Fleet & Environment, Chief Ken Stuebing, Executive Director, Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency, and Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance & Asset Management/Chief Financial Officer responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee regarding the scope of the briefing note coming back to Budget Committee on the West Bedford Fire Station.

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Kent

THAT the motion be amended to include a new section that reads as follows:

- 11. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer prepare a briefing note to provide options to advance the funding of the Capital Projects for the Eastern Shore Lifestyle Centre (Sheet Harbour Fire Station - CB210018 & Sheet Harbour Recreation Centre - CB000080) to commence over 2024/25 & 2025/26 fiscal years instead of the current timeline in the Capital Budget Book.**

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Mayor Savage, Councillor Purdy

John MacPherson, Executive Director, Property, Fleet & Environment responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee regarding the process for the exploration of development partners for the Halifax Forum Re-Development and noted that an In Camera (In Private) component could be included in a future report to Halifax Regional Council.

David Thorpe, Executive Director, Information Technology/Chief Information Officer, Brad Anguish, Executive Director, Public Works, Peter Duncan, Director, Infrastructure Planning, and Ed Surette, Director, Project Planning & Transit Asset Management responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance & Asset Management/Chief Financial Officer, Cathie O'Toole, Chief Administrative Officer, and John Traves, Municipal Solicitor responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee regarding procedural considerations for 2023/24 budget approval process.

The question was called on the main motion:

MOVED by Councillor Mancini, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

THAT the Budget Committee recommends that Halifax Regional Council:

- 1. Approve the Base Capital Budget for 2023/24, and approve in-principle the Schedule of 2024/25, 2025/26, 2026/27 Base Capital Plan set out in Attachment 1 of the staff report dated January 11, 2023;**
- 2. Approve the Strategic Initiatives Capital Budget for 2023/24, and approve in-principle the Schedule of 2024/25, 2025/26, 26/27 Strategic Initiatives Capital Plan as per Attachment 2 of the staff report dated January 11, 2023;**
- 3. Approve the schedule of 2023/24 Capital Reserves Withdrawals as per Attachment 4 of the staff report dated January 11, 2023;**
- 4. Approve the schedule of 2023/24 Multi-year Capital Projects as per Attachment 5 of the staff report dated January 11, 2023.**
- 5. Direct the Chief Administrative Office to prepare a staff report with options, funding sources and strategies for the 2024/25 and 2025/26 Capital Budgets for the Bedford Library within Mill Cove and a Fire Station in the Larry Uteck West Bedford Area.**

6. Request a briefing note with options to fund library Capital budget projects at their 2022/23 approved allocations for 2023/24 budget approvals within the proposed 2023/24 Multi-Year Capital Plan to the Budget Adjustment List.
7. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to prepare a briefing note to provide options to fund the West Bedford Fire Station on Science Park Drive within the proposed 2023/24 Multi-Year Capital Plan and refer the matter for discussion as part of the Budget Adjustment List.
8. Include a reduction of \$755,000 for one-time reduction to CR21001: Urban Forestry Plan Implementation as outlined in the Briefing Note BN002 within the proposed 2023/24 Capital budget as amended.
9. Include an increase of \$3,000,000 for new sidewalks, Active Transportation CR 200001, within the proposed 2023/24 Capital budget, including funding options, to the Budget Adjustment List as a capital over budget option for consideration, beginning in 2024/25.
10. Request a Briefing Note with an update on the 2014/15 approved project, “MacDonald Park Ball Field Lighting” (deferred due to land tenure) including:
 - a. Confirmation of the continuation of project planning in 23/24;
 - b. Information on tenure arrangements, leasing, timing related to land tenure, design & construction, and operating implications; and
 - c. A recommendation for inclusion in the capital budget for design and construction to the Budget Adjustment List.
11. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer prepare a briefing note to provide options to advance the funding of the Capital Projects for the Eastern Shore Lifestyle Centre (Sheet Harbour Fire Station - CB210018 & Sheet Harbour Recreation Centre - CB000080) to commence over 2024/25 & 2025/26 fiscal years instead of the current timeline in the Capital Budget Book.

MOTION AS AMENDED PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Mayor Savage, Councillor Purdy

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m. on January 20, 2023.

Iain MacLean
Municipal Clerk