



**BUDGET COMMITTEE
(STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ON BUDGET)
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 23 and 25, 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
 Annie Sherry, 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 9:36 a.m. and recessed at 11:36 a.m. Budget Committee reconvened at 12:31 p.m., and recessed at 12:45 p.m. Budget Committee reconvened at 1:21 p.m., and moved into an In Camera (In Private) session at 2:36 p.m. Budget Committee reconvened at 3:56 p.m. and recessed at 3:56 p.m. on February 23, 2022. Budget Committee reconvened on February 25, 2022 at 9:33 a.m. and moved into an In Camera (In Private) session at 9:39 a.m. Budget Committee reconvened at 10:56 a.m., and recessed at 12:01 p.m. Budget Committee reconvened at 1:01 p.m. and adjourned at 2:46 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m. on February 23, 2022 and acknowledged that the meeting took place in the traditional and ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq people, and that we are all treaty people.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – February 2, 4, and 9 & 11, 2022

MOVED by Councillor Stoddard, seconded by Councillor Morse

THAT the minutes of February 2, 4, and 9 & 11, 2022 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 Blackburn

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Deputy Mayor Lovelace

4. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS – NONE

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Matt Stickland, Halifax spoke regarding their concerns about Halifax Regional Police's polygraph unit and noted that the use of polygraphs without a lawyer present is a violation of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and stated their opposition to the proposed Budget increase. Stickland responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

Carmel Farahbakhsh, District 7 spoke to their concerns with ongoing issues with transparency and accountability following the events of August 18, 2021, and the disproportionate impact on the Black, Indigenous, People of Colour (BIPOC) community, and youth in the area. Farahbakhsh further called upon the Budget Committee to refuse the recommended budget increase.

Lori Curtis, Halifax stated their opposition to the recommended budget increase, encouraged the Committee to address the contents of and guide actions by well-researched reports like the Subcommittee to Define Defunding Police report.

Collins Ellison, Halifax spoke to their personal experiences with homelessness, the Mobile Mental Health Unit, and interactions with the Halifax Regional Police. Ellison responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

Isabel Tees, Halifax stated that there are increases to the Halifax Regional Police budget every year but increases to services have not occurred. Tees spoke to the need for transparent tracking of financial increases in order to publicly refute claims that the budget has not increased. Tees responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

Lou Campbell, Halifax spoke to the need to imagine defunding the police as a refunding of social services, expressed their support for the recommendations from the Subcommittee to Define Defunding Police report, and asked the Budget Committee to send the proposed budget back to the Board of Police Commissioners.

Jordan Roberts, District 8 spoke against the proposed budget increases and outlined four alternatives for community-based response for addressing sexualized violence. Roberts responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

Claire Rillie, District 8 and representing Wellness Within spoke regarding their opposition to Halifax Regional Police's budget requests for additional victim services unit personnel and patrol officers. Rillie encouraged Budget Committee to deny the budget increase and reinvest the money into other areas in the community.

Kendra Benedict, District 8 spoke to sexual assault support not being a policing issue and asked for the proposed budget increase to be reinvested in established community programs that are currently doing this work. Benedict called on Budget Committee to reject this budget and revise, de-task, and defund as outlined in the Subcommittee to Define Defunding Police report.

Sarah Turner-Hawtin, District 8 stated their opposition to the proposed budget increase, that funds should instead be reallocated to address the housing crisis, and that a proposed budget increase following the Subcommittee to Define Defunding Police report is counter intuitive.

Sakura Saunders, Halifax spoke to the Halifax Regional Police having lost trust with the community, particularly following the lack of transparency following the events of August 18, 2021. Saunders stated their opposition to the proposed budget increase asked Budget Committee to consider reallocating a portion of the proposed budget increase to a 24/7 warming center.

Rachelle Sauve, representing PADS Community Advocacy Network shared a message from the PADS Community Advocacy network, highlighted the interplays of police violence and systemic classism, and asked Budget Committee to deny the budget increase.

Nina Cherry, District 7 spoke to the desire to see the reallocation of the proposed budget increase, recommended removing victim services from the Halifax Regional Police, and referenced calls to action from the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls report.

Hil Hamilton, District 7 spoke to previous commitments made by Regional Council around defunding the police and called for the Halifax Regional Police budget to be tied to clear, transparent performance measures. Hamilton asked Budget Committee to reject the proposed budget increase and responded to questions of clarification.

Skyler Curtis, Halifax spoke to their personal experiences with the Halifax Regional Police and stated that an increase of police presence in vulnerable communities will lead to an increase in police violence against those communities.

Jamie Livingston, District 8 stated their opposition to Halifax Regional Police's proposed budget increase as there was a lack of sufficient evidence provided to justify the request. Livingston stated that public safety can only be enhanced by following HRM's public safety strategy and adopting the Subcommittee to Define Defunding Police report recommendations.

Sean MacGillivray, District 3 stated their opposition to the proposed budget increase, that the Halifax Regional Police needs to demonstrate that they will adequately address managing their officers before being provided with additional funding, and shared personal experiences with the Halifax Regional Police. MacGillivray responded to question of clarification from Budget Committee.

Hailie Tattrie, Halifax stated their opposition to Halifax Regional Police's proposed budget, encouraged Budget Committee to listen to the experts on these issues as outlined in the Subcommittee to Define Defunding Police report, and read an excerpt from *The End of Policing* by Alex S. Vitale.

Lee-Anne Poole, District 11 spoke to the proposed budget increase having passed at the Board of Police Commissioners by a narrow margin, the need to see racism actively addressed within Halifax Regional Police, and called on Budget Committee to reallocate funds as police are overtasked and overworked.

Nancy Hunter, District 11 spoke to a shifting police culture throughout their lifetime as a resident in the area, the need for accountable, transparent conversations and oversight, and asked Budget Committee to reallocate the funds to build a caring, equitable community.

6. Halifax Regional Police and Royal Canadian Mounted Police

The following was before Budget Committee:

- Board of Police recommendation report dated February 16, 2022
- Staff presentation dated February 23, 2022
- Handouts dated February 23, 2022
- Correspondence from Andrew Mott, Jason J. Ivany, John McCracken, Veronica Post, Aria Brunetti, Angie MacLean, Emma Sylvester, Ellen Zagar, Joanne Bealy & Evelyn White, John McCracken, Kendra Benedict, Kelsey McLean, Laura Mullally, Nicole Slipp, Sean MacIsaac, Tamara Munroe, Vera Cavanaugh, Collins Ellison, Katie Whitlock, Rachelle Sauve, Debra Ross, Pat Shaw

John Traves, Municipal Solicitor, addressed the Budget Committee and noted that a voice recording shared during Public Participation was of a confidential nature and outlined steps taken to address the privacy breach on the meeting video. Traves further clarified the role of the Budget Committee with respect to the *Police Act*.

Iain MacLean, Municipal Clerk, noted that technical difficulties were occurring regarding Halifax.ca and outlined steps to provide access to the live meeting video to the public.

Councillor Lindell Smith, Chair, Board of Police Commissioners, Chief Dan Kinsella, Halifax Regional Police, and Superintendent Darren Campbell, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, gave a presentation on the proposed Halifax Regional Police and Royal Canadian Mounted Police budget and responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

As provided for in section 103 of Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, a motion was made to convene In Camera to discuss a security matter.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Lovelace, seconded by Councillor Mancini

THAT Budget Committee move to In Camera (In Private) to discuss a security matter.

John Traves, Municipal Solicitor, responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee and outlined rationale for moving to an In Camera (In Private) session as set out in section 19 of the *Halifax Regional Municipality Charter*.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

As provided for in section 103 of Administrative Order One, a motion was made to convene In Camera to discuss a security matter.

MOVED by Councillor Mancini, seconded by Deputy Mayor Lovelace

THAT Budget Committee move to In Camera (In Private) to discuss a security matter.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Chief Dan Kinsella, Halifax Regional Police, and Superintendent Greg Robertson, Halifax Regional Police, responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Mancini

THAT the Budget Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to prepare the Halifax Regional Police 2022/23 Budget and Business Plan, as approved by the Board of Police Commissioners (BoPC) on January 31, 2022.

Chief Dan Kinsella, Halifax Regional Police, responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee regarding the status of body worn cameras, and diversity representation within the Halifax Regional Police.

Superintendent Darren Campbell, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance & Asset Management/Chief Financial Officer, responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee and clarified that the request before Budget Committee was not included in the January 28, 2022 approved general tax rate of 4.6%.

Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer, responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee regarding the approval process for the proposed budget and the jurisdiction of the Board of Police Commissioners.

Superintendent Greg Robertson, Halifax Regional Police, responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Mancini, seconded by Councillor Purdy

THAT Budget Committee defer a decision on the Halifax Regional Police budget and business plan and refer it back to the Board of Police Commissioners for review and revision such that the proposed service enhancements be in an amount not to exceed \$1,393,850.

John Traves, Municipal Solicitor, responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance & Asset Management/Chief Financial Officer, responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee regarding the timeline for bringing this item back to Budget Committee.

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Chief Dan Kinsella, Halifax Regional Police, responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer, and Councillor Lindell Smith, Chair, Board of Police Commissioners, responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee regarding process and timeline for addressing the motion.

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

In favour: Mayor Savage, Councillors Hendsbee, Purdy, Mancini, Mason, Smith, Cleary, Morse, Outhit

Against: Deputy Mayor Lovelace, Councillors Deagle Gammon, Kent, Austin, Cuttall, Stoddard, Blackburn, Russell

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:46 p.m. on February 25, 2022.

Iain MacLean
Municipal Clerk