



**HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES
February 8, 2017**

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

STAFF: Ms. Amanda Whitewood, Chief Financial Officer
Mr. Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer
Mr. John Traves, Municipal Solicitor
Mr. Kevin Arjoon, Municipal Clerk
Mr. Liam MacSween, Legislative Assistant
Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant

The following does not represent a verbatim record of the proceedings of this meeting.

A video recording of this meeting is available: http://archive.isiglobal.ca/vod/halifax/archive_2017-02-08_live.mp4.html

The agenda, supporting documents, and information items circulated to Council are available online: <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/170208cow-agenda.php>

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m., and recessed at 12:15 p.m. Council reconvened at 1:02 p.m. Council recessed at 3:10 p.m. and reconvened at 3:28 p.m. Council recessed at 4:29 p.m. and reconvened at 4:33 p.m. Council adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Councillor Bill Karsten, Chair called the meeting to order in Council Chamber, 3rd Floor City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

The following documentation was before Regional Council:

- A handout entitled Options for Consideration List January 25 and February 1, 2017

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – NONE

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

MOVED by Councillor Whitman, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

THAT the agenda be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. Legal, Insurance and Risk Management Services

The following documentation was before Regional Council:

- A staff recommendation report dated January 18, 2017 with attached presentation entitled: *Legal, Insurance and Risk Management Services Multi-Year Budget & Business Plan, Committee of the Whole on Budget, February 1, 2017*

Mr. John Traves, Director of Legal, Insurance and Risk Management, presented the 2017/18 Legal, Insurance and Risk Management Services Multi-Year Budget & Business Plan.

Councillor Karsten thanked Mr. Traves for his presentation and invited members of the public to address Committee of the Whole with respect to the budget.

Councillor Karsten called three times for speakers to come forward, there were none present.

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

THAT staff prepare the 2017/2018 Multi-year Legal, Insurance and Risk Management Services Budget and Business Plan, including 2018/2019 in principle, as proposed in the accompanying presentation and consistent with the preliminary fiscal direction.

Councillor Karsten opened the floor for questions of clarification from members of Regional Council. In response to questions of clarification, Mr. Traves noted the following:

- The largest consumer of HRM's Legal Services has been the Human Resources Business Unit to assist with labour negotiations.
- Legal, Insurance and Risk Management manages the contracts for external legal work. He advised that staff are in the process of preparing a Request for Proposals for prosecution services for HRM
- Staff can provide Council with updates in relation to ongoing prosecutions being carried out by the Municipality.
- There is a service level agreement with Halifax Water to provide legal services on a cost recovery basis and there are discussions underway to extend the same type of service level agreement to Halifax Public Libraries.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5. Human Resources – Deferred from February 1, 2017

The following documentation was before Regional Council:

- A staff recommendation report dated January 18, 2017 with attached presentation entitled: *Proposed 2017/18 Multi-year Human Resources Budget and Business Plan*

Councillor Mancini declared a conflict respecting the Human Resources Budget and Business Plan presentation and noted that he will not be taking part in the discussion or debate on the matter. Councillor Mancini left the meeting.

Ms. Catherine Mullally, Director of Human Resources presented the 2017/18 Multi-year Human Resources Budget and Business Plan.

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

THAT staff prepare the 2017/2018 Multi-year Human Resources Budget and Business Plan Budget and Business Plan, including 2018/2019 in principle, as proposed in the accompanying presentation and consistent with the preliminary fiscal direction.

Councillor Karsten thanked Ms. Mullally for the presentation and invited members of the public to speak on the budget.

Mr. Peter Polley, of the Investment Property Owners Association of Nova Scotia (IPONS) provided commentary with respect to the provincial capped assessment program noting that it currently excludes rental properties. He outlined the IPONS position that the provincial capped assessment program levies an extra level of taxation on rental property owners and tenants. He pointed out that HRM provided solid waste services to residential housing which excludes apartment buildings greater than six units which are not registered as condos. He concluded his presentation by noting that HRM should support the inclusion of rental properties into the provincial capped assessment program and including rental properties greater than six units into HRM's Solid Waste Collection.

Councillor Karsten called three times for further speakers, there were none present.

In response to questions of clarification from members of Regional Council, Ms. Mullally provided the following:

- The budget details for the Bridging the Gap Internship Program is listed under Finance and ICT as it is distributed to all HRM business units. She noted that the program itself is managed by Human Resources.
- Further information can be provided to Council with respect to Absentee Data. Absentee data varies from Business Unit to Business Unit
- HRM has a business practice with respect to a flexible work place. She noted that HRM's staff is approximately 85 percent unionized with each collective agreement including provisions for flexible work places.
- There are several upcoming training initiatives for those in leadership positions such as lean six sigma

MOVED by Mayor Savage, seconded by Deputy Mayor Craig

THAT Committee of the Whole add the over the budget Employee Engagement Survey at a cost of \$60,000 to the Options List to be considered by Committee of the Whole at a later date for inclusion in the 17/18 Multi-Year Budget Process, and to direct staff to provide an estimate of the two year budget implication

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

In response to questions of clarification, Mr. Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer noted that a directive has been issued to all Business Unit Directors to provide a succession plan for the top three positions in their unit. He advised that HRM strives to provide opportunities for all employees to advance and grow within the organization, he noted, however that there is an identified knowledge gap at the manager and director level which needs to be addressed.

MOVED by Mayor Savage, seconded by Councillor Smith

THAT Committee of the Whole add the under the budget Bridging the Gap Program at a cost of \$300,000 to the Options List to be considered by Committee of the Whole at a later date for inclusion in the 17/18 Multi-Year Budget Process, and to direct staff to provide an estimate of the two year budget implication.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Further discussion ensued among members of Regional Council with respect to HRM Corporate Learning and Development programming. The following motion was passed:

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

THAT Committee of the Whole add the over the budget Corporate Learning & Development Program expansion at a cost of \$100,000 to the Options List to be considered by Committee of the Whole at a later date for inclusion in the 17/18 Multi-Year Budget Process, and to direct staff to provide an estimate of the two year budget implication.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Further discussion ensued, with the question being called for on the main motion:

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Councillor Mancini re-joined the meeting

6. Finance and Information, Communications Technology

The following documentation was before Regional Council:

- A staff recommendation report dated January 23, 2017 with attached presentation entitled: *Finance & Information, Communications and Technology Multi-Year Budget & Business Plan, Committee of the Whole on Budget, February 1, 2017*

Ms. Amanda Whitewood, Chief Financial Officer presented the 2017/18 Finance & Information, Communications and Technology Multi-Year Budget & Business Plan.

Councillor Karsten thanked Ms. Whitewood for her presentation and invited members of the public to address Committee of the Whole on the budget. Councillor Karsten called three times for members of the public to address Committee of the Whole, there were no speakers present.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Craig, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

THAT staff prepare the 2017/2018 Multi-year Finance and Information, Communications and Technology Budget and Business Plan, including 2018/2019 in principle, as proposed in the accompanying presentation and consistent with the preliminary fiscal direction.

In response to questions from members of Regional Council, Ms. Whitewood noted the following:

- Staff is experiencing more community grant intakes and noted that an internal review of HRM's grant program is forthcoming with a goal of shortening the turnaround time.
- Finance staff is currently working on technological solutions to modernize HRM's payroll process.
- HRM's false alarm fee structure has not been updated since 1999. Ms. Whitewood provided overview of the costs associated for Halifax Regional Police & Halifax Fire and Emergency Services to respond to false alarms and the cost recovery measures that are currently in place.

Mr. Jerry Blackwood, Manager of Revenue provided an overview of HRM's write-offs of billed revenue and noted that with respect to taxation, the write-off rate is quite low as HRM has the first lien on property. He further noted that there is an appeal process respecting false alarm fees.

Further discussion ensued among Regional Council with respect to HRM's False Alarm Fee Structure.

MOVED by Councillor Austin, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

THAT Committee of the Whole add the under the budget False Alarm Fee Increase at a cost of \$300,000 to the Options List to be considered by Committee of the Whole at a later date for inclusion in the 17/18 Multi-Year Budget Process, and to direct staff to provide an estimate of the two year budget implication with the first false alarm call remaining free.

Members of Regional Council requested that a further breakdown of the false alarm statistics (percentages of false alarm calls, single family homes vs. condos, businesses) be provided for the next Budget meeting.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Further discussion ensued, with the question being called with respect to the main motion:

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Council recessed at 12:15 p.m.

Council reconvened at 1:02 p.m.

7. Transportation and Public Works

The following documentation was before Regional Council:

- A staff recommendation report dated January 30, 2017 with attached presentation entitled: *Transportation & Public Works Multi-Year Budget & Business Plan – February 8, 2017*
- Revised page 1 of the staff report dated January 30, 2017
- Correspondence from Matt Spurway, Crosswalk Safety Society of Nova Scotia; Bonnie St-Croix, Bill Campbell, Moira E. Harding and the Spryfield Community Association.

Mr. Bruce Zvaniga, Director, Transportation and Public Works provided the presentation of 2017/2018 multi-year Transportation and Public Works Budget and Business Plan.

The Chair opened the meeting to Public Participation.

Ms. Veronica Post addressed Council advising that she was representing the Spryfield Community Association. In her remarks, Ms. Post put forward a proposal for Council's consideration to extend the sidewalk along Herring Cove Road at the 500 Block. She explained that the sidewalk was necessary for safety and accessibility reasons, pointing out that there were numerous students walking along the

roadway, and that there is a new high school proposed for the area. In addition, she noted that the sidewalk would connect low-income housing to local services and public transportation.

Mr. Tristan Cleveland addressed Council advising that he was representing the Ecology Action Centre and Halifax Cycling Coalition. Mr. Cleveland requested that Council consider installing more plastic bollards along bike lanes, adding that it is a cost effective way to keep cyclists safe and to promote a healthy active lifestyle. Mr. Cleveland also encouraged Council to invest more in bike infrastructure, and he acknowledged the work of staff for covering bike infrastructure in the rural, suburban, and urban areas.

Mr. Dylan Letendre addressed Council and advised that he worked for Chebucto Connections. Mr. Letendre read a letter from Ms. Bonnie Ste-Croix, Executive Director, Chebucto Connections, which was in support of the request for a sidewalk along the 500 block of Herring Cove Road, from Lynnett Road to 564 Herring Cove Road, and on the west side from 505 to 581 Herring Cove Road.

There were no further speakers wishing to address Council.

The Chair indicated that Councillor Blackburn had a motion to bring forward, from debate which was held at the February 1, 2017 Committee of the Whole.

MOVED by Councillor Blackburn, seconded by Deputy Mayor Craig.

That Committee of the Whole add the over budget Upgrades to the Library Collection and Public Technology, as presented by Halifax Public Libraries on February 1, 2017, to the Options List to be considered by Committee of the Whole at a later date for possible inclusion in the 17/18 Multi-Year Budget Process, and to direct staff to provide an estimate of the two year budget implication.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Craig, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

THAT Committee of the Whole direct staff to proceed to prepare the 2017/2018 Multi-year Transportation and Public Works Budget and Business Plan, including 2018/2019 in principle, as proposed in the accompanying presentation and consistent with the preliminary fiscal direction.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Craig, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

That Committee of the Whole add the over budget Increase Streets Capital program at a cost of \$150,000 to the options list to be considered by Committee of the Whole at a later date for possible inclusion in the 17/18 Multi-Year Budget Process, and to direct staff to provide an estimate of the two year budget implication

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Mr. Bruce Zvaniga, Director of Transportation and Public Works, Mr. Matt Keliher, Manager, Solid Waste Resources, and Mr. Taso Koutroulakis, Manager, Traffic Management responded to questions.

Councillor Adams made reference to the presentation by Ms. Post in regard to a sidewalk extension along the 500 block of Herring Cove Road and indicated he would like Council to consider this for installation in 2017/18. In this regard, Councillor Adams put forward a motion for a staff report.

MOVED by Councillor Adams, seconded by Councillor Whitman

That Committee of the Whole request a staff report outlining the cost of installing sidewalk on the Herring Cove Road from Lynnett Road to 564 Herring Cove Road including

potential sources of funding from other municipal funds and with a view to having this installation take place in 2017/18.

The Chief Administrative Officer cautioned that the report would take time to prepare, and would not be back to Council by February 15, 2017.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Smith

That Committee of the Whole request a staff report regarding costs, savings and other implications, subject to a public consultation and a poll of the residents, for removing sidewalk snow removal from the areas of District 7, 8, 9 where it was introduced in 2013.

Mr. Zvanga advised that staff were currently working on a report for submission to Council in April, and that Councillor Mason's request could be incorporated into that report.

MOTION PUT AND DEFEATED.

With the debate on the Transportation and Public Works Budget and Business Plan concluded, the Chair called for the question on the main motion.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED

Councillor Nicoll addressed Council advising that during the debate on the Parks and Recreation budget and business plan, when she put forward her motion, the artificial turf field fees had been omitted in error. She indicated she would put forward a motion now to correct the omission.

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Outhit.

That Committee of the Whole add the over budget Increased Fees for Artificial Turf Fields to the options list to be considered by Committee of the Whole at a later date for possible inclusion in the 17/18 Multi-Year Budget Process, and to direct staff to provide an estimate of the two year budget implication.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Council recessed at 3:10 p.m.

Council reconvened at 3:28 p.m.

8. Halifax Regional Fire and Emergency

The following documentation was before Regional Council:

- A staff recommendation report dated January 25, 2017 with attached presentation entitled: *Halifax Regional Fire and Emergency Services Multi-Year Budget & Business Plan – February 8, 2017*
- Revised slides from the presentation of Pages 11 and 19

Chief Doug Trussler, Fire and Emergency Services presented the budget and business plan for the Halifax Regional Fire and Emergency Budget and Business Plan for 2017/18.

The Chair opened the floor for public participation. Following three calls for speakers, no one came forward to present to Council.

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Austin

THAT Committee of the Whole recommend staff proceed to prepare the 2017/2018 Multi-year Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency Budget and Business Plan, including 2018/2019 in principle, as proposed in the accompanying presentation and consistent with the preliminary fiscal direction.

Chief Trussler responded to questions of clarification from members of Council.

MOVED by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Mancini

That Committee of the Whole add the over budget increase of \$150,000 for Firefighters Commemorative Events for the 100th Anniversary of the Halifax Explosion to the options list to be considered by Committee of the Whole at a later date for possible inclusion in the 17/18 Multi-year Budget process, and to direct staff to provide an estimate of the two year budget implication.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Craig, seconded by Councillor Austin that

Committee of the Whole request that staff provide a report in regard to including funds for one permanent officer to fulfill the role of Diversity and Liaison Officer for the 2018/19 budget process.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

With the debate on the Fire and Emergency Services Budget and Business Plan concluded, the Chair called for the question on the main motion.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Council recessed at 4:29 p.m.

Council reconvened at 4:33 p.m.

9. Halifax Regional Police

The following documentation was before Regional Council:

- A report from the Board of Police Commissioners dated January 23, 2017 with attached staff presentation entitled: *Halifax Regional Police Multi-Year Budget & Business Plan – February 8, 2017*
- Revised presentation slides, pages 2 and 41

Deputy Mayor Craig, Chair of the Board of Police Commissioners addressed Council and introduced the following: Inspector Jason Popik, Halifax District Detachment RCMP; Chief Jean-Michel Blais, Halifax Regional Police, Ms. Kathleen Patterson, Policy and Business Initiatives Coordinator, Halifax Regional Police, and Mr. Craig Horton, Financial Coordinator, Halifax Regional Police. Deputy Mayor Craig, Chief Blais, and Inspector Popik presented the Budget and Business plan for the Halifax Regional Police for 2017/18 and responded to questions.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Mancini

That Committee of the Whole direct staff to prepare the 2017/18 Multi-Year Halifax Regional Police Budget and Business Plan as recommended by the Board of Police

Commissioners, including 2018/19 in principle, as proposed in the presentation and consistent with the preliminary fiscal direction; 2017/18 \$77,050,000; 2018/19 \$77,180,000.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Mancini that the motion be amended to

Add \$553,800 for the Halifax Regional Police Budget into the Options List to be considered by Committee of the Whole at a later date for inclusion in the 17/18 Multi-Year Budget Process. 2017/18 \$553,800; 2018/19 \$850,400, for a total HRP budget of 2017/18 \$77,603,800; 2018/19 \$78,030,400.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

With the debate on the Halifax Police budget and business plan concluded the Chair called for the question on the main motion.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

Kevin Arjoon
Municipal Clerk