



**BUDGET COMMITTEE  
(STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ON BUDGET)  
MINUTES  
March 3, 2023**

PRESENT:           Councillor     Paul Russell, Chair  
                      Mayor           Mike Savage  
                      Deputy Mayor   Sam Austin  
                      Councillors:   Cathy Deagle Gammon  
  David Hendsbee  
  Becky Kent  
  Trish Purdy  
  Tony Mancini  
  Waye Mason  
  Lindell Smith  
  Shawn Cleary  
  Kathryn Morse  
  Patty Cuttell  
  Iona Stoddard  
  Pam Lovelace  
  Lisa Blackburn  
  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  
              Iain MacLean, Municipal Clerk  
              Catie Campbell, 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](http://halifax.ca).*

*The meeting was called to order at 9:34 a.m. and adjourned at 11:40 a.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 – NONE**

## **3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS**

Additions: None

Deletions: None

MOVED by Councillor Outhit, seconded by Councillor Cleary

**THAT the agenda be approved as presented.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Not present: Deputy Mayor Austin, Councillor Mason

## **4. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS – NONE**

## **5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The Chair reviewed the rules of procedure for public participation, and noted there were no registered speakers.

## **6. REPORTS**

### **6.1 Fiscal Services**

The following was before Budget Committee:

- Staff report dated February 22, 2023
- Handout titled, "Draft Budget Adjustment List Summary" dated March 3, 2023
- Staff presentation dated March 3, 2023
- Correspondence from Joyce Carter

Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance & Asset Management/Chief Financial Officer and Tyler Higgins, Manager, Budget & Reserves gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

MOVED by Mayor Savage, seconded by Councillor Mason

**THAT the Budget Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to:**

- 1. Incorporate the Fiscal proposed 2023/24 Budget and Business Plan, as set out and discussed in the accompanying plan to the staff report dated February 22, 2023 and supporting presentation, into the Draft 2023/24 Operating Budget.**
- 2. Amend the business case for the Strategic Initiative Reserve – Capital (Q666) to provide funding to any Strategic Initiative project that is capital in nature as outlined in Attachment 5 of the staff report dated February 22, 2023.**

MOVED by Mayor Savage, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

**THAT the motion be amended to include alternative motion 3 from the staff report dated February 22, 2023 as a new section that reads as follows:**

- 3. Include alternative 3, a reduction of \$1,300,000 for overdue interest rate increase as outlined the Briefing Note BN070 within the proposed 2023/24 Fiscal proposed budget to the Budget Adjustment List as an option to increase revenue for consideration**

Renée Towns, Director of Revenue, Treasurer responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

**MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MOVED by Councillor Morse, seconded by Councillor Cleary

**THAT the motion be amended to include alternative motion 2 from the staff report dated February 22, 2023, as a new section that reads as follows:**

- 4. Include alternative 2, a reduction of \$1 million to \$2 million to terminate and renegotiate the Taxation Agreement with Halifax International Airport Authority as outlined the Briefing Note BN069 as an option to increase revenues in the 2024/25 proposed Fiscal budget.**

Cathie O'Toole, Chief Administrative Officer, Blackwood and John Traves, K.C., CD, Executive Director of Legal & Legislative Services/Municipal Solicitor responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee regarding the negotiation process with the Halifax International Airport Authority. Traves clarified that notice of termination for the current agreement would need to be given by March 31, 2023 to take effect the following 2024/2025 fiscal year. Regional Council would also be the final decision-making body.

Councillor Morse proposed to remove 'a reduction of \$1 million to \$2 million'. As provided for in section 53 (2) of Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, the amendment was accepted as friendly.

The motion now read:

**THAT the motion be amended to include alternative motion 2 as amended, from the staff report dated February 22, 2023, as a new section that reads as follows:**

- 4. Include alternative 2, to terminate and renegotiate the Taxation Agreement with Halifax International Airport Authority as outlined the Briefing Note BN069 as an option to increase revenues in the 2024/25 proposed Fiscal budget.**

Traves and O'Toole responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee regarding negotiation timelines and clarified there would be no financial impact on the Halifax International Airport Authority in 2023/24 fiscal year.

**MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED.** (15 in favour, 2 against)

In favour: Budget Committee Chair Russell, Mayor Savage, Deputy Mayor Austin, Councillors Hendsbee, Kent, Mancini, Mason, Smith, Cleary, Morse, Cuttall, Stoddard, Lovelace, Blackburn, Outhit

Against: Councillors Deagle Gammon, Purdy

O'Toole, Blackwood, and Traves responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee regarding the termination clause for the urban shipyards contract and the Utility and Review Board taxation rate.

The question was called on the main motion:

MOVED by Mayor Savage, seconded by Councillor Mason

**THAT the Budget Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to:**

- 1. Incorporate the Fiscal proposed 2023/24 Budget and Business Plan, as set out and discussed in the accompanying plan to the staff report dated February 22, 2023 and supporting presentation, into the Draft 2023/24 Operating Budget;**
- 2. Amend the business case for the Strategic Initiative Reserve – Capital (Q666) to provide funding to any Strategic Initiative project that is capital in nature as outlined in Attachment 5 of the staff report dated February 22, 2023;**
- 3. Include alternative 3, a reduction of \$1,300,000 for overdue interest rate increase as outlined the Briefing Note BN070 within the proposed 2023/24 Fiscal proposed budget to the Budget Adjustment List as an option to increase revenue for consideration; and**
- 4. Include alternative 2, to terminate and renegotiate the Taxation Agreement with Halifax International Airport Authority as outlined the Briefing Note BN069 as an option to increase revenues in the 2024/25 proposed Fiscal budget.**

**MOTION AS AMENDED PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Iain MacLean  
Municipal Clerk