



**BUDGET COMMITTEE
(STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ON BUDGET)
SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES
MAY 13, 2020**

PRESENT:

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

STAFF:

Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer
John Traves, Municipal Solicitor
Jane Fraser, Chief Financial Officer
Brad Anguish, Director of Transportation & Public Works
Andrew Philopoulos, Manager of Solid Waste Resources
Beverly Audet, Manager of Road Operations & Construction
Victoria Horne, Manager of Parking
Sherryll Murphy, A/Municipal Clerk
Simon Ross-Siegel, 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 special meeting was called to order at 1:01 p.m., and recessed at 3:08 p.m. Budget Committee reconvened in at 3:26 p.m. Budget Committee adjourned at 4:54 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – NONE

3. Proposed 2020/21 Budget Recast for COVID-19 Impacts

The following was before Budget Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated May 1, 2020
- A staff presentation dated May 12, 2020 entitled “2020/21 Recast Budget Discussion”
- Correspondence from Patrick Sullivan

The following motion from the May 12, 2020 meeting of the Budget Committee reads:

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Blackburn, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

THAT the Budget Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to revise the 2020/21 Proposed Operating and Capital Budgets, as voted on by Regional Council’s Committee of the Whole on Budget at their February 12, 2020 meeting, using the revisions proposed in the staff report dated May 1, 2020 as summarized in Table 3, supported by attachment C and D.

The following amendment to the motion from the May 12, 2020 meeting of the Budget Committee reads:

MOVED by Councillor Adams, seconded by Councillor Whitman

THAT the Budget Committee direct staff to come back with a supplemental report identifying alternative funding sources for the \$1,770,000 required to permit an amendment to delete the line items with respect to closing Station 11 and the possible transfer of day staff from Station 50 or 60, and the reduction to HFRE Volunteer Fire Recognition Program.

Following discussion, the Mover, with the agreement of the seconder, withdrew the motion.

Councillor Mason proposed the following motion to request a supplemental staff report regarding budget alternatives.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Adams

THAT the Budget Committee requests a supplementary staff report that outlines an operating budget alternative that retains funding for all proposed hiring and restores vacancy management to normal levels, volunteer firefighter recognition, grants, and programs, up to no more than \$33 million dollars, with funding through a combination of reduction in debt charge by up to \$15 million, conversion of capital from operating to debt by up to \$20.5 million, 2019/20 end of year surplus, and reduction of increase in reserves this year by up to \$12 million.

The Budget Committee discussed the motion with Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer and Jane Fraser, Chief Financial Officer, responding to questions on the budget and the financial position of the Municipality. Various budget alternatives and the relevant timelines for further information were also discussed.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED. (14 in favour, 2 against)

In favour: Mayor Savage, Deputy Mayor Blackburn, Councillors Streach, Hendsbee, Nicoll, Austin, Mancini, Mason, Smith, Cleary, Walker, Adams, Zurawski, Outhit

Against: Councillors Whitman, Russell

Not present: Councillor Karsten

Brad Anguish, Director of Transportation and Public Works, spoke to the Budget Committee regarding proposed budget reduction strategies for Transportation and Public Works outlined in the staff report dated May 1, 2020 and answered questions.

MOVED by Councillor Russell, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

THAT the Budget Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to revise the 2020/21 Operating Budget to remove weekly green cart service and provide notice to affected contractors no later than May 15, 2020.

Andrew Philopoulos, Manager of Solid Waste Resources, answered questions regarding enforcement and education programs for waste materials disposal.

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

In favour: Mayor Savage, Deputy Mayor Blackburn, Councillors Streach, Hendsbee, Nicoll, Austin, Mancini, Mason, Smith, Cleary, Walker, Whitman, Russell

Against: Councillors Adams, Zurawski, Outhit

Not present: Councillors Karsten

John Traves, Municipal Solicitor, advised that staff will proceed with the direction provided from the Budget Committee relative to removing weekly Green Cart service and that ratification will occur at the May 26, 2020 meeting of Halifax Regional Council.

MOVED by Councillor Russell, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee

THAT the Budget Committee maintain funding for household waste, specifically the Bayer's Lake Depot, in the amount of \$360,000 and forward this amount to the Parking Lot.

Councillor Hendsbee proposed an amendment to include mobile hazardous waste depot programs to the parking lot, and amendment was determined to be friendly by the Mover. The motion now reads:

THAT the Budget Committee maintain funding for household waste, specifically the Bayer's Lake Depot, in the amount of \$360,000 and forward this amount to the Parking Lot and further that after October 1, 2020 that mobile depots be held in four locations throughout the municipality.

Following further discussion, Budget Committee requested the motion be separated for voting purposes as per Section 90 of Administrative Order One.

MOVED by Councillor Russell, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee

THAT the Budget Committee maintain funding for household waste, specifically the Bayer's Lake Depot, in the amount of \$360,000 and forward this amount to the Parking Lot.

MOTION PUT AND DEFEATED. (3 in favour, 12 against)

In favour: Councillors Hendsbee, Zurawski, Russell

Against: Mayor Savage, Deputy Mayor Blackburn, Councillors Streach, Nicoll, Austin, Mason, Smith, Cleary, Walker, Adams, Whitman, Outhit

Not present: Councillors Karsten, Mancini

MOVED by Councillor Russell, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee

THAT the Budget Committee maintain funding for household waste, specifically that after October 1, 2020 that mobile depots be held in four locations throughout the municipality and forward this item to the Parking Lot.

MOTION PUT AND DEFEATED. (6 in favour, 9 against)

In favour: Councillors Hendsbee, Nicoll, Adams, Zurawski, Russell, Outhit

Against: Mayor Savage, Deputy Mayor Blackburn, Councillors Streach, Austin, Mason, Smith, Cleary, Walker, Whitman

Not present: Councillors Karsten, Mancini

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Cleary

THAT the Budget Committee maintain funding for the senior snow removal program in the amount of \$600,000 and forward this amount to the Parking Lot.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED. (14 in favour, 1 against)

In favour: Mayor Savage, Deputy Mayor Blackburn, Councillors Streach, Hendsbee, Nicoll, Austin, Mason, Smith, Cleary, Walker, Adams, Whitman, Russell, Outhit

Against: Councillor Zurawski

Not present: Councillors Karsten, Mancini

4. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:54 p.m.

Sherryl Murphy
A/Municipal Clerk