



**BUDGET COMMITTEE  
(STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ON BUDGET)  
MINUTES  
January 28, 2022**

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

*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 9:30 a.m., and recessed at 10:20 a.m. Budget Committee reconvened in at 10:39 a.m. Budget Committee recessed at 12:07 p.m. and Budget Committee reconvened in at 1:00 p.m. Budget Committee recessed at 2:55 p.m. and Budget Committee reconvened in at 3:05 p.m. Budget Committee adjourned at 4:13 p.m.*

## **1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

## **2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – December 7 and 14/17, 2021**

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Lovelace, seconded by Councillor Stoddard

**THAT the minutes of December 7 and 14/17, 2021 be approved as circulated.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

Additions: None

Deletions: None

MOVED by Councillor Deagle Gammon, seconded by Councillor Cuttell

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

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

## **5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**Colin May**, a resident of Halifax, spoke before the Budget Committee and answered questions regarding the violent crime severity index. The speaker supported measures to address violent crime through reinvestment in social services within affected communities.

## **6. 2022/23 Fiscal Framework Update**

The following was before the Budget Committee:

- Staff recommendation report dated November 9, 2021
- Staff recommendation report dated January 24, 2022
- Staff presentation dated January 28, 2022 titled “Fiscal Framework Update and Options”
- Staff presentation dated January 28, 2022 titled “Multi-Year Capital Plan Strategic Initiatives”
- Extract from the November 23 and 26, 2021 Budget Committee Minutes

MOVED by Councillor Austin, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

**THAT the Budget Committee approve a 4.6 percent tax increase by rescinding the direction to set the average property tax bill for residential and commercial properties at a 2.9 percent increase by a motion of 2/3 of the members present and voting to:**

Direct the Chief Administrative Officer in developing the 2022/23 Budget, that the average tax bill for residential, resource and commercial properties be set at a 1.6 percent increase.

It is further recommended that Budget Committee amend the deferred November 23, 2021, motion 2 (b) by moving an amendment to:

1. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to:
  - a) Increase the amount of capital taken from operating for 2022/23 by \$8.0M from \$66.0M to \$74.0M;
  - b) Allocate an additional \$17M to Street Recapitalization (Project CR200006), increasing its approved budget of \$33.0M to \$50M; and
  - c) Add, for further consideration, \$2.5M to the Budget Adjustment List for Parks and Recreation including, but not limited to, Project CP200001.
2. Approve the Strategic Initiatives Capital Budget for 2022/23, and approve the schedule of 2022/23 Multi-year Strategic Initiative Capital Projects as per Attachments 1 and 2 of the staff report dated January 24, 2022;
3. Approve the schedule of 2022/23 capital reserves withdrawals as per Attachment 3 of the staff report dated January 24, 2022;
4. Approve the schedule of Strategic Initiatives in principal as per Attachment 4 of the staff report dated January 24, 2022;
5. Transfer \$5M from the Strategic Initiatives Operating Reserve (Q667) to the Strategic Initiative Capital Reserve (Q666), and,
6. In Attachment B (“HRM Debt Guidelines”) of the November 23, 2021 staff report (2022/23 Fiscal Framework), page 4, section entitled “Capital from Operating Targets” delete “Capital from Operating is targeted to grow at 6 per cent per year plus the per cent growth in dwelling units” and replace with “Capital from Operating is targeted to grow at 6 per cent per year plus the percent growth in inflation, plus the per cent growth in dwelling units”.

Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer, provided introductory remarks regarding the 2022 Municipal Budget.

John Traves, Municipal Solicitor, provided information regarding technical aspects for participating in the Budget deliberation process.

Bruce Fisher, Manager of Financial Policy & Planning, gave a presentation on the Fiscal Framework Update and Options and responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance & Asset Management/Chief Financial Officer, gave a presentation on the Multi-year Capital Plan and responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

Philip Dugandzic, Director of Corporate Facility Design & Construction, responded to questions of clarification regarding the Halifax Forum recapitalization project.

Dave Reage, Executive Director of Halifax Transit, responded to questions of clarification regarding the Mill Cove Ferry project.

Kelly Denty, Executive Director of Planning and Development, responded to questions of clarification regarding the Hammonds Plains Road recapitalization project.

Peter Duncan, Director of Infrastructure and Urban Planning, responded to questions of clarification relating to funding and project timelines for the Windsor Street Exchange and the Bedford Highway. Peter Duncan added that a briefing note regarding the Hammonds Plains Road recapitalization project would be returning to Budget Committee shortly.

Shannon Miedema, Manager of Environment and Climate Change, responded to questions of clarification relating to the development of the municipality's climate change investment strategy.

Maggie Macdonald, Executive Director of Parks and Recreation, responded to questions of clarification and indicated that details regarding future capital projects with a breakdown by district will come forward as part of the budget adjustment list.

Further to discussion, Budget Committee proposed to defeat the staff recommendation and consider advancing alternative 2(b) from the January 24, 2022 staff report.

Two-third majority vote is required.

**MOTION PUT AND DEFEATED.** (9 in favour, 7 against)

In favour: Mayor Savage, Deputy Mayor Lovelace, Budget Committee Chair Russell, Councillor Deagle Gammon, Hendsbee, Mancini, Smith, Blackburn, Outhit

Against: Councillors Kent, Purdy, Austin, Mason, Morse, Cuttell, Stoddard

Not present: Councillor Cleary

MOVED by Councillor Mancini, seconded by Councillor Austin

**THAT the Budget Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer in developing the 2022/23 Budget, that the average tax bill for residential, resource and commercial properties be set at a 1.6 percent increase.**

**It is further recommended that Budget Committee amend the deferred November 23, 2021 motion 2b by moving an amendment to:**

**Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to:**

- 1. Allocate an additional \$9M to Street Recapitalization (Project CR200006), increasing its approved budget of \$33.0M to \$41M; and**
- 2. Add, for further consideration, \$2.5M to the Budget Adjustment List for Parks and Recreation including, but not limited to, Project CP200001.**
- 3. Approve the Strategic Initiatives Capital Budget for 2022/23, and approve the schedule of 2022/23 Multi-year Strategic Initiative Capital Projects as per Attachments 1 and 2b of this report;**

4. Approve the schedule of 2022/23 capital reserves withdrawals as per Attachment 3 of this report;
5. Approve the schedule of Strategic Initiatives in principle as per Attachment 4 of this report;
6. Transfer \$5M from the Strategic Initiatives Operating Reserve (Q667) to the Strategic Initiative Capital Reserve (Q666);
7. In Attachment B (“HRM Debt Guidelines”) of the November 23, 2021 staff report (2022/23 Fiscal Framework), page 4, section entitled “Capital from Operating Targets” delete “Capital from Operating is targeted to grow at 6 per cent per year plus the per cent growth in dwelling units” and replace with “Capital from Operating is targeted to grow at 6 per cent per year plus the percent growth in inflation, plus the per cent growth in dwelling units”; and,
8. Authorize additional debt of \$56.05 million.

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

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

Against: Councillor Purdy

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Morse

**THAT the Budget Committee recommend that Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer to prepare a staff report for consideration prior to the 2023/2024 budget process, outlining what additional staff and other resources are required to advance the capital mobility projects and increase Halifax Regional Municipality’s capacity for major capital projects, especially proposed road networks and functional plans.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Not present: Councillor Outhit

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Purdy

**THAT the Budget Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to prepare a briefing note on the possible acceleration of the Main Street HWY 7 Multi-Modal Corridor Plan.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Not present: Councillor Outhit

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:13 p.m.

Iain MacLean  
Municipal Clerk