



**BUDGET COMMITTEE
(STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ON BUDGET)
MINUTES
February 14, 2018**

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

REGRETS: Councillors: David Hendsbee
Lisa Blackburn

STAFF: Jerry Blackwood, Acting Director of Finance & Asset Management/CFO
John Traves, Municipal Solicitor
Kevin Arjoon, Municipal Clerk
Krista Vining, Legislative Assistant
Sheilagh Edmonds, 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 9:32 a.m., and recessed at 12:00 p.m. Budget Committee reconvened at 12:46 p.m. and adjourned at 4:26 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:32 a.m.

The following was before the Committee:

- A revised handout entitled Budget Adjustment List Summary dated February 14, 2018

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – January 10, 17 and 19, 2018

MOVED by Mayor Savage, seconded by Councillor Whitman

THAT the minutes of January 10, 17 and 19, 2018 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. HALIFAX REGIONAL POLICE

The following was before the Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated February 6, 2018 with attached Halifax Regional Police 2018/19 Multi-year Budget and Business Plan presentation
- A copy of the Halifax District Funding Request, Regular Member Resources, as presented at the HRM Board of Police Commissioners January 15, 2018 meeting

Commissioner Steve Craig, Chair, Board of Police Commissioners, provided introductory remarks, and indicated that they would not be taking part in the debate or voting in their capacity as Councillor for this budget and business plan, because of their role as a representative and Chair of the Board of Police Commissioners.

Commissioner Craig, Chief Jean-Michel Blais, Halifax Regional Police, and Chief Superintendent Lee Bergerman, Halifax District Detachment, Regional Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), presented the draft 2018/19 Multi-year Halifax Regional Police Budget and Business Plan.

Councillor Karsten called for members of the public to address Budget Committee on the Halifax Regional Police presentation or other aspects of the 2018-19 Municipal Budget.

Michael Morash, West Dover spoke to helping the community and suggested creating a Healthy Heart of Halifax at the former site of the Halifax Memorial Library. They suggested the first floor would be for a homeless shelter, the second floor for a wellness centre and the third floor for a farmer's market and restaurant.

Councillor Karsten called three times for any further members of the public wanting to address Budget Committee; there were none.

MOVED by Councillor Mancini, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

THAT Budget Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council direct staff to proceed to prepare the 2018/19 Multi-year Halifax Regional Police Budget and Business Plan, as proposed in the accompanying presentation, consistent with the preliminary fiscal direction but with additional funds required as specified.

Staff responded to various questions raised by the Committee. They explained that six new officer positions with a 70/30 cost sharing with the Federal Government, totaling \$225,000 to Halifax Regional

Municipality is to address the growing needs in the areas policed by RCMP (e.g. frontline policing; drug recognition experts; monitor, engage and assist police units around organize crimes; and enforcement of road safety initiatives). During the discussion staff was asked to prepare and provide a chart regarding the 2018-19 wage/compound financial impact.

Council recessed at 12:00 p.m.

Council reconvened at 12:46 p.m.

Councillor Adams asked Chief Superintendent Bergerman if there was information available on the number of members who are on leave and, if so, could this information be sent to Council.

The Chief Superintendent indicated that staff would check with Head Quarters on this matter.

Discussion was held on deferring the HRP budget. Councillor Nicoll suggested that it would be preferable to defer it to a later budget session when the RCMP budget would be debated, so that Council would have the two budgets in front of them.

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Walker

That Halifax Regional Police budget be deferred until the March 28, 2018 meeting of Budget Committee and that the Board of Police Commissioners be requested to prepare a revised Halifax Regional Police Budget and Business plan as an alternative on the basis of a reduction of 550K.

MOTION TO DEFER WAS PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Councillor Streach, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee

THAT Budget Committee:

1. Direct staff to proceed to prepare the 2018/19 Multi-year RCMP budget and business plan to the 18/19 proposed in principle budget consistent with the preliminary fiscal direction.

2. Direct that the RCMP request for the \$225,000 increase with respect to additional officers be added to the Parking Lot for future consideration in the 2018/2019 Budget.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Council recessed at 2:15 p.m.

Council reconvened at 2:21 p.m.

4. HALIFAX REGIONAL FIRE & EMERGENCY

The following was before the Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated January 23, 2018 with attached Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency 2018/19 Multi-year Budget and Business Plan presentation
- A revised 2018/19 Capital Budget Form

Chief Ken Stuebing, Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency, provided introductory remarks and presented the draft 2018/19 Multi-year Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency Budget and Business Plan. In the presentation, Chief Stuebing noted that there is an increase from \$59 million last year to \$71 million this year and the major cost of the increase is operations cost to cover positions that are being back-filled.

Councillor Karsten called three times for members of the public to address Budget Committee on the Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency presentation; there were none.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Mason, seconded by Councillor Mancini

THAT Budget Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council direct staff to proceed to prepare the 2018/19 Multi-year Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency Budget and Business Plan, as proposed in the accompanying presentation and consistent with the preliminary fiscal direction.

Staff responded to questions of Committee.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Mason, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee

THAT the Budget Committee direct that \$294,000 for Training Materials and Courses, \$268,000 for Uniforms and Clothing, and \$278,000 for Building & Equipment Repairs in the Fire Services Budget be added to the Parking Lot for future consideration in the 2018/2019 Budget.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The Chair called for the vote on the main motion.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:11 p.m.

Kevin Arjoon
Municipal Clerk