



**HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES  
February 15, 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  
Ms. Sherryl Murphy, Deputy Municipal Clerk  
Mr. Liam MacSween, Legislative Assistant  
Ms. Krista Vining, 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://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/170210cow-agenda.php>

The agenda, supporting documents, and information items circulated to Council are available online: <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/170210cow-agenda.php>

*The meeting was called to order at 10:05 p.m., and recessed at 12:15 p.m. Council reconvened at 1:05 p.m., recessed at 2:59 p.m. and reconvened at 3:13 p.m. Council adjourned at 4:23 p.m.*

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

Councillor Karsten indicated that the Public Participation section of the agenda would be dealt with as the first order of business as there is no staff presentation associated with either staff reports being considered by Committee of the Whole.

Ms. Sherryl Murphy, Deputy Municipal Clerk advised that the reports would have to be added to the agenda, as they had not been distributed prior to the agenda being made public.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Craig, seconded by Councillor Outhit

That in accordance with Administrative Order 1, Section 24 Items 3. Street Recapitalization and 4.17/18 Multi-year Budget Options for Consideration be considered. **MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Two-third majority vote required.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – NONE**

Item 5 - Public Participation (Part 1 of 2) was addressed at this time. See page 8 for (Part 2 of 2).

**5. Public Participation (Part 1 of 2)**

Councillor Karsten called three times for members of the public to address Committee of the Whole regarding the budget. There were no speakers present.

**3. Street Recapitalization Funding**

The following documentation was before Council:

- A staff recommendation report dated January 30, 2017

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Craig, seconded by Councillor Outhit

**That Halifax Regional Council:**

- 1. Increase the proposed capital funding for Street Recapitalization in fiscal 2017-18 by \$2.9 million to \$23.915 million, which when added to the \$16.2 million carryover results in a \$40.1 million 2017-18 Street Recapitalization program.**
- 2. Direct staff to increase funding for Street Recapitalization to \$30 million in 2018-19, subject to using additional funding becoming available from federal/provincial cost sharing and CAPPOOL/CRESSPOOL1 to Street Recapitalization; and**
- 3. Direct staff to budget for increased Street Recapitalization funding in fiscal 2019-20 and 2020-21 to reflect the funding levels presented in the 2016-17 Capital Plan, as supported by the pavement management system data.**

Deputy Mayor Craig introduced the following amendment to the main motion

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Craig, seconded by Mayor Savage

**THAT the \$150,000.00 Street Recapitalization option outlined in attachment C of the 17/18 Multi-year Budget Options staff report dated February 10, 2017 be removed from the options list and be included within the proposed \$30 million 2018-19 Street Recapitalization funding.**

Mr. Bruce Zvaniga, Director, Transportation and Public Works clarified that staff is not recommending the deletion of Active Transportation funding, noting that the staff recommendation would not adversely affect the proposed funding.

**MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED.**

The motion before Committee of the Whole now reads:

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Craig, seconded by Councillor Outhit

**THAT Halifax Regional Council:**

- 1. Increase the proposed capital funding for Street Recapitalization in fiscal 2017-18 by \$2.9 million to \$23.915 million, which when added to the \$16.2 million carryover results in a \$40.1 million 2017-18 Street Recapitalization program.**
- 2. Direct staff to increase funding for Street Recapitalization to \$30 million in 2018-19, subject to using additional funding becoming available from federal/provincial cost sharing and CAPPOOL/CRESSPOOL1 to Street Recapitalization with an amendment to remove the \$150,000 for Street Recapitalization option outlined in attachment C of the 17/18 Multi-year Budget Options staff report dated February 10, 2017 and include it within this funding.**
- 3. Direct staff to budget for increased Street Recapitalization funding in fiscal 2019-20 and 2020-21 to reflect the funding levels presented in the 2016-17 Capital Plan, as supported by the pavement management system data.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**4. 17/18 Multi-year Budget Options for Consideration**

The following documentation was before Council:

- A staff recommendation report dated February, 10 2017
- Correspondence received from Sylvaine Allaire, Brad Lawlor, Paula Bragg, Patricia Kidd, Houssam Elokda, Michelle MacEachern, Bruno Ruffinogo, Brenden Clinton, Jeremy VanSlyke, Jim Naugler, and Sasha Sears.

The Committee discussed the most effective manner by which to consider the budget options outlined in Attachment C of the February 10, 2017 staff report. With input from Mr. John Traves, Municipal Solicitor and Ms. Sherryll Murphy, Deputy Clerk, the committee agreed to consider each budget option by individual motion.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Craig, seconded by Councillor Outhit

**THAT Committee of the Whole direct staff to include the Police Services over budget option of \$ 553,800 as outlined in Attachment C of the staff report dated February 10, 2017 in the final 2017/2018 Multi-year Budget and Business Plan.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Smith

**THAT Committee of the Whole direct staff to include the \$100,000.00 over budget option for Halifax Explosion Firefighter's Commemoration of as outlined in Attachment C of the staff report dated February 10, 2017 in the final 2017/2018 Multi-year Budget and Business Plan.**

**MOTION PUT AND DEFEATED.**

Ms. Amanda Whitewood, Chief Financial Officer clarified that if none of the budget options outlined in the February 10, 2017 staff report were approved, the average tax bill will increase by \$33 per annum per household. However, if all of the options are approved, the tax bill would increase by approximately \$43 on average per annum per household.

The following alternative motion was put forward for consideration:

MOVED by Councillor Mancini, seconded by Councillor Mason

**THAT Committee of the Whole direct staff to include the \$75,000.00 over budget option for Halifax Explosion Firefighter's Commemoration of as outlined in Attachment C of the staff report dated February 10, 2017 in the final 2017/2018 Multi-year Budget and Business Plan.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

MOVED by Mayor Savage, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

**THAT Committee of the Whole direct staff to include the \$30,000.00 over budget option for Increase International Partnership Activity as outlined in Attachment C of the staff report dated February 10, 2017 in the final 2017/2018 Multi-year Budget and Business Plan.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Craig, seconded by Mayor Savage

**THAT Committee of the Whole direct staff to include the \$300,000.00 budget savings for False Alarm fees as outlined in Attachment C of the staff report dated February 10, 2017 in the final 2017/2018 Multi-year Budget and Business Plan.**

The following amendment to the main motion was proposed:

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Austin

**THAT Committee of the Whole direct staff to pursue option 2 with respect to False Alarm fees as outlined in Attachment C of the staff report dated February 10, 2017.**

**MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED.**

The motion before Committee of the Whole now reads:

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Craig, seconded by Mayor Savage

**THAT Committee of the Whole direct staff to include the \$300,000.00 budget savings, Option 2 for False Alarm fees as outlined in Attachment C of the staff report dated February 10, 2017 in the final 2017/2018 Multi-year Budget and Business Plan.**

MOVED by Councillor Austin, seconded by Councillor Mason

**THAT Committee of the Whole direct staff to include the \$155,000.00 over budget option for the Alderney Ferry Service Expansion as outlined in attachment C of the staff report dated February 10, 2017 in the final 2017/2018 Multi-year Budget and Business Plan**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

MOVED by Councillor Austin, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee

**THAT Committee of the Whole direct staff to include the \$70,000.00 budget savings respecting 311 Shift Expansion, Option 1 as outlined in attachment C of the staff report dated February 10, 2017 in the final 2017/2018 Multi-year Budget and Business Plan.**

In response to questions of clarification, Mr. Peter Stickings, Acting Director of Operations Support noted the following:

- Staff would recommend shifting the hours of the call centre as outlined in option one. He noted that staff will look at further optimization such as potentially closing on Holidays.
- There will be no adjustments to the contract service provider that provides call centre support when the HRM call centre is closed.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

MOVED by Councillor Adams, seconded by Councillor Walker

**THAT Committee of the Whole direct staff to include the \$50,000.00 over budget option for the Spay and Neuter Program as outlined in attachment C of the staff report dated February 10, 2017 in the final 2017/2018 Multi-year Budget and Business Plan.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

MOVED by Mayor Savage, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

**THAT Committee of the Whole Direct staff to include the \$160,000.00 over budget option for the Low Income Transit Pass Expansion as outlined in attachment C of the staff report dated February 10, 2017 in the final 2017/2018 Multi-year Budget and Business Plan.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

MOVED by Councillor Outhit, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee

**THAT Committee of the Whole direct staff to include the \$500,000.00 over budget option for Park/Field Maintenance as outlined attachment C of the staff report dated February 10, 2017 in the final 2017/2018 Multi-year Budget and Business Plan.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Smith

**THAT Committee of the Whole direct staff to include the \$76,000.00 over budget option for Parks State of Good Repair and Deferred Maintenance as outlined in attachment C of the staff report dated February 10, 2017 in the final 2017/2018 Multi-year budget and Business Plan.**

**MOITON PUT AND PASSED.**

MOVED by Councillor Outhit, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

**THAT Committee of the Whole direct staff to include the budget savings option of \$15,000.00 through the Elimination of Recreation Employee Discounts as outlined in Attachment C of the staff report dated February 10, 2017 in the final 2017/2018 Multi-year budget and Business Plan.**

In response to questions of clarification from members, Mr. Brad Anguish, Director of Parks and Recreation noted the following:

- The largest portion of the employee discount is used for summer camps.
- There was no specific data readily available with respect to the number of individuals participating in the employee discount program, but the number is small.
- The rationale for the elimination of the program is that HRM's wages are good relative to other sectors and an opportunity for discounts should not be provided to HRM staff if they are not available to the general public.
- Employees would not be treated any differently than any member of the public with respect to the ability to pay for recreation programming

**MOTION PUT AND DEFEATED.**

The following alternative recommendation was put forward:

MOVED by Councillor Craig, seconded by Councillor Outhit

**THAT Committee of the Whole direct staff to include the \$15,000.00 for Recreation Employee Discounts as outlined in Attachment C of the staff report dated February 10, 2017 in the final 2017/2018 Multi-year budget and Business Plan.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Outhit

**THAT Committee of the Whole direct staff to include the \$60,000.00 over budget option for Parks Monitors on All Weather Fields as outlined in Attachment C of the staff report dated February 10, 2017 in the final 2017/2018 Multi-year budget and Business Plan.**

Mr. Anguish advised that the funding would be used to provide a full time monitor to watch over the field to ensure user compliance, assist with scheduling, and ensure that the field is clean and safe for the next user.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Mayor Savage

**THAT Committee of the Whole direct staff to include the \$125,000.00 over budget option for Volunteer Support Services as outlined in Attachment C of the staff report dated February 10, 2017 in the final 2017/2018 Multi-year budget and Business Plan.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

**THAT Committee of the Whole direct staff to include the \$146,000.00 budget savings related to Funding for the Jump Start program as outlined in attachment C of the staff report dated February 10, 2017 in the final 2017/2018 Multi-year Budget and Business Plan.**

Mr. Anguish advised that HRM does not provide funding to Canadian Tire which administers the Jump Start Program. He noted that the budget figure evolved over time with matched funding provided by Canadian Tire to allow families to access external recreation programming up to \$200.00 per year. He commented that the partnership provided access to recreation programs not offered by HRM. He advised that Canadian Tire is centralizing the program and it would still continue, but would be solely administered by Canadian Tire.

**MOTION PUT AND DEFEATED.**

The following alternative motion was introduced:

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Smith

**THAT Committee of the Whole direct staff to include the \$146,000.00 over budget option related to Funding for the Jump Start program as outlined in attachment C of the staff report dated February 10, 2017 in the final 2017/2018 Multi-year Budget and Business Plan.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Cleary

**THAT Committee of the Whole direct staff to include the \$30,000.00 budget savings related to the reduction of Mowing Areas as outlined in attachment C of the staff report dated February 10, 2017 in the final 2017/2018 Multi-year Budget and Business Plan.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

**THAT staff be directed to include a \$25,000.00 budget increase for Public Gardens Extended Services into the final 17/18 Multi-year Budget and Business Plan as outlined in Attachment C of the staff report dated February 10, 2017.**

Councillor Mason asked Council to defeat the motion. He spoke to the significant increase to the Parks and Recreation budget and the plan to look for other sources of funding for the Public Gardens.

**MOTION PUT AND DEFEATED.**

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Outhit

**THAT staff be directed to include an \$81,000.00 budget increase for Artificial Turf Field Fees into the final 17/18 Multi-year Budget and Business Plan as outlined in Attachment C of the staff report dated February 10, 2017.**

Members speaking in support of the increase saw artificial turfs as a premium product for which higher fees are appropriate particularly in light of rising expenses. Those who did not support the motion had concern with the impact on sports organizations that may have already collected registration fees from participants. Note was made that some organizations do not use artificial turf fields because they are too expensive and there is a need for HRM to have a better understanding around affordability. Staff provided clarification on the hourly rate for all-weather fields and antiradical turf fields, which is determined based on the class of the field and what amenities are offered.

**MOTION PUT AND DEFEATED.**

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

**THAT staff be directed to include a \$65,000.00 budget increase for contribution to Community Facilities into the final 17/18 Multi-year Budget and Business Plan as outlined in Attachment C of the staff report dated February 10, 2017.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Cleary

**THAT staff be directed to include a \$300,000.00 budget savings for the CAO Business Unit Reporting Structure into the final 17/18 Multi-year Budget and Business Plan as outlined in Attachment C of the staff report dated February 10, 2017.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

MOVED by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Craig

**THAT staff be directed to include a \$60,000.00 budget increase for Diversity and Inclusion into the final 17/18 Multi-year Budget and Business Plan as outlined in Attachment C of the staff report dated February 10, 2017.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Adams

**THAT staff be directed to include a \$50,000.00 budget increase for Engage Nova Scotia into the final 17/18 Multi-year Budget and Business Plan as outlined in Attachment C of the staff report dated February 10, 2017.**

Members recognized the good work and benefits that Engage Nova Scotia provides to both the municipality and the province. Members indicated that without an increased funding request, they could not support an increase to the budget.

**MOTION PUT AND DEFEATED.**

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Austin

**THAT staff be directed to include a \$60,000.00 budget increase for FOIPOP Office Funding into the final 17/18 Multi-year Budget and Business Plan as outlined in Attachment C of the staff report dated February 10, 2017.**

Staff responded to questions around an additional staff person for the Access and Privacy Office to assist in coordinating and processing applications of Freedom of Information requests made and ensure compliance of Part XX of the Municipal Government Act.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Item 5 Public Participation (Part 2 of 2) was addressed at this time.

**5. Public Participation (Part 2 of 2)**

Public Participation was addressed at this time.

Councillor Karsten called three times for members of the public to come forward and speak on the budget; there were none.

Committee resumed consideration of the options list.

MOVED by Mayor Savage, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

**THAT staff be directed to include a \$50,000.00 budget increase for a Poverty Reduction Strategy into the final 17/18 Multi-year Budget and Business Plan as outlined in Attachment C of the staff report dated February 10, 2017.**

Members recognized that this was outside of the Municipality's mandate but saw this as a benefit and moral obligation to research ways to reduce poverty in the Municipality and communicate the needs of their communities to the other levels of government.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

**THAT staff be directed to include a \$30,000.00 budget increase for Increase Spring Mowing Frequency into the final 17/18 Multi-year Budget and Business Plan as outlined in Attachment C of the staff report dated February 10, 2017.**

Councillor Mason asked Council to defeat the motion, explaining that staff have indicated the cost for additional mowing could be covered in the \$500,000.000 budget increase approved by Council earlier for Park Improvements/Field Maintenance.

**MOTION PUT AND DEFEATED.**

MOVED by Councillor Mancini, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee

**THAT staff be directed to include a \$100,000.00 budget increase for French Translation Services into the final 17/18 Multi-year Budget and Business Plan as outlined in Attachment C of the staff report dated February 10, 2017.**

Members spoke to the number of francophone residents living in the Municipality. Staff provided additional clarification on implementing French translation services for Municipal Public Service Announcements (PSAs) through corporate communications. Staff was asked to provide additional information on the timelines for the web transformation work and what percentage of information would be translated to French on the Municipality's webpage.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Having previously declared conflicts of interest during Committee of the Whole Budget sessions, Councillor Mancini stepped away from the debate and sat in the gallery for the following items:

- Library Collections Upgrades;
- Library IT Upgrades;
- Internship Program Reduction;
- Leadership Development; and
- Employee Engagement Survey.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Whitman

**THAT staff be directed to include a \$500,000.00 budget increase for Library Collection Upgrades into the final 17/18 Multi-year Budget and Business Plan as outlined in Attachment C of the report dated February 10, 2017.**

Members discussed the need to upgrade the library collection (i.e. multi-lingual, e-books and audiobooks) which services all 14 branches in the Municipality with staff responding to questions on servicing and the Provincial Grant Program.

**MOTION PUT AND DEFEATED.**

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Mason

**THAT staff be directed to include a \$250,000.00 budget increase for Library Collection Upgrades into the final 17/18 Multi-year Budget and Business Plan as outlined in Attachment C of the staff report dated February 10, 2017.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Outhit

**THAT staff be directed to include a \$300,000.00 budget increase for Library IT Upgrades into the final 17/18 Multi-year Budget and Business Plan as outlined in Attachment C of the staff report dated February 10, 2017.**

Ms. Asa Kachan, Chief Librarian & CEO, Halifax Public Libraries provided clarification respecting the updates to public technologies (i.e. computers for library users) and working with ICT staff to develop a renewal strategy. Ms. Kachan explained that disposal or recycling old computers would be done through the Municipality's procurement process.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Council recessed at 2:59 p.m. and reconvened at 3:13 p.m.

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Walker

**THAT staff be directed to include a \$300,000.00 budget savings for the Internship Program into the final 17/18 Multi-year Budget and Business Plan as outlined in Attachment C of the report dated February 10, 2017.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

MOVED by Councillor Whitman, seconded by Mayor Savage

**THAT staff be directed to include a \$100,000.00 budget increase for Leadership Development into the final 17/18 Multi-year Budget and Business Plan as outlined in Attachment C of the staff report dated February 10, 2017.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

MOVED by Mayor Savage, seconded by Deputy Mayor Craig

**THAT staff be directed to include a \$60,000.00 budget increase for Employee Engagement Survey into the final 17/18 Multi-year Budget and Business Plan as outlined in Attachment C of the staff report dated February 10, 2017.**

During the discussion staff was asked to capture information on the number of HRM employees using the discount for recreation services in the employee engagement survey.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Councillor Mancini rejoined the meeting at this time.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Whitman

**THAT staff be directed to include an \$80,000.00 budget increase for Rationalize Parks into the 2018/19 Multi-year Budget and Business Plan as outlined in Attachment C of the staff report dated February 10, 2017.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Discussion was held on parking fine alternatives, Attachment D of the staff report dated February 10, 2017 and it was MOVED by Mayor Savage, seconded by Deputy Mayor Craig

**THAT Committee of the Whole direct staff to prepare an analysis of funding alternatives to an increase in the tax rate having regard to taking more operating funds from capital, drawing down on reserves, and an increased use of debt.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

MOVED by Mayor Savage, seconded by Councillor Mason

**THAT Committee of the Whole increase parking fines for “other” parking types only; not inclusive parking meter violations, as outlined in Option 1, Attachment D of the staff report dated February 10, 2017.**

During discussion staff was asked to identify the process for issuing multiple tickets (i.e. stacking/pyramiding) and for winter ban tickets.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

MOVED by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Mason

**THAT Committee of the Whole direct staff to prepare a supplementary report with respect to parking fine alternatives for parking in front of a bus stop, crosswalk, parking on a sidewalk, blocking a driveway, fire-lane, parking in an accessible parking spot without a permit, within (5) meters of a crosswalk, parking in an intersection, and hydrants.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee

**THAT Committee of the Whole request a staff report on the review of the data from the Jump Start program.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

MOVED by Councillor Whitman, seconded by Councillor Mason

**THAT Committee of the Whole request a staff information report respecting revenue and parking enforcement.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

MOVED by Councillor Austin, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

**THAT Committee of the Whole request staff report on the possibility of an HRM park naturalization strategy and that it be forwarded to the Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

This matter was addressed during different times of the meeting, see pages 2 and 8.

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 4:23 p.m.

Kevin Arjoon  
Municipal Clerk