



**BUDGET COMMITTEE
(STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ON BUDGET)
MEETING
MINUTES
April 7, 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
Kelly Denty, Executive Director of Planning and Development
Iain MacLean, Municipal Clerk
Simon Ross-Siegel, 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 11:57 a.m. Budget Committee reconvened in at 1:00 p.m. Budget Committee recessed at 2:57 a.m. and reconvened in at 3:15 p.m. Budget Committee adjourned at 4:14 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m.

Iain MacLean, Municipal Clerk, noted that a request for an added item 6. Resource Funding Plan was circulated to all members of Budget Committee. The Clerk confirmed that this item has received unanimous consent to be added to the agenda.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – NONE

3. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS – NONE

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Shalom Mandaville, a resident of Dartmouth, spoke before the Budget Committee and answered questions regarding water quality monitoring and watershed management as it relates to planning and development. The speaker proposed that staff conduct survey to assess residents' views regarding water quality monitoring.

Nicholas Seminatore, a resident of Middle Sackville, spoke before the Budget Committee regarding concerns related to a lack of investment and infrastructure in local schools to accommodate new growth, as well as concerns regarding street prioritization for snow removal.

Stephen Adams, Executive Director, Urban Development Institute of Nova Scotia and a resident of Middle Sackville, spoke before the Budget Committee and answered questions regarding the proposed over budget options to fund up to six new ongoing planning staff positions.

5. Planning and Development

The following was before Budget Committee:

- A staff memorandum dated April 7, 2021 titled "Proposed Budget Adjustment List"
- A staff recommendation report dated March 19, 2021
- A staff presentation dated April 7, 2021 entitled "Proposed 2021/22 Planning & Development Budget and Business Plan"
- A handout from Councillor Russell dated April 7, 2021 entitled "First Lake"
- Correspondence dated April 5, 2021 from Shalom Mandaville

Kelly Denty, Executive Director of Planning and Development, provided an overview of the Proposed 2021/22 Planning & Development Budget and Business Plan.

MOVED by Councillor Kent, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

THAT the Budget Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to incorporate the Planning and Development proposed 2021/22 Budget and Business Plan, as set out and discussed in the March 19, 2021 staff report and supporting presentation by staff, into the Draft 2021/22 Operating Budget.

Councillor Deagle Gammon assumed the Chair from Councillor Russell.

MOVED by Councillor Russell, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

THAT the Budget Committee request a briefing note detailing the measures and implications for including \$150,000 in one-time funding for costs associated with a report on E. coli microbial analysis for First Lake within the proposed 2021/22 Planning and Development budget, to be considered in the parking lot as an operating over budget option.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillor Lovelace

Councillor Russell resumed the Chair.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

THAT Budget Committee request a briefing note detailing the measures and implications for including \$250,000 in on-going funding for costs associated with increasing Heritage Conservation Districts grant funding within the proposed 2021/22 Planning and Development budget, to be considered in the parking lot as an operating over budget option.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillor Lovelace

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Cleary

THAT the Budget Committee request a briefing note detailing the measures and implications for including:

- 1. \$241,800 in on-going funding for costs associated with adding three Planner One positions within the proposed 2021/22 Planning and Development budget, to be considered in the parking lot as an operating over budget option;**
- 2. \$227,400 in on-going funding for costs associated with adding three Assistant Building Officials positions within the proposed 2021/22 Planning and Development budget, to be considered in the parking lot as an operating over budget option;**
- 3. \$227,400 in on-going funding for costs associated with adding three Compliance Officer One positions within the proposed 2021/22 Planning and Development budget, to be considered in the parking lot as an operating over budget option; and**
- 4. \$108,700 in on-going funding for costs associated with adding a Senior Program Engineer position within the proposed 2021/22 Planning and Development budget, to be considered in the parking lot as an operating over budget option.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillor Lovelace

The question was called on the main motion as follows:

THAT the Budget Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to incorporate the Planning and Development proposed 2021/22 Budget and Business Plan, as set out and discussed in the March 19, 2021 staff report and supporting presentation by staff, into the Draft 2021/22 Operating Budget.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillor Lovelace

6. Resource Funding Plan

The following was before Budget Committee:

- A staff presentation dated April 7, 2021 entitled "Resource Funding Plan"

Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer, provided an overview of the proposed Resource Funding Plan.

MOVED by Mayor Savage, seconded by Councillor Austin

THAT the Budget Committee include \$2.25 Million in on-going funding for costs associated with unbudgeted in-year staffing pressures due to addressing Council priorities, strategic plans and operations within the proposed 2021/22 Fiscal Services budget in the parking lot as an operating over budget option.

Councillor Deagle Gammon assumed the Chair from Councillor Russell.

MOVED by Councillor Russell, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT the motion be amended to replace "include" with "request a briefing note detailing the measures and implications for including".

As set out in Section 53 (2) of Administrative Order One, Respecting the Procedures of the Council, this change to the amendment was accepted as friendly.

The question was called on the amendment to the motion as follows:

THAT the motion be amended to replace "include" with "request a briefing note detailing the measures and implications, and accountability for including"

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED. (16 in favour, 1 against)

In favour: Mayor Savage, Deputy Mayor Outhit, Budget Committee Chair Russell, Councillors Deagle Gammon, Hendsbee, Kent, Purdy, Austin, Mancini, Mason, Smith, Morse, Cuttell, Stoddard, Lovelace, Blackburn

Against: Councillor Cleary

The motion now reads:

THAT the Budget Committee request a briefing note detailing the measures and implications, and accountability for including \$2.25 Million in on-going funding for costs associated with unbudgeted in-year staffing pressures due to addressing Council priorities, strategic plans and operations within the proposed 2021/22 Fiscal Services budget in the parking lot as an operating over budget option.

Councillor Russell resumed the Chair.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillor Mason

MOVED by Councillor Cuttell, seconded by Councillor Kent

THAT the Budget Committee request a briefing note detailing the measures and implications for including \$500,000 in on-going funding for costs associated with a grant program for affordable

housing developments outside the regional centre by registered non-profit groups or charities within the proposed 2021/22 Planning and Development budget, to be considered in the parking lot as an operating over budget option.

Jacques Dubé stated that based on the motion as proposed, staff would be unable to provide a comprehensive briefing note within the budget process timeline and added that an alternative approach would be for Councillors to request a staff report examining options for grant funding for affordable housing developments outside of the regional centre. John Traves, Municipal Solicitor, stated that if Councillors wish to request a staff report, Regional Council would be the most appropriate body to make such a request.

The **MOTION WAS WITHDRAWN** by the Mover with the consent of the seconder, and Budget Committee expressed no objections.

MOVED by Councillor Deagle Gammon, seconded by Deputy Mayor Tim Outhit

THAT the Budget Committee request a briefing note detailing the measures and implications for including \$40,000 in one-time funding for costs associated with funding for the Enfield Fire Department within the proposed 2021/22 Fire and Emergency Services budget, to be considered in the parking lot as an operating over budget option.

Jacques Dubé stated that where negotiations are currently in process, staff proposes that rather than allocating funding through the Budget process, Councillors consider funding options through reserves if such funding is later required.

The **MOTION WAS WITHDRAWN** by the Mover with the consent of the seconder, and Budget Committee expressed no objections.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:14 p.m.

Iain MacLean
Municipal Clerk