



**HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES  
December 4, 2018**

**PRESENT:**

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

**STAFF:**

Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer  
John Traves, Municipal Solicitor  
Sherryl Murphy, Deputy Municipal Clerk  
Phoebe Rai, Legislative Assistant  
David Perusse, 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 10:00 a.m., and recessed at 12:07 p.m. Committee of the Whole reconvened at 4:52 p.m. and recessed at 5:14 p.m. Committee of the Whole reconvened at 5:46 p.m. and adjourned at 6:12 p.m.*

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Savage called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. in the Acadia Ballroom, Halifax Marriott Harbourfront Hotel, 1919 Upper Water Street, Halifax.

Councillor Cleary presented a plaque from the Spryfield Santa Claus Parade for the new Halifax Regional Municipality float to Special Events staff.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – NONE**

**3. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS – NONE**

**4. 2017-2020 Multi-year Priority Outcome Update (Continuation from November 13 and 27, 2018)**

The following was before Committee of the Whole:

- A staff recommendation report dated November 27, 2018 with attached staff presentation

Jerry Blackwood, Acting Director of Finance and Asset Management/Chief Financial Officer, introduced the Council Priority Outcome Presentations for the Transportation, Healthy Liveable Communities, and Service Delivery areas.

Dave Reage, Director of Halifax Transit provided the presentation on the Transportation Priority Area, outlining Interconnected, Sustainable and Strategic Growth, A Well-Maintained Transportation Network, A Safe and Accessible Transportation Network, and Pedestrian Safety Outcomes. Reage delivered progress updates of current and planned initiatives, performance results, and corporate strategic risk.

MOVED by Councillor Zurawski, seconded by Councillor Whitman

**THAT Committee of the Whole recommend that Halifax Regional Council proceed to prepare the 19/20 multi-year budget and business plan in support of Council's Priority Outcomes and consistent with the Outcome Plans as presented at the December 4, 2018 meeting.**

Staff responded to questions of clarification regarding several aspects of the Transportation Priority Area. Taso Koutroulakis, Manager of Traffic Management, indicated that the Accessible Pedestrian Signals Pilot is a project designed to assist people with mobility restrictions or visual impairments to access the traffic signal controller before crossing a street. The initiative is supported by the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) and is part of a national study in which several major Canadian cities are piloting the technology.

Dave Reage outlined how the Moving Forward Together Plan emphasizes a ridership model for transit services, but also considers coverage in the network design to provide the greatest benefit to most people. Transit is currently pursuing Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) as a high-order mode of transportation.

With respect to Access-A-Bus, Reage noted that transit staff are preparing a path toward achieving zero trip denials and same-day booking. Kelly Denty, Director of Planning and Development further advised that staff are consulting stakeholders regarding the need for accessible taxis and how the municipality can best address that gap.

Brad Anguish, Director of Transportation and Public Works provided the presentation on the Healthy, Liveable Communities Priority, outlining Public Safety, Energy and Environment, Recreation and Leisure, and Community Well-Being Outcomes. Anguish delivered progress updates of current and planned

initiatives, performance results, and corporate strategic risk, highlighting a new risk regarding Climate Change Impacts.

Responding to questions regarding coordination of fire inspections, Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer advised that staff is working with a regulatory review group to try to coordinate inspection services with the Province, noting that one of the priorities of the red tape reduction group is to harmonize and coordinate to get to a one inspector model if possible.

Denise Schofield, Director of Parks and Recreation indicated that staff are preparing an aquatic strategy evaluating indoor and outdoor service provision, including increased challenges on some of the municipalities watercourses. Staff aim to help residents safely access water resources without incurring significant supervision expenditures. Furthermore, staff have nearly completed the report regarding a washroom strategy.

Regarding the proposed Public Safety Advisory Board, Schofield indicated that in order to effectively implement the public safety strategy, the board must be community-wide and include all the various agencies that have roles in public safety. Staff are currently considering the scale and scope to broaden the perspective on the matter.

With respect to food security, Leticia Smillie, Senior Planner, Planning and Development informed Council that staff are completing their analysis of the municipal role in the promotion of food security, building a relationship with the Food Policy Alliance, and working with partners on a food action plan.

Committee of the Whole recessed at 12:07 p.m. to enter into a session of Regional Council. Committee of the Whole reconvened at 4:52 p.m. following Regional Council.

Jane Fraser, Chief Financial Officer, provided a presentation on Service Delivery. Fraser delivered progress updates of current and planned initiatives, performance results, and corporate strategic risks.

Committee of the Whole recessed at 5:14 p.m. and reconvened at 5:46 p.m.

Fraser and Schofield addressed questions from members. With regards to the Municipality's main line for inquires, 311, Fraser noted that there is good public knowledge and usage rates for the service. Fraser further noted that with the transition to greater web capabilities for 311 services, the calls they do receive are becoming more complex and event driven.

Speaking to standardized contracts for HRM recreational facilities, Schofield noted that the HRM currently uses Legend software for HRM owned and operated recreational facilities, which allows members to register for programs online. They additionally noted that they are working toward the implementation of standardized contracts for all HRM owned and operated recreational facilities, which is projected to take place in the 2020 fiscal year. As part of the implementation, staff are assessing the appropriate time to make fee adjustments.

With regards to credit card payments to the Municipality, Fraser noted that the Municipality cannot receive and process credit card payments directly as it is not Payment Card Industry (PCI) compliant. PCI is a set of data protection mandates developed by the major payment card companies and imposed on businesses that store, process, or transmit payment card data.

Speaking to the HRM Open Data portal, Fraser noted that sixty-eight (68) HRM datasets are currently available online. Speaking to some of the challenges faced by HRM's Open Data portal, they noted that the Municipality's data management systems are not current, and that there are ongoing concerns regarding the quality of the data. However, there are plans to identify and release more datasets in the coming year, as well as improve the quality of data.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

## **5. Proposed 2019-20 Multi-Year Capital Program Budget**

The following was before Committee of the Whole:

- A staff recommendation report dated November 19, 2018
- A revised recommendation report dated November 19, 2018 with Attachment 4 A presentation dated December 4, 2018 with revised slide 11 “Signature Capital Projects”
- A handout entitled “Data Supporting 2019/20 Capital Budget Presentation”
- Correspondence from Norm Collins, Mary-Jane O’Halloran, Michael McFadden, Michael Bradfield, Wendy & Bob McDonald, Scott Edgar, and Ben Buckwold

This item was deferred to the next meeting of Committee of the Whole.

## **6. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

Kevin Arjoon  
Municipal Clerk