



**BUDGET COMMITTEE
(STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ON BUDGET)
MINUTES
February 10, 2023**

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

REGRETS: Councillors: David Hendsbee
 Waye Mason

STAFF: Caroline Blair-Smith, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Corporate Services
 Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance & Asset Management/Chief
 Financial Officer
 John Traves, Executive Director of Legal & Legislative Services/Municipal
 Solicitor
 Karen Brown, 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 9:31 a.m. and recessed at 12:15 p.m. Budget Committee reconvened in at 1:15 p.m. Budget Committee adjourned at 2:39 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:31 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 Councillor Lovelace, seconded by Councillor Stoddard

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Not present: Councillors Hendsbee, Kent, Mason, Cleary, Cuttell, Blackburn

4. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS – NONE

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

6. REPORTS

6.1 Human Resources & Corporate Communications

The following was before Budget Committee:

- Staff report dated January 27, 2023

Caroline Blair-Smith, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Corporate Services gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

MOVED by Mayor Savage, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

THAT the Budget Committee:

- 1. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to incorporate the Human Resources & Corporate Communications proposed 2023/24 Budget and Business Plan, as set out and discussed in the accompanying plan and supporting presentation, into the Draft 2023/24 Operating Budget.**

Blair-Smith responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee regarding recruitment efforts for diverse, under-represented communities, and persons with disabilities.

MOVED by Councillor Cuttell, seconded by Councillor Lovelace

THAT the motion be amended to include alternative motion 1 from the staff report dated January 27, 2023, as a new section that reads as follows:

- 2. Include alternative 1, a reduction of \$700,000 for Bridging the Gap Internship Program as outlined in the Briefing Note BN014 within the proposed 2023/24 Human Resources & Corporate Communications proposed budget to the Budget Adjustment List as an expense under budget option for consideration.**

Caroline Blair-Smith, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Corporate Services responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee regarding the scope, recruitment strategies, uptake, and timelines of the Bridging the Gap Internship Program. Blair-Smith clarified the proposed reduction results in the recruitment of one cohort for the Program rather than two.

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

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

In favour: Budget Committee Chair Russell, Mayor Savage, Councillors Deagle Gammon, Purdy, Smith, Cleary, Morse, Cuttell, Stoddard, Blackburn, Outhit

Against: Deputy Mayor Austin, Councillors Kent, Mancini, Lovelace

Not present: Councillor Hendsbee, Mason

Caroline Blair-Smith, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Corporate Services responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee regarding the scope and recruitment focus of talent acquisition staff.

Breton Murphy, Managing Director, Corporate Communications responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee regarding timelines and scope of the revised community engagement strategy and rural communications strategy, and standards for and management of bilingual content on Halifax.ca.

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

The question was called on the main motion:

MOVED by Mayor Savage, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

THAT the Budget Committee:

- 1. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to incorporate the Human Resources & Corporate Communications proposed 2023/24 Budget and Business Plan, as set out and discussed in the accompanying plan and supporting presentation, into the Draft 2023/24 Operating Budget**
- 2. Include alternative 1, a reduction of \$700,000 for Bridging the Gap Internship Program as outlined in the Briefing Note BN014 within the proposed 2023/24 Human Resources & Corporate Communications proposed budget to the Budget Adjustment List as an expense under budget option for consideration.**

MOTION AS AMENDED PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillors Hendsbee, Mason

6.2 Halifax Public Libraries

The following was before Budget Committee:

- Revised staff report dated February 1, 2023

Asa Kachan, Chief Executive Officer, Halifax Public Libraries gave a presentation and 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.

MOVED by Councillor Morse, seconded by Councillor Mancini

THAT the Budget Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to incorporate the Halifax Public Libraries proposed 2023/24 Budget and Business Plan, as set out and discussed in the accompanying plan and supporting presentation, into the Draft 2023/24 Operating Budget.

Kachan and Dave MacNeil, Manager, Collections & Access responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Mancini, seconded by Councillor Smith

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

- 2. Include alternative 2, an increase of \$300,000 for library collection funding as outlined the Briefing Note BN016 within the proposed 2023/24 Halifax Public Libraries proposed budget to the Budget Adjustment List as an expense over budget option for consideration.**

Asa Kachan, Chief Executive Officer, Halifax Public Libraries responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee regarding national standards for library collections.

Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance & Asset Management/Chief Financial Officer, Dave MacNeil, Manager, Collections & Access, and Shannon Robilliard, Manager of Finance responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

Councillor Russell stepped down from the Chair and Mayor Savage assumed the Chair.

Councillor Russell resumed the Chair.

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED. (12 in favour, 2 against)

In favour: Mayor Savage, Deputy Mayor Austin, Councillors Kent, Mancini, Smith, Cleary, Morse, Cuttall, Stoddard, Lovelace, Blackburn, Outhit

Against: Budget Committee Chair Russell, Councillor Purdy

Not present: Councillors Deagle Gammon, Hendsbee, Mason

Asa Kachan, Chief Executive Officer, Halifax Public Libraries, Mairead Barry, Director of Strategy, Halifax Public Libraries, and Dave MacNeil, Manager, Collections & Access responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

The question was called on the main motion:

MOVED by Councillor Morse, seconded by Councillor Mancini

THAT the Budget Committee

1. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to incorporate the Halifax Public Libraries proposed 2023/24 Budget and Business Plan, as set out and discussed in the accompanying plan and supporting presentation, into the Draft 2023/24 Operating Budget.
2. Include alternative 2, an increase of \$300,000 for library collection funding as outlined the Briefing Note BN016 within the proposed 2023/24 Halifax Public Libraries proposed budget to the Budget Adjustment List as an expense over budget option for consideration.

MOTION AS AMENDED PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillors Deagle Gammon, Hendsbee, Mason

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:39 p.m.

Iain MacLean
Municipal Clerk