



**BUDGET COMMITTEE  
(STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ON BUDGET)  
MINUTES  
December 14 and 17, 2021**

PRESENT:           Councillor     Paul Russell, Chair  
                      Mayor           Mike Savage  
                      Deputy Mayor Pam Lovelace  
                      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  
                                  Lisa Blackburn  
                                  Tim Outhit

STAFF:             Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance & Asset Management/Chief  
                          Financial Officer  
                          John Traves, Municipal Solicitor  
                          Iain MacLean, Municipal Clerk  
                          Simon Ross-Siegel, Legislative Assistant  
                          Jill McGillicuddy, 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 12:17 p.m. on December 14, 2021.  
Budget Committee reconvened on December 17, 2021 at 9:34 a.m. and adjourned at 12:21 p.m.*

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – NONE**

**3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS**

Additions: None

Deletions: None

MOVED by Councillor Stoddard, seconded by Councillor Cuttell

**THAT the agenda be approved as presented.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Not present: Councillor Cleary

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

**5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – NONE**

**6. 2022/23 Multi-Year Base Capital Plan**

The following was before the Budget Committee:

- Staff recommendation report dated November 29, 2021
- 2022-2023 Draft Capital Plan
- A revised handout dated December 8, 2021 regarding \$50k added to 22/23 total
- A revised handout dated December 8, 2021 regarding “Previously approved budget” amount
- A revised handout dated December 8, 2021 regarding updated “Project Deliverables”
- A briefing note dated December 14, 2021
- Staff presentation dated December 14, 2021
- Correspondence from Marion Gillespie, Mark Cunningham, John Cascadden, and Norm Collins

MOVED by Councillor Austin, seconded by Councillor Mason

**THAT the Budget Committee:**

- 1. Approve the base capital budget for 2022/23, and approve in-principle the 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26 base capital outlooks as per Attachments 1 and 2 of the staff report dated November 29, 2021, subject to approval of external funding program applications;**
- 2. Approve the schedule of 2022/23 advanced tender requests as per Attachment 3 of the staff report dated November 29, 2021;**
- 3. Approve the schedule of 2022/23 capital reserves withdrawals as per Attachment 4 of the staff report dated November 29, 2021;**

**4. Approve the schedule of 2022/23 multi-year capital projects as per Attachment 5 of the staff report dated November 29, 2021.**

Crystal Nowlan, Director Asset Management, Finance & Asset Management, gave a presentation on the 2022/23 Multi-Year Base Capital Plan and responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

Jerry Blackwood, Chief Financial Officer, and Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer, responded to questions regarding the possibility of a 60/40 apportionment between growth and renewal funding for capital projects.

Brad Anguish, Executive Director of Transportation and Public Works, and Taso Koutroulakis, Manager of Traffic Management, responded to questions regarding provincial conditions and criteria for sighting crosswalks, and traffic calming policy.

Peter Duncan, Director of Infrastructure and Planning, responded to questions regarding Sandy Lake area wastewater capital projects and the Lucasville Greenway. Regarding further work in Hammonds Plains, staff noted they would follow up with members of the Budget Committee at a future meeting.

Denise Schofield, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer of Citizen Services, responded to questions regarding land acquisition.

Dave Reage, Executive Director of Halifax Transit, responded to questions regarding Access-A-Bus service, and potential transit service changes for Beechville Lakeside Timberlea regions.

Brad Anguish, Executive Director of Transportation and Public Works, responded to questions regarding speed tables and street improvements. In response to questions regarding recapitalization of an intersection between St Margaret's Bay Road and Timberlea Village Parkway, staff noted they would provide further information at a future meeting.

Jeff Spares, Manager of Parks Capital Projects answered questions regarding service maintenance and expansion of off leash dog parks.

Maggie MacDonald, Executive Director of Parks and Recreation, answered questions regarding the long-term aquatic strategy and planning for future recapitalization of facilities in Fort Needham Memorial Park. Staff suggested an information report or briefing note request could be made to bring this information to Budget Committee.

Kelly Denty, Executive Director of Planning and Development answered questions regarding service enhancements.

Nalini Naidoo, Manager of Strategic Planning & Design, answered questions regarding service enhancements related to off-leash dog parks and rehabilitated lands.

Ken Stuebing, Fire Chief, answered questions regarding the capital budget and covid recast budget as it relates to demolition and construction funding.

Duncan and Denty answered questions regarding the funding process for streetscaping projects of existing infrastructure such as Portland St and Gottingen street projects.

John MacPherson, Executive Director of Corporate and Customer Services answered questions regarding funding allocation for capital projects of the George Dixon building and to Spryfield Ice Rink.

MOVED by Councillor Austin, seconded by Councillor Cleary

**THAT the motion be amended to include a new section which reads as follows:**

- 5. Request a briefing note to develop options for the Budget Adjustment List to accelerate the upgrade program for HRM's basic crosswalks.**

Brad Anguish, Executive Director of Transportation and Public Works, and Taso Koutroulakis, Manager of Traffic Management, responded to questions regarding provincial conditions and criteria for sighting crosswalks, and traffic calming policy.

**MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MOVED by Councillor Morse, seconded by Councillor Cleary

**THAT the motion be amended to include a new section which reads as follows:**

- 6. Request a briefing note on the impact of, and funding sources for, an additional 7.5 million to proposed 2023/24 capital budget for new sidewalks.**

David Hubley, Manager Design & Construction, Anguish, and Blackwood responded to questions of clarification from the Budget Committee on the amendment.

Deputy Mayor Lovelace proposed that Budget Committee request a briefing note on the impact of an additional 7.5 million to proposed 2023/24 capital budget for new sidewalks on municipal roads. As provided for in section 53(2) of Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, the amendment was accepted as friendly.

The motion as amended now read:

- 6. Request a briefing note on the impact of, and funding sources for, an additional 7.5 million to proposed 2023/24 capital budget for new sidewalks on municipal roads.**

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

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

Against: Mayor Savage

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Lovelace, seconded by Councillor Stoddard

**THAT the motion be amended to include a new section which reads as follows:**

- 7. Request a briefing note on:
  - a) road network infrastructure improvements and proposed timing of implementation to resolve infrastructure deficiencies, lack of traffic control and stormwater management, and alleviating congestion on Hammonds Plains Road from Bluewater Road to Larry Uteck Boulevard; and**
  - b) Moving the 3.5 million for Bedford West oversizing to the proposed 2024/25 Capital Budget****

Patricia Hughes, Director, Planning & Customer Engagement Dube, Blackwood, and Duncan replied to questions of clarification from the Budget Committee related to HALIFAC deliverables, funding of Sherwood Connector and the connection between transit projects and capital projects.

**MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MOVED by Councillor Outhit, seconded by Councillor Mancini

**THAT the motion be amended to include a new section which reads as follows:**

- 8. Request a Briefing Note regarding moving the construction of the Halifax Fire Head Quarters and Fire Station on the HPR to the proposed 2023/24 Capital Budget. This briefing note should include funding options such as delaying another project, potential impact on upcoming tax increases, and potential use of debt to fund it.**

Roddy MacIntyre, Senior Traffic Operations Engineer, David MacIassac, Supervisor Active Transportation, Reage, Duncan, Spares, MacPherson, and Naidoo continued to answer questions of clarification from the Budget Committee.

**MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Moved by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Kent

**THAT the motion be amended to include a new section which reads as follows:**

- 9. Request a briefing note regarding the possibility of a modified demolition of the Eastern Shore Consolidated School structure in Mosher River.**

John Traves, Municipal Solicitor and MacPherson responded to questions of clarification from the Budget Committee related to risks associated with partial demolition and the difference between a staff report and briefing note.

**MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Traves advised that parts one through four of the amended motion would require ratification of Regional Council. Parts five through nine are briefing note requests that will be brought forward to the Budget Committee for consideration.

The motion as amended now read:

MOVED by Councillor Austin, seconded by Councillor Mason

**THAT the Budget Committee:**

- 1. Approve the base capital budget for 2022/23, and approve in-principle the 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26 base capital outlooks as per Attachments 1 and 2 of the staff report dated November 29, 2021, subject to approval of external funding program applications;**
- 2. Approve the schedule of 2022/23 advanced tender requests as per Attachment 3 of the staff report dated November 29, 2021;**
- 3. Approve the schedule of 2022/23 capital reserves withdrawals as per Attachment 4 of the staff report dated November 29, 2021;**
- 4. Approve the schedule of 2022/23 multi-year capital projects as per Attachment 5 of the staff report dated November 29, 2021;**

5. **Request a briefing note to develop options for the Budget Adjustment List to accelerate the upgrade program for HRM's basic crosswalks.**
  
6. **Request a briefing note on the impact of, and funding sources for, an additional 7.5 million to proposed 2023/24 capital budget for new sidewalks on Municipal roads;**
  
7. **Request a briefing note on:**
  - a) **Road network infrastructure improvements and proposed timing of implementation to resolve infrastructure deficiencies, lack of traffic control and stormwater management, and alleviating congestion on Hammonds Plains Road from Bluewater Road to Larry Uteck Boulevard; and**
  
  - b) **Moving the 3.5 million for Bedford West oversizing to the proposed 2024/25 Capital Budget;**
  
8. **Request a Briefing Note regarding moving the construction of the Halifax Fire Head Quarters and Fire Station on the HPR to the proposed 2023/24 Capital Budget. This briefing note should include funding options such as delaying another project, potential impact on upcoming tax increases, and potential use of debt to fund it; and**
  
9. **Request a briefing note regarding the possibility of a modified demolition of the Eastern Shore Consolidated School structure in Mosher River.**

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

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

Against: Councillor Purdy

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned on December 17, 2021 at 12:21 p.m.

Iain MacLean  
Municipal Clerk