



**BUDGET COMMITTEE
(STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ON BUDGET)
MINUTES
March 23, 2022**

PRESENT: Councillor Paul Russell, Chair
 Mayor Mike Savage
 Councillors: Cathy Deagle Gammon
 David Hendsbee
 Becky Kent
 Trish Purdy
 Sam Austin
 Tony Mancini
 Waye Mason
 Lindell Smith
 Shawn Cleary
 Kathryn Morse
 Patty Cuttell
 Iona Stoddard
 Lisa Blackburn
 Tim Outhit

REGRETS: Deputy Mayor Pam Lovelace

STAFF: Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance & Asset Management/Chief
 Financial Officer
 John Traves, Municipal Solicitor
 Karen Brown, Acting Municipal Solicitor
 Iain MacLean, 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 9:34 a.m., and recessed at 10:30 a.m. Budget Committee reconvened in at 11:00 a.m. Budget Committee recessed at 11:57 p.m. and reconvened at 1:02 p.m. Budget Committee recessed at 1:51 p.m. and reconvened at 2:07 p.m. Budget Committee recessed at 2:14 p.m. and reconvened at 2:31 p.m. Budget Committee adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:34 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 – February 16 & 8, February 23 & 25, and March 2 & 4, 2022

MOVED by Councillor Deagle Gammon, seconded by Councillor Stoddard

THAT the minutes of February 16 & 18, February 23 & 25, and March 2 & 4, 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 Kent, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Deputy Mayor Lovelace, Councillors Hendsbee, Smith, Cleary

4. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS – NONE

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Brian Cho, Bedford spoke to funding to support climate change initiatives.

Karen McKendry, Ecology Action Centre spoke to funding for HalifACT and protection of wildlife corridors through the Halifax Green Network Plan but did not support funding to advance development for Sandy Lake and Blue Mountain Birch Cove. McKendry 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.

6. 2022/23 Budget Adjustment List (BAL) for Consideration

The following was before Budget Committee:

- Staff recommendation report dated March 18, 2022
- Staff memorandum dated March 18, 2022
- Staff presentation dated March 23, 2022
- Briefing Note – Sidewalks – 2022/23 Budget Adjustment List
- Handout – Funding Options for Budget Adjustment List

- Correspondence from Kortney Dunsby and Maggy Burns, Ecology Action Centre

Jacques Dubé Chief Administrative Officer and Tyler Higgins, Financial Consultant-Budget Coordinator gave a presentation on the Budget Adjustment List.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Austin

THAT the Budget Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to finalize a Proposed Operating Budget for Regional Council that includes any accepted items from the Budget Adjustment List to be added/removed to/from the 2022/23 Proposed Operating Budget together with proposed amendments, respecting any accepted items from the Budget Adjustment List proposed to be added/removed to/from the 2022/23 approved Capital Budget.

Dubé, Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance & Asset Management/Chief Financial Officer, John Traves, Municipal Solicitor and Victoria Horne, Manager of Parking, Dave Reage, Executive Director, David Hubley, Manager Design & Construction, and Bruce Fisher, Manager of Financial Policy & Planning responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Blackburn, seconded by Councillor Mancini

THAT the Budget Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to prepare the 2022/2023 budget with one-time addition of \$4,827,000 for Parking Initiatives to Support Business Recovery (BN012):

1. items 5-12 (inclusive), 14-17 (inclusive), 19-26 (inclusive)
2. item 18 (Dartmouth East Morris Lake and Akoma Lands study) in the amount of \$800,000

as set out in Attachment A of the staff report dated March 23, 2022 to be funded from the 2021/22 Budget Surplus.

As provided for in section 53 (2) of Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, amendments were suggested to the motion and accepted as friendly.

The motion now read:

MOVED by Councillor Blackburn, seconded by Councillor Mancini

THAT the Budget Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to prepare the 2022/2023 budget with one-time addition of \$2,570,000:

1. item 5 – Voiding tickets with proof of purchase
2. item 11 – “Welcome back Dartmouth” Marketing Campaign
3. item 12 – Supporting and promoting Black-owned business
4. item 15 – COVID-19 Recovery Activities & Event Grants
5. item 16 – Mill Cove Planning and Infrastructure Design
6. item 17 – By-law simplification
7. item 20 – Governors Brook off leash area
8. item 21 – MDF subsidy request
9. item 22 – Assistant Emergency Management Coordinator
10. item 24 – HRM Crosswalk Upgrade Program
11. item 25 – Reaching Rural Communities (one-time portion)
12. item 26 – Library COVID Recovery

as set out in Attachment A of the staff report dated March 23, 2022 to be funded from the 2021/22 Budget Surplus.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not Present: Mayor Savage and Deputy Mayor Lovelace

MOVED by Councillor Mancini, seconded by Councillor Austin

THAT the Budget Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to prepare the 2022/2023 budget with one-time addition of \$575,000 for item 14 – Transit COVID recovery as set out in Attachment A of the staff report dated March 23, 2022 to be funded from the 2021/22 Budget Surplus.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Deputy Mayor Lovelace and Councillor Smith

MOVED by Councillor Cuttell, seconded by Councillor Cleary

THAT the Budget Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to prepare the 2022/2023 budget with one-time addition of \$250,000 for all day free bus and ferry services to be funded from the 2021/22 Budget Surplus.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED. (11 in favour, 4 against)

In favour: Councillors Hendsbee, Purdy, Austin, Mancini, Mason, Cleary, Morse, Cuttell, Stoddard, Blackburn, Russell

Against: Mayor Savage, Councillors Deagle Gammon, Kent, Outhit

Not present: Deputy Mayor Lovelace, Councillor Smith

MOVED by Mayor Savage, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

THAT the Budget Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to prepare the 2022/2023 budget with:

1. an ongoing adjustment of
 - a. \$300,000 for Parking Ticket Fee increase
 - b. \$315,000 for Tip Fee increases
 - c. \$275,000 Elimination of Heads Up Halifax
2. one-time reduction of \$275,000 for 20-Year Community Vision.

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

MOVED by Mayor Savage, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

THAT the Budget Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to prepare the 2022/2023 budget with:

1. an ongoing adjustment of
 - a. \$300,000 for Parking Ticket Fee increase
 - b. \$315,000 for Tip Fee increases

2. one-time reduction of \$275,000 for 20-Year Community Vision.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Deputy Mayor Lovelace

THAT the Budget Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to prepare the 2022/2023 budget with:

1. an ongoing adjustment of
 - c. \$275,000 Elimination of Heads Up Halifax

MOTION PUT AND PASSED. (11 in favour, 5 against)

In favour: Mayor Savage, Councillors Kent, Austin, Mancini, Mason, Smith, Cleary, Cuttell, Stoddard, Blackburn, Russell

Against: Councillors Deagle Gammon, Hendsbee, Purdy, Morse, Outhit

Not present: Deputy Mayor Lovelace

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT the Budget Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to prepare the 2022/2023 budget with one-time addition of \$700,000 per year for ten years for Art Gallery to be funded from the 2021/22 Budget Surplus.

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

In favour: Mayor Savage, Councillors Deagle Gammon, Hendsbee, Kent, Austin, Mancini, Mason, Smith, Cleary, Morse, Cuttell, Stoddard, Blackburn, Russell, Outhit

Against: Councillor Purdy

Not present: Deputy Mayor Lovelace

MOVED by Councillor Kent, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT the Budget Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to prepare the 2022/2023 budget with a one-time addition of \$1,500,000 for Future Serviced Communities (Master Planning) baseline infrastructure study and environment assessment to be funded from the 2021/22 surplus.

As provided for in section 53 (2) of Administrative Order One, Respecting the Procedures of the Council, an amendment to split the motion apart by project rather than compiled together was accepted as friendly.

THAT the Budget Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to prepare the 2022/2023 budget with one-time addition of:

1. \$300,000 for Morris Lake Expansion Lands (Eastern Passage)
2. \$250,000 for Highway 102
3. \$350,000 for Sandy Lake
4. \$500,000 for Akoma

including \$100,000 (total) for contingency for Future Serviced Communities (Master Planning) baseline infrastructure study and environment assessment to be funded from the 2021/22 Budget Surplus.

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

MOVED by Councillor Kent, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT the Budget Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to prepare the 2022/2023 budget with one-time addition of:

- 1. \$300,000 for Morris Lake Expansion Lands (Eastern Passage);**

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Deputy Mayor Lovelace

MOVED by Councillor Kent, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT the Budget Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to prepare the 2022/2023 budget with one-time addition of:

- 2. \$250,000 for Highway 102;**

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

In favour: Mayor Savage, Councillors Kent, Purdy, Mancini, Mason, Smith, Stoddard

Against: Councillors Deagle Gammon, Hendsbee, Austin, Cleary, Morse, Cuttell, Blackburn, Russell, Outhit

Not present: Deputy Mayor Lovelace

MOVED by Councillor Kent, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT the Budget Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to prepare the 2022/2023 budget with one-time addition of:

- 3. \$350,000 for Sandy Lake;**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED. (11 in favour, 5 against)

In favour: Mayor Savage, Councillors Deagle Gammon, Kent, Purdy, Austin, Mancini, Mason, Smith, Cuttell, Stoddard, Outhit

Against: Councillors Hendsbee, Cleary, Morse, Blackburn, Russell

Not present: Deputy Mayor Lovelace

MOVED by Councillor Kent, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT the Budget Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to prepare the 2022/2023 budget with one-time addition of:

- 4. \$500,000 for Akoma**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Deputy Mayor Lovelace

The consolidated motion as approved was:

THAT the Budget Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to prepare the 2022/2023 budget with a one-time addition of:

- 1. \$300,000 for Morris Lake Expansion Lands (Eastern Passage)**
- 2. \$350,000 Sandy Lake**
- 3. \$500,000 Akoma**

including \$100,000 for contingency for Future Serviced Communities (Master Planning) baseline infrastructure study and environment assessment to be funded from the 2021/22 surplus.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Cleary

THAT Budget Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council:

- a) Increased forecast revenue from Deed Transfer Tax from \$80 to \$83 million**
- b) Approve the \$2.5 million Parks and Rec capital budget, which is already in the base budget and does not require a funding source**
- c) Approve the 10 additional Firefighters FTEs funded from HRFE overtime.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Deputy Mayor Lovelace

MOVED by Mayor Savage, seconded by Councillor Outhit

THAT the Budget Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to prepare the 2022/2023 budget with ongoing funding for:

- a) 924,700 for item 27 – Additional Staff/Resources for permit application**
- b) 250,000 for item 31 – Discover Halifax funding**

as set out in Attachment A of the staff report dated March 23, 2022 to be funded from the 2021/22 Budget Surplus.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Deputy Mayor Lovelace

MOVED by Councillor Kent, seconded by Councillor Outhit

THAT the Budget Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to prepare the 2022/2023 budget with ongoing funding of \$100,000 for item 36 – Board of Police Commissioners Staff as set out in Attachment A of the staff report dated March 23, 2022 to be funded from operating.

MOVED by Councillor Deagle Gammon, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT Budget Committee suspend section 91(1) of Administrative Order One and allow for voting by show of hands for the remainder of the March 23, 2022 Budget Committee Meeting.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not Present: Deputy Mayor Lovelace, Councillor Cleary

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Deputy Mayor Lovelace

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

THAT the Budget Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to prepare the 2022/2023 budget with one-time addition of \$220,000 for item 23 – Sidewalks Staffing as set out in Attachment A of the staff report dated March 23, 2022 to be funded from the 2021/22 Budget Surplus.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Deputy Mayor Lovelace

MOVED by Councillor Deagle Gammon, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee

THAT the Budget Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to prepare the 2022/2023 budget with ongoing funding of \$130,000 for item 32 – Reaching Rural Communities as set out in Attachment A of the staff report dated March 23, 2022 to be funded from operating.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Deputy Mayor Lovelace

MOVED by Councillor Cuttell, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT the Budget Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to prepare the 2022/2023 budget with ongoing funding of \$110,500 for item 29 – Multi-Service Youth Centre Phase 2 in Spryfield as set out in Attachment A of the staff report dated March 23, 2022 to be funded from operating.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Deputy Mayor Lovelace

MOVED by Councillor Mancini, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT the Budget Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to prepare the 2022/2023 budget with ongoing funding of:

- 1. \$568,000 for item 28 – Wage adjustment for casual staff**
- 2. \$35,000 for item 30 – Community Rink Insurance Grant**
- 3. \$300,000 for item 33 – Library - Electronic Resources**
- 4. \$55,000 for item 34 – JEM education and programming**
- 5. \$50,000 for item 37 – Clerk's Office (part-time position to full-time)**

as set out in Attachment A of the staff report dated March 23, 2022 to be funded from operating.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Deputy Mayor Lovelace

MOVED by Councillor Kent, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee

THAT the Budget Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to prepare the 2022/2023 budget with one-time addition of \$500,000 for item 19 – Gravel Road Paving as set out in Attachment A of the staff report dated March 23, 2022 as a capital project.

Dubé advised that staff could not confirm which capital projects would be impacted, if any, noting they could come back to Council in April 2022 with an assessment.

As provided for in section 66 of Administrative Order One, the **motion was withdrawn** with consent of Regional Council.

The question was called on the main motion:

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Austin

THAT the Budget Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to finalize a Proposed Operating Budget for Regional Council that includes any accepted items from the Budget Adjustment List to be added/removed to/from the 2022/23 Proposed Operating Budget together with proposed amendments, respecting any accepted items from the Budget Adjustment List proposed to be added/removed to/from the 2022/23 approved Capital Budget.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Deputy Mayor Lovelace, Councillor Cleary

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Iain MacLean
Municipal Clerk