



**BUDGET COMMITTEE
(STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ON BUDGET)
SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES
March 24 & 26, 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, Municipal Solicitor
Brad Anguish, Executive Director of Transportation and Public Works
Iain MacLean, Municipal Clerk
Simon Ross-Siegel, 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 at 9:33 a.m., and recessed at 12:06 p.m. Budget Committee reconvened in at 1:02 p.m. Budget Committee recessed at 2:38 p.m. and reconvened at 2:55 p.m. Budget Committee recessed on March 24, 2021 at 4:26 p.m. Budget Committee reconvened on March 26, 2021 at 9:31 a.m. and adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. on March 24, 2021.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – March 3 and 10, 2021

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Stoddard

THAT the minutes of March 3 and 10, 2021 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS – NONE

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Curtis Larsh, a resident of Halifax, spoke before the Budget Committee regarding the need for greater pedestrian safety infrastructure. Larsh requested that Budget Committee consider the adoption of inclusive language reflecting the experience of pedestrians and “strollers” (an inclusive term intended to represent persons of all ages and abilities). Larsh stated that 383 strollers have been struck by vehicles this year and asked that Budget Committee members bear these victims in mind in making decisions regarding pedestrian safety and infrastructure.

Shalom Mandaville, a resident of Dartmouth, spoke before the Budget Committee requesting that Transportation and Public Works consider the adoption of dedicated water treatment plans for areas adjacent to municipal highways, mainly in high-density areas. Mandaville stated that street cleaning will not adequately remove microparticles including metals such as copper and zinc, posing a risk to lakes and watercourses.

5. Transportation and Public Works

The following was before Budget Committee:

- A staff memorandum dated March 24, 2021 titled “Proposed Budget Adjustment List”
- A staff memorandum dated March 26, 2021 titled “Proposed Budget Adjustment List”
- A staff recommendation report dated March 9, 2021
- A staff presentation dated March 24, 2021 entitled “Proposed 2021/22 Transportation and Public Works Budget and Business Plan”
- A staff memorandum dated March 24, 2021 titled “Proposed Budget List Briefing: Traffic Calming Budget Increase”
- A staff memorandum dated March 24, 2021 circulated from the Clerk’s Office with link to a Video titled “Tree of All Trades”
- Correspondence from Walter Reagan, Shalom Mandaville, Bill Campbell, Norm Collins, Megan Blumenthal, Melissa Boland, Dave and Susan Bonang, Doug Stewart, Elizabeth Taylor-Holmes, Erin MacDonald, George Burden, Heidi Darling, James Keast, John Kirschner, Jesse Sheridan, Kathy Temple, Matt Bethune, Stacey Black, Sharon Brisson, Steve Doucette, Sharon Steward, Stella Van der Lugt, Melinda Sheridan, Dick and Florence Irwin, Melissa Kinsman, Roxanne O’Neil, Devena Davis, Carmel Peart, Greg G. Vail, Kimberley McCarron, Linda Brown, Sylvia Hand, Mo William, James O’Hagan, Michelle Drover, Katherine and McIntyre, Sue Brettell, Curtis McNeill, and Michelle Harris

Brad Anguish, Executive Director of Transportation and Public Works, provided an overview of the Proposed 2021/22 Transportation and Public Works Budget and Business Plan.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Outhit, seconded by Councillor Lovelace

THAT the Budget Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to incorporate the Transportation and Public Works proposed 2021/22 Budget and Business Plan, as set out and discussed in the March 9, 2021 staff report and supporting presentation by staff, into the Draft 2021/22 Operating Budget.

MOVED by Councillor Austin, seconded by Councillor Mancini

THAT the Budget Committee request a briefing note detailing measures necessary to achieve 75% of the goals established in the Urban Forestry Plan over next 3 years and financial implications for the proposed 2021/22 budget for Transportation and Public Works to be considered in the parking lot as an operating over budget option.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Mayor Savage

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Mancini

THAT the Budget Committee request a briefing note detailing measures and implications for removing \$850,000 in on-going funding for a Reduction in Weekly Organics Collection (Reduce to bi-weekly service) within the proposed 2021/22 budget for Transportation and Public Works to be considered in the parking lot as an operating under budget option.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED. (11 in favour, 6 against)

In favour: Mayor Savage, Councillors: Austin, Mancini, Mason, Smith, Cleary, Morse, Cuttell, Stoddard, Lovelace, Blackburn

Against: Deputy Mayor Outhit, Councillor Deagle Gammon, Hendsbee, Kent, Purdy, Russell

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Lovelace

THAT the Budget Committee request a briefing note detailing measures and implications for reducing weekly Recycling (Blue Bag) collection to a bi-weekly service (a reduction of \$308,500) including a process for a one year pilot project and public engagement/measurement options within the proposed 2021/22 budget for the Transportation and Public Works to be considered in the parking lot as an operating under budget option.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Councillor Mancini, seconded by Councillor Lovelace

THAT the Budget Committee request a briefing note detailing the measures and implications for including \$115,000 in on-going funding for costs associated with the Mobile Household Special Waste Events (x6) within the proposed 2021/22 budget for the Transportation and Public Works to be considered in the parking lot as an operating over budget option.

Andrew Philopoulos, Manager of Solid Waste Resources, confirmed that twelve events are currently planned and included in the proposed budget.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED. (13 in favour, 2 against)

In favour: Councillors Deagle Gammon, Hendsbee, Kent, Purdy, Austin, Mancini, Mason, Smith, Cleary, Morse, Lovelace, Blackburn, Russell

Against: Mayor Savage, Deputy Mayor Outhit

Not present: Councillors Cuttell, Stoddard

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT the Budget Committee request a briefing note detailing the measures and implications for enhancing transit stop clearing from 48 to 24 hours (an increase of \$2,000,000) the proposed 2021/22 budget for Transportation and Public Works to be considered in the parking lot as an over budget option.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED. (14 in favour, 1 against)

In favour: Deputy Mayor Outhit, Councillors Deagle Gammon, Hendsbee, Kent, Purdy, Austin, Mancini, Mason, Smith, Cleary, Morse, Lovelace, Blackburn, Russell

Against: Mayor Savage

Not present: Councillors Cuttell, Stoddard

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT the Budget Committee request a briefing note detailing the measures and implications for Conducting the Land Title Search for Non-Accepted Streets (an increase of \$400,000) within the proposed 2021/22 budget for Transportation and Public Works to be considered in the parking lot as an operating over budget option.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Morse

THAT the Budget Committee request a briefing note detailing the measures and implications for Enhancing Residential Sidewalk Snow Clearing Standards from 36 to 18 hours (an increase of \$3,500,000 - \$4,500,000) within the proposed 2021/22 budget for the Transportation and Public Works to be considered in the parking lot as an operating over budget option.

MOTION PUT AND DEFEATED. (8 in favour, 9 against)

In favour: Councillors Mancini, Mason, Smith, Cleary, Morse, Cuttell, Stoddard, Lovelace

Against: Mayor Savage, Deputy Mayor Outhit, Councillors Deagle Gammon, Hendsbee, Kent, Purdy, Austin, Blackburn, Russell

MOVED by Councillor Stoddard, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

THAT the Budget Committee request a briefing note on the replacement of the missing sidewalks on St Margarets Bay Road and Brentwood Avenue including financial implications within the proposed 2021/22 budget for the Transportation and Public Works to be considered in the parking lot as an over budget option.

The motion was withdrawn with the consent of the Budget Committee.

The question was called on the main motion as follows:

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Outhit, seconded by Councillor Lovelace

THAT the Budget Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to incorporate the Transportation and Public Works proposed 2021/22 Budget and Business Plan, as set out and discussed in the March 9, 2021 staff report and supporting presentation by staff, into the Draft 2021/22 Operating Budget.

MAIN MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE)

6.1 In Camera (In Private) Minutes – February 17, 2021

This matter was dealt with in public. There was no In Camera session convened.

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Kent

THAT the In Camera (In Private) minutes of February 17, 2021 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned on March 26, 2021 at 11:42 a.m.

Iain MacLean
Municipal Clerk