



**BUDGET COMMITTEE
(STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ON BUDGET)
MINUTES
February 8, 2019**

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

STAFF: Jane Fraser, CFO, Director of Finance, Asset Management & ICT
John Traves, Municipal Solicitor
Kevin Arjoon, Municipal Clerk
Krista Vining, 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 9:30 a.m., and recessed at 11:15 a.m. Budget Committee reconvened at 11:31 a.m. Budget Committee recessed again at 12:21 p.m. and reconvened at 1:03 p.m. Budget Committee adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Councillor Karsten, Chair called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. in Council Chamber, 3rd Floor City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – NONE

3. Halifax Public Libraries – Deferred from February 6, 2019

The following was before Budget Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated February 6, 2019 with attached staff presentation entitled “Halifax Public Libraries: 2019/20 and 2020/21 Multi-Year Budget and Business Plan”

Åsa Kachan, Chief Librarian and CEO, Halifax Public Libraries provided a presentation on draft 2019/20 and 2020/21 Multi-Year Halifax Public Libraries Business Unit Budget and Business Plan.

The Chair called three times for members of the public wanting to speak on the Halifax Public Libraries presentation; there were none.

MOVED by Councillor Zurawski seconded by Councillor Nicoll

THAT Budget Committee direct staff to prepare the Halifax Public Libraries 2019/20 Multi-year Budget and Business Plan, as proposed in the accompanying presentation based on the 1.9% option, and to prepare Over and Under items for that Plan as directed by Regional Council.

MOVED by Councillor Zurawski, seconded by Councillor Outhit

THAT Reductions of 4-8 FTE staff positions \$350,000 2019/20 and \$350,000 2020/21, Enhance Food Literacy \$50,000 2019/20 and \$50,000 2020/21, Reducing Isolation \$50,000 2019/20 and \$50,000 2020/21 operating options over budget be added to the Parking Lot for consideration.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Mancini, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

THAT Budget Committee request additional information on the potential reduction of 4-8 FTE staff positions as noted in Options to Get to 1.9% totalling \$350,000, including the potential impact on service and proposed staffing compliment, contained in the proposed \$350,000. That the briefing note include information on the Public Libraries Act, and the relationships between board, library staff and the Municipality.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT Budget Committee request a briefing note on whether some of the \$350,000 could be reduced from the Collection’s budget to offset staff reductions to meet the 1.9% option.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The question was called on the main motion as follows:

MOVED by Councillor Zurawski, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

THAT Budget Committee direct staff to prepare the Halifax Public Libraries 2019/20 Multi-year Budget and Business Plan, as proposed in the accompanying presentation based on the 1.9% option, and to prepare Over and Under items for that Plan as directed by Regional Council.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. HALIFAX REGIONAL FIRE & EMERGENCY

The following was before Budget Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated January 28, 2019 with attached staff presentation entitled “Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency 2019/20 and 2020/21 Multi-Year Budget and Business Plan”

Ken Stuebing, Chief of Halifax Regional Fire and Emergency presented the draft 2019/20 and 2020/21 Multi-Year Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency Business Unit Budget and Business Plan.

The Chair called for members of the public to address Budget Committee on the Halifax Regional Fire and Emergency presentation.

Brendan Meagher, President of the Halifax Professional Firefighters (IAFF Local 268), Captain at Station 5 and Hazards Materials Technician, spoke to the evolution of the relationship between the Halifax Professional Firefighters and management. This partnership and trust has allowed achievements such as the new Fire Inspector position and 2016 Collective Agreement, which could not have happened without the leadership of HRM management, Chief Stuebing and Deputy Chief McNulty. Meagher commented on Halifax Regional Fire and Emergency’s Service Delivery Model and industry standards, referring to leanness of HRM Fire Services as compared to the MBNCanada Median.

The Chair called three times for any other members of the public wanting to speak on the matter; there were none.

MOVED by Councillor Streach, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT Budget Committee of the Whole direct staff to prepare the Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency 2019/20 Multi-year Budget and Business Plan, as proposed in the accompanying presentation and based on the 1.9% option, and to prepare Over and Under items for the Plan as directed by Regional Council.

MOVED by Councillor Streach, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

THAT the Staffing Level reductions \$997,000 2019/20 and \$997,000 2020/21 and the Station 45 Additional 10 Fire Fighters \$363,000 2019/20 and \$725,000 2020/21 be added to the Parking Lot.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

In response to a question raised, Chief Stuebing noted they would provide a briefing note on the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standard for turnout times and response times in comparison to HRM’s career and volunteer times.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Smith

THAT a briefing note be provided on the capital expenditure for the new Halifax Regional Fire and Emergency boat and identify how HRFE works with the Harbour Master and the Royal Canadian Navy.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The question was called on the main motion as follows:

MOVED by Councillor Streach, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT Budget Committee of the Whole direct staff to prepare the Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency 2019/20 Multi-year Budget and Business Plan, as proposed in the accompanying presentation and based on the 1.9% option, and to prepare Over and Under items for the Plan as directed by Regional Council.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Kevin Arjoon
Municipal Clerk