



**BUDGET COMMITTEE
(STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ON BUDGET)
MINUTES
February 14 and 15, 2023**

PRESENT: Councillor Paul Russell, Chair
 Mayor Mike Savage
 Deputy Mayor Sam Austin
 Councillors: Cathy Deagle Gammon
 Becky Kent
 Trish Purdy
 Tony Mancini
 Waye Mason
 Lindell Smith
 Shawn Cleary
 Kathryn Morse
 Patty Cuttell
 Iona Stoddard
 Pam Lovelace
 Tim Outhit

REGRETS: Councillors: David Hendsbee
 Lisa Blackburn (February 15)

STAFF: Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance & Asset Management/Chief
 Financial Officer
 John Traves, Executive Director of Legal & Legislative Services/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 1:00 p.m., and recessed at 2:58 p.m. Budget Committee reconvened at 3:16 p.m. and recessed at 4:25 p.m. Budget Committee reconvened at 9:36 a.m. on February 15, 2023, and adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. 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.

1.1 Budget Adjustment List

The following was before Budget Committee:

- Handout titled, "Budget Adjustment List Summary" dated February 14, 2023

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – January 27, 2023

MOVED by Councillor Lovelace, seconded by Councillor Deagle Gammon

THAT the minutes of January 27, 2023 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 Lovelace, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Not present: Deputy Mayor Austin, Councillors Hendsbee, Purdy

4. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS – NONE

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Anika Riopel, Ecology Action Centre, spoke to the importance of sustainable transit, the removal of barriers to active transportation, concerns with delays for the integrated mobility plan, and their disappointment in seeing proposals for budget reductions to the senior snow removal program and general snow removal.

Martyn Williams, Clayton Park, spoke to concerns with road safety programs and the impact of road collisions on pedestrians and bicyclists with aid of a document displayed for the Committee. Williams encouraged Budget Committee to conduct a review of road safety measures with all stakeholders in the community.

6. REPORT

6.1 Public Works

The following was before Budget Committee:

- Revised staff report dated February 8, 2023

- Correspondence from Bob Found, Shonna Smith, Lillian and Stephen Leonard, Sharon Brisson, Susan Cook, Kevin O'Leary, Martyn Williams, Norm Collins, Jill Petrella, Levi Guillena, and Jon Huffman

Brad Anguish, Executive Director, Public Works gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Outhit, seconded by Councillor Deagle Gammon

THAT the Budget Committee:

- 1. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to incorporate the Public Works proposed 2023/24 Budget and Business Plan, as set out and discussed in the accompanying plan and supporting presentation to the staff report dated February 8, 2023, into the Draft 2023/24 Operating Budget; and**
- 2. Recommend that Regional Council approve the Community Monitoring Committee operating budget of \$79,000 as currently allocated within the Public Works proposed 2023/24 Budget and Business Plan prior to February 28, 2023.**

Anguish responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee and noted that staff could return to the practice of providing semi-annual reports to the Transportation Standing Committee on vehicle-pedestrian incidents.

Andrew Philopoulos, Director, Solid Waste Resources, and Victoria Horne, Director, Parking Services 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 tracking of claims from Hurricane Fiona.

MOVED by Councillor Cuttell, seconded by Councillor Cleary

THAT the motion be amended to include alternative motions 6 from the staff report dated February 8, 2023, as a new section that reads as follows:

- 3. Include alternative 6, a revenue increase of \$538,000 to introduce Saturday paid parking and as outlined the Briefing Note BN022 within the proposed 2023/24 Public Works budget to the Budget Adjustment List as an operating under budget option for consideration.**
- 4. Include a revenue increase of \$284,255.46 to introduce evening paid parking as outlined the Briefing Note BN022 within the proposed 2023/24 Public Works budget to the Budget Adjustment List as an operating under budget option for consideration.**

Brad Anguish, Executive Director, Public Works, and Victoria Horne, Director, Parking Services responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

John Traves, Executive Director of Legal & Legislative Services/Municipal Solicitor responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee regarding the scope of the briefing note.

As provided for in section 90 of Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, the motion was separated for voting purposes.

MOVED by Councillor Cuttell, seconded by Councillor Cleary

THAT the motion be amended to include alternative motions 6 from the staff report dated February 8, 2023, as a new section that reads as follows:

- 3. Include alternative 6, a revenue increase of \$538,000 to introduce Saturday paid parking and as outlined the Briefing Note BN022 within the proposed 2023/24 Public Works budget to the Budget Adjustment List as an operating under budget option for consideration.**

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED. (15 in favour, 1 against)

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

Against: Councillor Outhit

Not present: Councillor Hendsbee

MOVED by Councillor Cuttell, seconded by Councillor Cleary

THAT the motion be amended to include alternative motions 6 from the staff report dated February 8, 2023, as a new section that reads as follows:

- 4. Include a revenue increase of \$284,255.46 to introduce evening paid parking as outlined the Briefing Note BN022 within the proposed 2023/24 Public Works budget to the Budget Adjustment List as an operating under budget option for consideration.**

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED. (11 in favour, 5 against)

In favour: Councillors Deagle Gammon, Kent, Purdy, Mason, Smith, Cleary, Morse, Cuttell, Stoddard, Lovelace, Blackburn

Against: Budget Committee Chair Russell, Mayor Savage, Deputy Mayor Austin, Councillors Mancini, Outhit

Not present: Councillor Hendsbee

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Cleary

THAT the motion be amended to include alternative motion 5 from the staff report dated February 8, 2023, as a new section that reads as follows:

- 5. Include alternative 5, a reduction of \$150,000 to reduce household special waste mobile events from 17 to 11 as outlined the Briefing Note BN021 within the proposed 2023/24 Public Works budget to the Budget Adjustment List as an operating under budget option for consideration.**

Andrew Philopoulos, Director, Solid Waste Resources and Brad Anguish, Executive Director, Public Works responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

As provided for in section 66 of Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, the motion was withdrawn with consent of Budget Committee.

Anguish and Roddy MacIntyre, Manager, Traffic Services & Road responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Lovelace

THAT the motion be amended to include alternative motion 7 from the staff report dated February 8, 2023, as a new section that reads as follows:

- 5. Include alternative 7, a revenue increase of \$25,000 for street permit fees increase as outlined the Briefing Note BN023 within the proposed 2023/24 Public Works budget to the Budget Adjustment List as an operating under budget option for consideration.**

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillor Hendsbee, Kent, Mancini, Cleary, Cuttell, Blackburn, Outhit

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Austin, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT the motion be amended to include alternative motion 7 from the staff report dated February 8, 2023, as a new section that reads as follows:

- 6. Include alternative 10, an increase of \$350,000 for a performance-based towing program as outlined in Briefing Note BN026 within the proposed 2023/24 Public Works budget to the Budget Adjustment List as an operating over budget option for consideration.**

Victoria Horne, Director, Parking Services responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

Councillor Russell stepped down from the Chair and Councillor Deagle Gammon assumed the Chair.

Councillor Russell resumed the Chair.

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED. (12 in favour, 2 against)

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

Against: Mayor Savage, Councillor Cleary

Not present: Councillors Hendsbee, Kent, Blackburn

MOVED by Councillor Lovelace, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT the motion be amended to include alternative motion 4 from the staff report dated February 8, 2023, as a new section that reads as follows:

- 7. Include alternative 4, a revenue increase of \$110,000 to increase the commercial organics processing tip fee from \$90 to \$100 per tonne as outlined the Briefing Note BN020 within the proposed 2023/24 Public Works budget to the Budget Adjustment List as an operating under budget option for consideration.**

Brad Anguish, Executive Director, Public Works and Andrew Philopoulos, Director, Solid Waste Resources responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Mayor Savage, Councillors Hendsbee, Smith, Blackburn

Brad Anguish, Executive Director, Public Works responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Deagle Gammon, seconded by Councillor Kent

THAT the motion be amended to include alternative motion 12 from the staff report dated February 8, 2023, as a new section that reads as follows:

- 8. Include alternative 12, an increase of approximately \$500,000 for the paving of municipally owned gravel roads as outlined in Briefing Note BN028 within the proposed 2023/24 Public Works budget to the Budget Adjustment List as a capital over budget option for consideration.**

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND DEFEATED. (6 in favour, 8 against)

In favour: Councillors Deagle Gammon, Kent, Mason, Morse, Stoddard, Outhit

Against: Budget Committee Chair Russell, Mayor Savage, Deputy Mayor Austin, Councillors Purdy, Mancini, Cleary, Cuttell, Lovelace

Not present: Councillor Hendsbee, Smith, Blackburn

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Mayor Savage

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

- 8. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to provide a briefing note on the removal of contracted snow clearing on P3 sidewalks on residential streets for consideration on the 2023/24 Budget Adjustment List.**

Brad Anguish, Executive Director, Public Works responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee, noted that staff undertakes a review of standards for sidewalks every five years, and that this would be coming to Regional Council next year.

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND DEFEATED. (4 in favour, 10 against)

In favour: Mayor Savage, Councillors Cleary, Stoddard, Lovelace

Against: Budget Committee Chair Russell, Deputy Mayor Austin, Councillors Deagle Gammon, Kent, Purdy, Mancini, Mason, Morse, Cuttell, Outhit

Not present: Councillors Hendsbee, Smith, Blackburn

MOVED Councillor Cleary, seconded by Deputy Mayor Austin

THAT the motion be amended to include alternative motion 3 from the staff report dated February 8, 2023, as a new section that reads as follows:

- 8. Recommend that Regional Council approve alternative 3, a reduction of \$900,000 for the elimination of summer weekly green cart organics collection as outlined in Briefing Note BN019 within the proposed 2023/24 Public Works budget.**

Brad Anguish, Executive Director, Public Works and Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance & Asset Management/Chief Financial Officer responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

John Traves, Executive Director of Legal & Legislative Services/Municipal Solicitor responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee regarding the process for considering reductions on the Budget Adjustment List.

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND DEFEATED. (5 in favour, 10 against)

In favour: Mayor Savage, Deputy Mayor Austin, Mancini, Cleary, Outhit

Against: Budget Committee Chair Russell, Councillors Deagle Gammon, Kent, Purdy, Mason, Smith, Morse, Cuttell, Stoddard, Lovelace

Not present: Councillors Hendsbee, Blackburn

MOVED Mayor Savage, seconded by Councillor Cleary

THAT the motion be amended to include alternative motion 1 from the staff report dated February 8, 2023, as a new section that reads as follows:

- 8. Include alternative 1, a revenue increase of \$656,000 to increase pay station hourly rates by 25% as outlined in Briefing Note BN017 within the proposed 2023/24 Public Works budget to the Budget Adjustment List as an operating under budget option for consideration.**

Victoria Horne, Director, Parking Services responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillors Hendsbee, Blackburn

MOVED by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT the motion be amended to include alternative motion 8 from the staff report dated February 8, 2023, as a new section that reads as follows:

- 9. Include alternative 8, a reduction of \$600,000 for the Senior Snow Program as outlined the Briefing Note BN024 within the proposed 2023/24 Public Works budget to the Budget Adjustment List as an operating under budget option for consideration.**

Brad Anguish, Executive Director, Public Works responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

As provided for in section 66 of Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, the motion was withdrawn with consent of Budget Committee.

Andrew Philopoulos, Director, Solid Waste Resources responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

The question was called on the main motion:

THAT the Budget Committee:

- 1. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to incorporate the Public Works proposed 2023/24 Budget and Business Plan, as set out and discussed in the accompanying plan and supporting presentation to the staff report dated February 8, 2023, into the Draft 2023/24**

Operating Budget; and

- 2. Recommend that Regional Council approve the Community Monitoring Committee operating budget of \$79,000 as currently allocated within the Public Works proposed 2023/24 Budget and Business Plan prior to February 28, 2023.**
- 3. Include alternative 6, a revenue increase of \$538,000 to introduce Saturday paid parking and as outlined the Briefing Note BN022 within the proposed 2023/24 Public Works budget to the Budget Adjustment List as an operating under budget option for consideration.**
- 4. Include a revenue increase of \$284,255.46 to introduce evening paid parking as outlined the Briefing Note BN022 within the proposed 2023/24 Public Works budget to the Budget Adjustment List as an operating under budget option for consideration.**
- 5. Include alternative 7, a revenue increase of \$25,000 for street permit fees increase as outlined the Briefing Note BN023 within the proposed 2023/24 Public Works budget to the Budget Adjustment List as an operating under budget option for consideration.**
- 6. Include alternative 10, an increase of \$350,000 for a performance-based towing program as outlined in Briefing Note BN026 within the proposed 2023/24 Public Works budget to the Budget Adjustment List as an operating over budget option for consideration.**
- 7. Include alternative 4, a revenue increase of \$110,000 to increase the commercial organics processing tip fee from \$90 to \$100 per tonne as outlined the Briefing Note BN020 within the proposed 2023/24 Public Works budget to the Budget Adjustment List as an operating under budget option for consideration.**
- 8. Include alternative 1, a revenue increase of \$656,000 to increase pay station hourly rates by 25% as outlined in Briefing Note BN017 within the proposed 2023/24 Public Works budget to the Budget Adjustment List as an operating under budget option for consideration.**

MOTION AS AMENDED PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillors Hendsbee, Blackburn

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m. on February 15, 2023.

Iain MacLean
Municipal Clerk