



**BUDGET COMMITTEE
(STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ON BUDGET)
MINUTES
February 13, 2024**

PRESENT: Mayor Mike Savage
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

REGRETS: Councillors: Paul Russell, Chair – Leave of Absence
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
Elizabeth Macdonald, 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., Budget Committee adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Mayor Savage 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 – NONE

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 Councillor Purdy

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Not present: Budget Committee Chair Russell, Councillors Outhit, Cleary, Cuttell, Mancini and Austin

4. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS – NONE

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Kortney Dunsby, Ecology Action Centre spoke to the Regional Plan, the demand for housing development in Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) and noted that adequate resources must be allocated to the Integrated Mobility Plan, Halifax Green Network Plan, Suburban Plan and Rapid Transit Corridors. Dunsby encouraged Budget Committee to fully fund the JustFOOD – Action Plan for the Halifax Region and the Culture and Heritage Priorities Plan in the 2024/25 Municipal Budget. They noted the importance of community building, infrastructure and quality of life considerations as HRM continues to grow at a rapid pace and that growth be undertaken sustainably and with proper considerations for the environment. Dunsby expressed disappointment that the delivery of the Green Network Plan is missing from the 2024/25 Planned Work Highlights in the staff presentation dated February 13, 2024. Dunsby spoke to the Ecology Action Centre's dissatisfaction with the Province of Nova Scotia's recent policy decisions regarding coastal protection, the Building Code and wetland protections.

6. ITEMS CONTINUED FROM A PREVIOUS MEETING - NONE

7. REPORTS

7.1 Planning & Development

The following was before Budget Committee:

- Staff report dated February 13, 2024, revised February 12, 2024
- Staff presentation dated February 13, 2024

Jacqueline Hamilton, Executive Director, Planning & Development gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Mancini, seconded by Councillor Austin

THAT the Budget Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to incorporate the Planning & Development proposed 2024/25 Budget and Business Plan, as set out and discussed in the

accompanying plan and supporting presentation, attached to the revised staff report dated February 13, 2024, into the Draft 2024/25 Operating Budget.

Hamilton, Dave Harley, Director, Accounting & Financial Reporting, Kate Greene, Director, Regional & Community Planning and Peter Duncan, Director, Infrastructure Planning responded to questions of clarification regarding the creation of deeply affordable housing, infrastructure development in Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM), the potential impacts of conflicting Planning & Development policies on economic growth, future developments, HRM's rural planning team, inclusionary zoning and the creation of egress.

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

Hamilton, Harley, Green and Duncan spoke to HRM's progress with the Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF), the Strategic Priorities Plan 2021-15, HRM's work with African Nova Scotian communities and community engagement initiatives as they relate to the Regional Plan.

Mayor Savage resumed the Chair.

Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance & Asset Management/Chief Financial Officer responded to questions of clarification regarding the processing of Building & Development Permits, the HAF and infrastructure concerns that are expected to be addressed by the upcoming Capital Plan.

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

Greene and Hamilton responded to questions of clarification regarding affordable housing and staffing as it relates to the HAF, plans to update the Housing Needs Assessment and the Trusted Partnership Program.

Cathie O'Toole, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) spoke to the HAF and suggested the topic come before Regional Council at a future meeting. O'Toole noted plans for the CAO's office to distribute a memo outlining timelines, upcoming reports and the negotiation process as it relates to the HAF.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Mayor Savage, Budget Committee Chair Russell, Councillor Outhit

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Iain MacLean
Municipal Clerk