



**BUDGET COMMITTEE
(STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ON BUDGET)
MINUTES
March 28, 2018**

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

REGRETS: Councillor: Tim Outhit

STAFF: Jerry Blackwood, Acting Director of Finance & Asset Management/CFO
John Traves, Municipal Solicitor
Kevin Arjoon, Municipal Clerk
David Perusse, Legislative Assistant
Sharon Chase, 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 9:34 a.m. The Budget Committee moved into an In Camera (In Private) session at 11:24 a.m. and reconvened at 11:40 a.m. The Budget Committee recessed at 12:15 p.m., and reconvened at 1:04 p.m. The Budget Committee recessed at 3:05 p.m., and reconvened at 3:20 p.m. The Budget Committee adjourned at 3:34 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:34 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – February 14 and March 7, 2018

MOVED by Mayor Savage, seconded by Councillor Whitman

THAT the minutes of February 14 and March 7, 2018 be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. DEFERRED BUSINESS – February 14, 2018

Public Participation

Councillor Karsten called for members of the public to address the Budget Committee on the budget.

Veronica Marsman, Property Manager, Akoma Holdings Inc, requested that Council consider putting a left centre turning lane on the Highway 7 by the Akoma Old Home.

Kevin Russell, Investment Property Owners Associations of Nova Scotia (“IPOANS”), asked that the Committee direct Halifax Solid Waste Resources staff to enter discussions with IPOANS in regard to extending scheduled residential waste services to residential apartment buildings with more than six (6) units. Russell pointed out that the Municipality currently provides these services to condominiums. They stated IPOANS’s position that the failure to provide the same services to apartments with more than six (6) units is discriminatory to apartment residents. Russell further noted that the extra costs incurred by landlords as a result of this policy are often passed on to tenants, effecting housing affordability within the Municipality.

David Curry, on behalf of the Nova Scotia Birds Society, the Ecology Action Centre, and Nature Canada, asked that the 2018/2019 budget include funding for an external consultant to develop a public education program on responsible cat ownership within the Municipality. Curry noted that the Municipality contains a significant population of free roaming stray cats, and that there is a demonstrated need for the Municipality to improve programming to divert strays from adding to this growing problem. Curry noted that public education is crucial, as part of the Municipality’s spay and neuter program, to promote responsible cat ownership.

Peter Pauley, Investment Property Owners Associations of Nova Scotia (IPOANS), provided the Committee with a handout and spoke to the continued assessment of the Capped Assessment Program. Pauley noted that the apartment sector is the only group of residential dwellings that is excluded from the Capped Assessment Program, which is having a negative impact on housing affordability within the Municipality. Pauley noted that extending the Capped Assessment Program to apartments would not require a change to legislation. Pauley requested that, as part of the Municipality’s discussions with the Province about the Capped Assessment Program, the Municipality include a request for residential apartment dwellings to be included in the program.

Walter Toth, Project Manager, Akoma Holdings Inc, provided the Committee with a handout and spoke to the Akoma Old Home. They noted that the Akoma Old Home is currently under restoration. Once these renovations are completed, it is anticipated that traffic along Highway 7 will increase

significantly. Toth explained that Akoma Holdings is seeking to have a portion of their property along Highway 7 rezoned for commercial uses. The absence of a left centre turning lane on Highway 7 along the Akoma lands is seen as an impediment to the viability of future commercial development. They requested that the Committee consider the inclusion of a left centre turning lane on Highway 7.

Councillor Karsten called three times for any further members of the public wanting to address the Budget Committee on the budget. There were no additional speakers.

3.1 Revised 2018/19 Halifax Regional Police Budget and Business Plan

The following was before the Committee:

- A recommendation report from the Board of Police Commissioners dated March 28, 2018
- A RCMP and HRP information report dated March 28, 2018

John Traves, Municipal Solicitor, reminded members that there is an outstanding deferred motion on the Halifax Regional Police budget arising from the February 14, 2018 meeting of the Budget Committee. At the February 14, 2018 meeting, the Committee deferred the HRP budget motion and requested that HRP staff prepare and submit a HRP budget alternative with a \$550,000 operating budget reduction. Speaking to the procedure for addressing the motions at the current meeting, Traves noted that the Committee must first deal with the original deferred motion on the HRP budget, and if defeated, they could then proceed to address an alternative motion.

The deferred motion on the Halifax Regional Police Budget from the February 14, 2018 meeting of the Budget Committee was voted on as follows:

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.

MOTION PUT AND DEFEATED.

Having defeated the deferred motion, the Committee proceeded to consider the alternative/revised HRP budget and business plan.

MOVED by Councillor Craig, seconded by Councillor Mancini

THAT the Budget Committee accept the budget approved during the February 26, 2018 meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners, and as outlined in the Board of Police Commission report dated March 28, 2018, as an alternative to the original recommended budget submission presented on February 14, 2018 at Budget Committee, representing a reduction of \$550,000 to the 2018/2019 Halifax Regional Police total operating budget of \$ \$86,435,000.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. Budget Adjustment List (BAL) Review

The following was before the Committee:

- Staff recommendation report dated March 6, 2018, with attached Budget Adjustment List Reordered by Council Focus area, and attached Briefing Notes for each Budget List Adjustment Item
- Revised staff recommendation report dated March 6, 2018
- Handout titled "Q421 General Contingency Reserve"
- Correspondence submitted by Geoff Kennedy, Betty Brian, Paul St-Amand, Kate Langan, Lori McCay-Peet, Catherine Vardy, Lisa Walsh, Janet Shotwell, Theresa Bunbury, Jonathan Lampier, Laura Jantek, Laura MacNutt, Wilma Mays, Ina Stroya, Barry Ryan, Doug Graham, Jenna Myles, Steven DeWitt, Simon Ross-Siegel, Joe Murphy, Shane McKinnon, Angela Baker, Andrew Campbell, Lucas Harron, Hilary Harron, James Kyte, Maureen McGregor, Elaine Young, Crystall Garrett, Kari Lewis, Roger Eckoldt, Denise Wright, Colleen Dewis, Brenda Ramsay, Kate Dalziel, Brad Rivers, Kaly Tam, Susan Smith, Alan Ruffman, Allison McQuade, Neil Cook, Sarah Adams, Emily Moore, Taylor English, Joanne Baker, Gregory Baker, Kimberley MacDonald, Catherine Schipilow, Damian Tomsett, Sarah March, Laura Dakin-Clarice, Lyndell Findley, Barbara Darby, John Menzies, Heather Gordon, Graeme Richards, Aileen Nasager, Jenny Lugar, Janice Hill, May Stuart, Barbara Vickers, Eve Burns, Lisa Harrison, Debbie Gill, Jess Moore, L. Kacala, Rachel Herrison, Scott Fisher, Paul Boudreau, Jean M. Chard, Chester Wyman, Jacob Chard, Mary Brooke, Nicole Harvey, Jay Harvey, Mike Wyman, Don Chard, Colleen Prentice, Sheldon Page, Peter Wunsch, Dorothyanne Brown, Dave Harrison, Doug Livingstone, Peggy McCalla, Martin Jones, Grace Szucs, Matthew Baker, Jill Mader, Jessica Kimber, Shawn Langlois, Deborah Warkentin, Andrew MacCormack, Cynthia Plant-Hansen, Ray McDearmid, R. McDearmid, Ken Armison, David Shipley, Anne Shannon, Debra McLellan, Sheryl Eldridge, Lia Beveridge, Ashley Sheffield, Sarah Cooper, Ann Hardcastle, Colin MacEachern, Manuel Moncayo-Adams, Jane C. Underwood, Alexander Vance, Michael Basford, Janet Barlow, Kathryn Harley Haynes, Seamus Sullivan, Charles Sutton, Craig Hatt, Stephen Smith, Owen Sherwood, Andrew Feenstra, Brice Walsh, Michael McFadden, Bruce Lusby, Sarah Sherwood, Dave Cole, David Bureau, Kaarin Tae, David Copp, Brent Horner, Walter N. Regan, Josh Kelly, Etnie Webster, Shelagh Skerry, Victoria Champion, Joe MacNiel, Andy M., C. Walters, Jennie Sanford, Sarah Ensslin, Jamie Reid, Melissa Buote, Danna Busby, Adam Baldwin, Jane MacDougald, Meghan Vallis, Shauna MacLean, Jonathan Chapman, Helen Jones, Elaine Jeffery, Ben Moore, Sharon MacDonald, Kelly Chambers, Gail Ellsworth, Chantal Routhier, Laura Whitman, Matthew Boudreau, Emma Johnson, Catherine Buckie, Susan Linfield, Julia Bell, Brittany Bath, Erin Masters, Suzanna McKenzie, Deborah Munro, Bonnie Conrad, Becky Bain, Jessica Fox, Rhona Sullivan, Kirk MacDonald, Pamela Rizzotti, Margie Douglas, Lynn Bugess, Michael Hingston, Karen Foster, Kimberley Danes, Ursula Campbell, Danielle Swinimer, Adrian Poulet, Gregory Ian Maughan, Bret Willmore, Eric Brown, Neil Lofters, Jim Basquill, Chris Foley, Shaye McAna, Jenna Hanes, Jason MacDonald, Ryan Leet, Pamela Wile, Josh Cooke, Charlotte Pitman, Erin Pitman, Erin Stewart Reid, Cassidy Bernard, Erin Benesch, Ania Huebler, Meredith O'Hara, Nic Chatham, V. Flemming, Trevor Beresch, Baiah Bernard, Roberto Armenta, Regan Simon, Joseph Lauer, River Smith, Chris White, B. Dixon, Elizabeth O'Howley, Alaney Wight, Demetrios Kotsionis, Sheena McCaish, Christine Wilson, Aaron Beaudin, Steve Preeper, Kieran Bowes, Brett Beaton, Rob Goose, Trina Matheson, Jared Peters, Jeff Zwicker, Maureen Gorman, Nathan K., Janet Lee, Ian Hart, Sarah Douglas, Trevor Parsons, Nuriel Alshek, Shane Savoury, Jean Laroclte, Urban Gardens Limited, Adrienne Klenck, David Boyle, Heather Stewart, S. McKinnon, Garth Goldsmith, Lisa Gallagher, Sharon MacDonald, Max Klenck, Dwayne Carberry, Dahlen Reichard, Denise Patterson, Robert Watson, Kevin Dugas, Tim Hilchey, Brent Dowette, Peter H. Janet Barlow, Kat Smith, Mike Sangster, Kristy Lamblan, Anne Fawcett, Matthew Welsh, Clarissa Clarke, Heather Lonas, Kevin Blackburn, Ben S. Dave MacKinnon, Michael Arason, Hollie Davis, Gary Newman, Kelly McNeil, Dean Pyne, Samantha Verdun, Tia Howell, John Cole, Sara McAna, Amy Mahoney, John Bordeaux, Michael Crooks, Dan Laurent, Emma Bannister, Norma Clarks, Shayne MacDonald, J.J. Steeves, Charles Kehoe, Erika Pare, Sarom Curtis, Shirley Wright, Marie Simons, Marijke Vandalindon, Doug Kennedy, Konayne Romanchuk, Linda McLaren, Joanne Shaw, Monique Kelemon, Roberta Emms, Marion Penton, Candy Thebault,

Gail Peach, Jody Watt, L. Crooks, Rob Bell, Julie Millen, , Kathryn Francis, Frank Cruckshanks, Christina Horne, Jacqueline Scott, Natalie Stapleton, Ted Holland, Theresa Watts. Tara Bailey, Nicole Greig, Julie Thomas, Stewart Greig, John MacLoad, Colin Dauphinee, Leslie Hull, Glen McDonald, Patrick Sam, George Keddy, Shirley Whyatt, Gordon Langley, Phyllis Grady, Ernie Butler, Richard MacDonald, William Starbank, Samantha Molly, Bob Sam, Jeff Merchant, Larry Butler, Barry Hill, Shane McKinnon, Kelly Dauphinee, Graham Ritchie, Neil Cook, Paul Ford, Louise Doyle, Joel Waddell, Brian Foster, A. Martin, Cassidy Bellefontaine, Jillana Burgess, Jeffery McCarthy, Mike Beiswanger, Laura Barbour, Chris Thibault, Taylor Peet, David Barrow, Janet Campbell, Steve Deger, Kyle MacDonald, Josh Drummond, Claude La Fort, Lynn Crabtree, Mike Eldridge, Rory MacDonald, Chris Williams, Katie Goods, Paul Forezi, Dylan Jewers, Tasha Armenta, Sonia McHoney, Amanda Watt, Mark Mullane, and Tanya Cousins.

Councillor Karsten noted the procedure for how the Committee will address each of the items on the Budget Adjustment List (BAL) or parking lot list. As they explained, the main motion will be put on the floor. The Committee will then go through the BAL item-by-item, as outlined in Attachment A of the staff report dated March 6, 2018; voting on whether to proceed with each item, which would be done by means of an amendment to the main motion, as well as indicating a recommended funding source for each.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Mason, seconded by Councillor Mancini

THAT the Budget Committee recommends that Regional Council approve that:

- 1. Any ongoing program changes on the Budget Adjustment List that Council wish to approve be funded through an increase in the 1.9% average tax increase, and, that**
- 2. Any one-time changes on the Budget Adjustment List that Council wishes to approve are funded through use of the General Contingency reserve.**

Jerry Blackwood, Acting CFO, spoke to the Committee regarding the background and context of the BAL. The BAL before the Committee lists 14 parking lot items that outline both one-time, as well as on-going expenses, which were not part of the approved in principle multi-year budget and are not included in the 1.9% average tax increase approved by Council.

Blackwood noted that in Attachment A of the 18/19 Budget Adjustment List for Consideration report, the 2018/2019 amount for Recreation Fee Reduction/Ice Fees is actually \$40,000, rather than the \$300,000 listed in the report.

Blackwood further noted that based on a third quarter financial report, the Municipality is projecting a \$12.1 million surplus. They noted that any surplus at year-end will go into the Municipality's General Contingency Reserve. Currently, without the projected surplus, there is approximately \$550,000 in the General Contingency Reserve. If Council decides to approve any parking lot items, these may be funded partially or in whole through a reserve contribution or a tax rate increase, among other options.

Blackwood concluded by noting that staff have proposed that any Parking Lot items which are on-going in nature be funded through the General Tax Rate, rather than through a reserve contribution. It was further recommended that the Committee consider funding one-time items, including pilot projects, through the General Contingency Reserve.

Councillor Cleary noted that in previous years, the Municipality has not used all of the budgeted funds for road paving. They suggested that Council might consider re-allocating a portion of these funds to cover some of the listed BAL items, as well as increasing funding for sidewalks.

The Committee proceeded to consider each of the items on the BAL as set out in Attachment A of the staff recommendation report dated March 6, 2018.

a. RCMP Staffing – Six New Officers Positions

MOVED by Councillor Craig, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

THAT Budget Committee direct staff to prepare the 2018/2019 budget with the addition of six new RCMP officer positions in the amount of \$225,000, with a \$0.0004 Rate Impact, and a \$0.89 Bill Impact, to be funded through an increase in the 1.9% average tax rate.

Responding to questions of clarification from members of the Committee, Inspector Robert Doyle, RCMP, Halifax District Detachment, noted that deferring the request for additional Detachment officers to next year's budget could have a negative impact on public safety. The impending legalization of cannabis beginning in the summer of 2018 was cited as an example of an additional pressure that the Detachment will have to deal with regardless of whether they receive the requested officers. In the absence of additional officers, existing members will likely have to be reassigned to meet these pressures, including community and school liaison officers.

Councillor Adams requested that the Budget Committee move In Camera (In Private) to discuss a sensitive issue with respect to RCMP staffing.

MOVED by Councillor Adams, seconded by Councillor Whitman

THAT the Budget Committee move In Camera (In Private) to discuss a Personnel Matter.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The Budget Committee moved into an In Camera (In Private) session at 11:24 a.m. and reconvened in public at 11:40 a.m.

John Traves clarified that the basis for the Budget Committee convening In Camera (In Private) was to discuss a matter relating to public security, rather than a personnel matter. They also clarified that the Committee had confirmed in private session that two-thirds (2/3) of Committee members voted in favour of moving In Camera (In Private), as moving In Camera (In Private) without an In Camera (In Private) item before the Committee requires a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote.

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

THAT the motion to amend be amended so that the six (6) requested RCMP officers be phased in over a two-year period, with three (3) additional officers being hired for 2018/2019, and three (3) officers for 2019/2020.

Councillor Craig clarified that the original amendment already takes a phased approach to these new positions over the next two years, which is reflected in the listed 2018/2019 BAL expense for the item.

Councillor Hendsbee withdrew the amendment.

The motion before Council read:

MOVED by Councillor Craig, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

THAT Budget Committee direct staff to prepare the 2018/2019 budget with the addition of six new RCMP officer positions in the amount of \$225,000, with a \$0.0004 Rate Impact, and a \$0.89 Bill Impact, to be funded through an increase in the 1.9% average tax rate.

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED.

b. HRFE Training Materials and Courses, HRFE Uniforms/Clothing for Recruits, HRFE Logistics Cost Pressures

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Mason, seconded by Councillor Mancini

THAT the Budget Committee refer the following items, as set out in the staff report dated March 6, 2018, titled "18/19 Budget Adjustment List for Consideration," to the Audit and Finance Standing Committee for review and recommendation on how they can be accommodated into the 2019/2020 budget cycle:

- a) Halifax Fire & Emergency Services, HFRE Training Materials and Courses;**
- b) Halifax Fire & Emergency Services, HFRE Uniform/ Clothing for Recruits; and**
- c) Halifax Fire & Emergency Services, HFRE Logistics Cost Pressures.**

Responding to questions of clarification from members of the Committee, Jacques Dubé, CAO, noted that regardless of whether the three Halifax Regional Fire and Emergency items are incorporated into the 2018/2019 budget or deferred to the next budget cycle, all HRFE members will still receive all necessary training and will be adequately equipped. If these items are deferred, HRFE will be required to incorporate these costs into their existing budgets while trying to avoid running a deficit.

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED.

The Committee recessed at 12:15 p.m. and reconvened at 1:04 p.m.

c. Food Literacy Program

MOVED by Councillor Blackburn, seconded by Councillor Mancini

THAT staff be directed to include a \$50,000 budget increase for funding a Food Literacy Program into the final 18/19 Budget and Business Plan as outlined in Attachment B of the staff report dated March 6, 2018.

To be funded through the use of the General Contingency Reserve.

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED.

d. Lake Banook Pollution Control

MOVED by Councillor Austin, seconded by Councillor Mancini

THAT staff be directed to include a \$150,000 budget increase for a Lake Banook Pollution Control Study into the final 18/19 Budget and Business Plan as outlined in Attachment B of the staff report dated March 6, 2018.

To be funded through the use of the General Contingency Reserve.

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED.

e. Sackville Youth Centre

MOVED by Councillor Craig, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

THAT staff be directed to include a \$65,000 budget increase for a Youth Centre (Sackville) into the final 18/19 Budget and Business Plan as outlined in Attachment B of the staff report dated March 6, 2018.

To be funded through the use of the General Contingency Reserve.

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED.

f. Recreational Trail Pilot Program

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Whitman

THAT staff be directed to include a \$250,000 budget increase for a Recreational Trail Pilot Program (HRTA) into the final 18/19 Budget and Business Plan as outlined in Attachment B of the staff report dated March 6, 2018.

To be funded through the use of the General Contingency Reserve.

Brad Anguish, Director Parks and Recreation, confirmed that all trails have moved to active transportation in 2015, with this pilot program looking at recreation programming. A staff report on this proposal could be submitted at mid-year budget review.

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND DEFEATED.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Mason, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

THAT the Budget Committee refer the Recreational Trail Pilot Program funding of \$250,000 to be considered in the 2019/20 budget cycle.

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED.

Staff were directed to begin research and planning, engaging with the HRTA and prepare a report for Regional Council's consideration.

g. Recreational Fee Reduction/Ice Fees

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Mason, seconded by Councillor Craig

THAT staff be directed to include a \$40,000 budget increase for Recreational Fee Reduction/Ice Fees into the final 18/19 Budget and Business Plan as outlined in Attachment B of the staff report dated March 6, 2018.

To be funded through the use of the General Contingency Reserve.

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED.

h. HRM Parade Float

MOVED by Councillor Whitman, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee

THAT staff be directed to include a \$40,000 budget increase for Maintaining 2nd Parade Float into the final 18/19 Budget and Business Plan as outlined in Attachment B of the staff report dated March 6, 2018.

To be funded through an increase in the 1.9 average tax increase.

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND DEFEATED.

Staff were encouraged to look at other options and come back at the mid-year budget review.

i. Grants to Professional Arts Organizations

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Mason, seconded by Councillor Craig

THAT Budget Committee refer the following to be considered in the 2019/2020 budget cycle: a budget increase for Additional Funding to Grants Operating Budget process for the Grants to Professional Arts Organizations Program as outlined in Attachment B of the staff report dated March 6, 2018.

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED.

j. Councillors Out of Town Travel Expenses

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Mason, seconded by Councillor Walker

THAT staff be directed to include a \$30,000 budget increase for Councillors Office Out-of-Town Travel Expenses into the final 18/19 Budget and Business Plan as outlined in Attachment B of the staff report dated March 6, 2018.

To be funded through the use of the General Contingency Reserve.

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED.

k. Rural Transit

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Whitman

THAT staff be directed to include a \$60,000 budget increase for Rural Transit into the final 18/19 Budget and Business Plan as outlined in Attachment B of the staff report dated March 6, 2018.

To be funded through an increase in the 1.9 average tax increase.

Dave Reage, Director of Halifax Transit, clarified that this is not a Halifax Transit service and therefore falls under the planning budget.

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED.

l. Alderney Ferry Expanded Hours

MOVED by Councillor Austin, seconded by Councillor Mancini

THAT staff be directed to include a \$550,000 budget increase for Expanding Hours for Alderney Ferry into the final 18/19 Budget and Business Plan as outlined in Attachment B of the staff report dated March 6, 2018.

To be funded through the use of the General Contingency Reserve.

Dave Reage, Director of Halifax Transit, confirmed that there will be data analysis as a part of this Pilot Project which will be presented for consideration in future transit budgets.

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED.

In response to the public feedback provided earlier in the meeting by Walter Toth, Project Manager Akoma Holdings Inc.; Councillor Hendsbee asked that Active Transportation Project # CTU00420 be deferred to allow time for staff to review and consult with Akoma Holdings to ensure the project on Highway 7 meets the needs of the community. This project is already in the approved budget for 2018/2019. It was suggested that the work can be deferred and that this item be referred to the Transportation Standing Committee and the area Councillor for review.

The Budget Committee reviewed the Budget Adjustment List summarizing how the additions were being funded; the impact of this on the tax rate, which would increase to 1.975% or \$37 on resident's tax bill, and the contingency reserve, which would leave a balance of \$156,500.

The Budget Committee recessed at 3:05 p.m. and reconvened at 3:20 p.m.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Mason, seconded by Councillor Walker

THAT the Budget Committee direct staff to proceed to prepare the 2018/2019 Multi-year Budget and Business Plan, in accordance with the directions provided to date, and with the following adjustments made in accordance with the staff report dated March 6, 2018:

1. That the following program changes to the 2018/2019 budget be funded through a 1.97% tax increase which would result in a \$37.00 (approximate) increase to the average tax bill. (On-going)

- a) RCMP Staffing of Six New Officer Positions, \$225,000
- b) Planning and Development, Rural Transit, \$60,000

2. That the following one-time program changes be funded through the General Contingency Reserve (Q421):

- a) Library, Food Literacy Program Funding, \$ 50,000
- b) Planning and Development, Lake Banook Pollution Control Study \$150,000
- c) Parks and Recreation, Youth Centre (Sackville) \$65,000
- d) Parks and Recreation, Recreation Fee Reduction/ Ice Fees \$40,000
- e) Councillors Office, Out of Town Travel Expenses, \$30,000
- f) Transit, Expanded Hours for Alderney Ferry, \$550,000

3. That the following be referred to staff for considered for the 2019/2020 budget cycle:

- a) Halifax Fire & Emergency Services, HFRE Training Materials and Courses \$294,000
- b) Halifax Fire & Emergency Services, HFRE Uniform/ Clothing for Recruits \$268,000
- c) Halifax Fire & Emergency Services, HFRE Logistics Cost Pressures, \$278,000
- d) Parks and Recreation, Recreation Trail Pilot Program (HRTA) \$250,000
- e) Parks and Recreation, Additional Funding to Grants Operating Budget process for the Grants to Professional Arts Organizations Program, entire discussion, no budget amount identified.

MOTION AS AMENDED PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Adams,

THAT staff be directed to reallocate \$3 million from the road paving budget as follows:

- \$2 million increase to the sidewalk paving budget; and
- \$1 million made available to fund BAL items as needed.

The CAO noted the timing of this request and the implications of asking for these changes in order to affect the final budget decisions which will take place April 24, 2018. Dave Hubleby, Manager Project Planning and Design, suggested more work is required to review how this could be implemented.

MOTION PUT AND DEFEATED.

The Mayor thanked staff, the Budget Committee and the Chair for all their hard work.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:34 p.m.

Kevin Arjoon
Municipal Clerk