



**BUDGET COMMITTEE
(STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ON BUDGET)
MINUTES
January 23, 2019**

PRESENT: Councillor Bill Karsten, Chair
Mayor Mike Savage
Deputy Mayor Tony Mancini
Councillors: David Hendsbee
Lorelei Nicoll
Sam Austin
Waye Mason
Lindell Smith
Shawn Cleary
Russell Walker
Stephen Adams
Richard Zurawski
Matt Whitman
Lisa Blackburn
Steve Craig
Tim Outhit

REGRETS: Councillors: Steve Streach

STAFF: Jane Fraser, CFO, Director of Finance, Asset Management & ICT
John Traves, Municipal Solicitor
Kevin Arjoon, Municipal Clerk
David Perusse, 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 9:34 a.m., and the Budget Committee adjourned at 12:22 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Councillor Karsten, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m. in Council Chamber, 3rd Floor City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Mancini, seconded by Councillor Whitman

THAT the Budget Committee grant Councillor Streach a leave of absence in respect to meetings of the Budget Committee, pursuant to section 22 (1) of the Halifax Regional Municipal Charter, effective until January 27, 2019.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – NONE

3. Halifax Regional Police

The following was before Committee of the Whole:

- A staff recommendation report dated January 23, 2019 with attached presentation entitled “Halifax Regional Municipality Police Services 2019/20 and 2020/21 Multi-Year Budget Business Plan”
- A revised background section and slide deck for the January 23, 2019 report titled “Proposed 2019/2020 Multi-year Halifax Regional Police Budget and Business plan”

Commissioner Steve Craig, Chair, Board of Police Commissioners, provided introductory remarks on behalf of the Board of Police Commissioners, and provided the Committee with a presentation and overview on the status of policing services in the HRM, including progressive updates on the Halifax Regional Police (HRP), and the Halifax District RCMP.

Councillor Austin joined the meeting at 10:01 a.m.

Councillor Karsten thanked Commissioner Craig, Chief Blais, and Inspector Doyle for the presentation.

Councillor Karsten invited members of the public forward to address the Budget Committee on the proposed 2019/20 Multi-Year budget and business plan for the HRP, and the Halifax District RCMP.

Colin May, Dartmouth, expressed concerns that the HRP’s business and strategic plan does not include sufficient succession planning for HRP leadership. They suggested that HRP should maintain three (3) sworn officers who are prepared and capable of stepping in to fill the role and responsibilities of Chief should it be necessary. Speaking to the budget approval procedures for the HRP, May noted that the role of Regional Council is to approve a global amount, rather than tailor a specific budget, which is the responsibility of the Board of Police Commissioners.

Councillor Karsten called three (3) times for any further members of the public wishing to address the Budget Committee. There being none, public participation was closed.

MOVED by Mayor Savage, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

THAT the Budget Committee direct staff to proceed to prepare the 2019/20 multi-year Halifax Regional Police Budget and Business Plan, as proposed in the accompanying presentation, consistent with the preliminary fiscal direction but with additional funds required as specified.

Responding to questions from members of the Committee, Commissioner Craig, Chief Blais, and Inspector Doyle noted that both police services are comfortable with their current compliment of sworn

officers. They noted that the pace of growth in terms of personnel for the police forces has slightly outpaced the population growth in HRM largely due to increased accountabilities placed on police services; citing the growth in cyber-crime in particular. It was noted that a comprehensive review of Policing Services in HRM is underway to assess the appropriate level of police staffing, as well as other aspects of police services in the Municipality.

Commissioner Craig clarified that the role of Regional Council in the budget approval process for the HRP is to approve a global amount, rather than craft a specific detailed budget, which is the role of the Board of Police Commissioners.

Councillor Austin requested that staff provide Budget Committee with historical statistics showing the change over time in the portion of the overall Municipal budget that is taken up specifically by police services.

Councillor Cleary requested that staff provide a briefing note outlining the extra working days in the 2019/2020 budget cycle, as well as the impacts that they have on the budget.

Responding to questions, John Traves, Municipal Solicitor, noted that if the Budget Committee wished to be presented with alternative budget scenarios, then they could defer a decision on the matter before them and request a supplementary report which provides alternatives.

Mayor Savage requested that if a supplementary staff report comes back to the Budget Committee, that it clearly set out the breakdown of the \$4,389,300 increase in compensation and benefits in the proposed 2019/2020 budget over the 2018/2019 budget.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Mancini, seconded by Councillor Whitman

THAT the Budget Committee:

- 1. Defer consideration of the 2019/2020 Halifax Regional Police budget to a future meeting of the Budget Committee; and**
- 2. Request that the Board of Police Commissioners prepare a supplementary report containing an approved alternative 2019/2020 Halifax Regional Police Budget and Business Plan based on a budget scenario reflecting a 1.9% increase.**

Councillor Walker suggested that Budget Committee consider a friendly amendment asking that the supplementary report provide clarification on the impact that eliminating fees for criminal records checks for volunteers would have on the proposed HRP budget.

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee

THAT the motion be amended so that part 2 of the motion reads as follows:

- 2. Request that the Board of Police Commissioners prepare a supplementary report containing an approved alternative 2019/2020 Halifax Regional Police Budget and Business Plan based on a budget scenario reflecting a 1.9% increase, with the supplementary report to include clarification on the impact that the elimination of fees for criminal records checks for volunteers would have on the proposed 2019/20 Halifax Regional Police budget.**

The motion was considered as friendly by the Budget Committee.

The motion before Budget Committee was as follows:

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Mancini, seconded by Councillor Whitman

THAT the Budget Committee:

1. Defer consideration of the 2019/2020 Halifax Regional Police budget to a future meeting of the Budget Committee; and
2. Request that the Board of Police Commissioners prepare a supplementary report containing an approved alternative 2019/2020 Halifax Regional Police Budget and Business Plan based on a budget scenario reflecting a 1.9% increase, with the supplementary report to include clarification on the impact that the elimination of fees for criminal records checks for volunteers would have on the proposed 2019/20 Halifax Regional Police budget.

MOTION TO DEFER PUT AND PASSED AS AMENDED.

4. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:22 p.m.

Kevin Arjoon
Municipal Clerk