



**BUDGET COMMITTEE
(STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ON BUDGET)
SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES
February 3 and 5, 2021**

PRESENT: Councillor Paul Russell, Chair
 Mayor Mike Savage
 Deputy Mayor Tim Outhit
 Councillors Cathy Deagle Gammon
 David Hendsbee
 Becky Kent
 Trish Purdy
 Sam Austin
 Tony Mancini
 Waye Mason
 Lindell Smith
 Shawn Cleary
 Kathryn Morse
 Patty Cuttell
 Iona Stoddard
 Pam Lovelace
 Lisa Blackburn

STAFF: Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer
 Jane Fraser, Executive Director of Finance & Asset Management/Chief Financial Officer
 John Traves, Executive Director of Legal and Legislative Services/Municipal Solicitor
 Caroline Blair-Smith, Executive Director of Human Resources
 Evangeline Colman-Sadd, Auditor General
 Iain MacLean, Municipal Clerk
 Phoebe Rai, Deputy Municipal Clerk
 Andrea Lovasi-Wood, Legislative Assistant
 Haruka Aoyama, 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 on February 3, 2021 at 9:38 a.m., and recessed at 11:59 a.m. Budget Committee reconvened in at 1:05 p.m. and recessed on February 3, 2021 at 3:04 p.m. Budget Committee reconvened on February 5, 2021 at 10:02 a.m. and adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:38 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – January 12 and 13, 2021

MOVED by Councillor Stoddard, seconded by Councillor Cuttell

THAT the minutes of January 12 and 13, 2021 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS – NONE

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Florence Pyne, Colby Village, Dartmouth spoke regarding their concern about the proposed the increase to the municipal commercial property tax rate as it will impact upon the cost of business for local businesses and result in increased prices that will be difficult for residents on a fixed income to bear.

5. Chief Administrative Office

The following was before Budget Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated January 25, 2021
- A staff presentation - Chief Administrative Office 2021/22 Budget and Business Plan
- Correspondence from Norm Collins

MOVED by Councillor Stoddard, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

THAT the Budget Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to incorporate the Chief Administrative Office Business Unit proposed 2021/22 Budget and Business Plan, as set out and discussed in the January 25, 2021 staff report and supporting presentation by staff, into the Draft 2021/22 Operating Budget.

Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer, provided an overview of Chief Administrative Office 2021/22 Budget and Business Plan and gave a presentation.

Paul Johnston, Managing Director, Government Relations and External Affairs gave a presentation regarding Government Relations and External Affairs (GREA) portion of the Chief Administrative Office 2021/22 Budget and Business Plan. Johnston and Amy Siciliano, Public Safety Advisor answered Budget Committee questions.

Tracey Jones Grant, Managing Director, Office of Diversity and Inclusion gave a presentation regarding the Office of Diversity & Inclusion and African Nova Scotian Affairs Integration Office (ANSAIO) portion of the Chief Administrative Office 2021/22 Budget and Business Plan and answered Budget Committee questions.

Dubé advised that the Chief Administrative Office has an budget request to finance a staff position to facilitate work regarding Anti-Black Racism in the Office for the Office of Diversity & Inclusion and African Nova Scotian Affairs Integration Office (ANSAIO).

Melody Campbell, Manager, Councillor's Support Office spoke to the increased costs of preparing Councillor newsletters.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

THAT the Budget Committee include \$56,000 in additional funding for costs for Council Newsletters in the proposed 2021/22 budget for the Chief Administrative Office to the parking lot as an operating over budget option for consideration.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee

THAT the Budget Committee include \$72,500 in additional funding for costs associated with the Anti-Black Racism project within the proposed 2021/22 budget for the Chief Administrative Office to the parking lot as an operating over budget option for consideration.

Dubé and Jones Grant answered Budget Committee questions regarding the operating over budget request for additional funding to the Anti-Black Racism project.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillor Cleary

The Budget Committee resumed discussions regarding the Chief Administrative Office 2021/22 Budget and Business Plan and Dubé answered Budget Committee questions.

MOVED by Councillor Stoddard, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

THAT the Budget Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to incorporate the Chief Administrative Office Business Unit proposed 2021/22 Budget and Business Plan, as set out and discussed in the January 25, 2021 staff report and supporting presentation by staff, into the Draft 2021/22 Operating Budget.

MAIN MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. Human Resources

The following was before Budget Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated December 29, 2020
- A staff presentation - Human Resources 2021/22 Budget and Business Plan
- Correspondence from Norm Collins

MOVED by Councillor Deagle Gammon, seconded by Councillor Stoddard

THAT the Budget Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to incorporate the Human Resources proposed 2021/22 Budget and Business Plan, as set out and discussed in the December 29, 2020 staff report and supporting presentation by staff, into the Draft 2021/22 Operating Budget.

Caroline Blair-Smith, Executive Director of Human Resources provided an overview of Human Resources 2021/22 Budget and Business Plan and gave a presentation.

Blair-Smith and Laura Nolan, Manager, Employee Relations answered Budget Committee questions.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. Legal and Legislative Services

The following was before Budget Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated December 29, 2020
- A staff presentation - Legal and Legislative Services 2021/22 Budget and Business Plan
- Correspondence from Norm Collins

MOVED by Councillor Cuttell, seconded by Councillor Lovelace

THAT the Budget Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to incorporate the Legal and Legislative Services proposed 2021/22 Budget and Business Plan, as set out and discussed in the December 29, 2020 staff report and supporting presentation by staff, into the Draft 2021/22 Operating Budget.

John Traves, Executive Director of Legal and Legislative Services/Municipal Solicitor provided an overview of Legal and Legislative Services 2021/22 Budget and Business Plan and gave a presentation.

Traves and Iain MacLean, Municipal Clerk answered Budget Committee questions.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. Office of the Auditor General

The following was before Budget Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated February 3, 2021
- A staff presentation - Office of the Auditor General 2021/22 Budget and Business Plan
- Correspondence from Norm Collins

MOVED by Councillor Lovelace, seconded by Councillor Stoddard

THAT the Budget Committee direct staff to incorporate the Office of the Auditor General proposed 2021/22 Budget and Business Plan, as set out and discussed in the February 3, 2021 staff report and supporting presentation by staff, into the Draft 2021/22 Operating Budget.

Evangeline Colman-Sadd, Auditor General provided an overview of Office of the Auditor General 2021/22 Budget and Business Plan and gave a presentation. Colman-Sadd clarified that the Chief Administrative Office does not review Office of the Auditor General's budget in order to ensure the Auditor General's independence.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Lovelace

THAT the Budget Committee include \$71,100 in additional funding for costs associated with the IT Audit Project within the proposed 2021/22 budget for the Office of the Auditor General to the parking lot as an operating over budget option for consideration.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

9. Budget Options – Staff Presentation – 10:00 a.m. February 5, 2021

The Chair reconvened the meeting on February 5, 2021 at 10:02 a.m.

The following was before Budget Committee:

- A staff presentation - A Guide to HRM's Budget and Options

Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer and Jane Fraser, Executive Director of Finance and Asset Management/Chief Financial Officer provided an overview of Budget Operations, Process and Options and answered questions from members of the Committee. A staff presentation was provided.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned on February 5, 2021 at 11:45 a.m.

Iain MacLean
Municipal Clerk