



**BUDGET COMMITTEE  
(STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ON BUDGET)  
MINUTES  
March 7, 2018**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Steve Craig, Chair  
Mayor Mike Savage  
Councillors: Steve Streach  
David Hendsbee  
Lorelei Nicoll  
Sam Austin  
Tony Mancini  
Lindell Smith  
Shawn Cleary  
Stephen Adams  
Richard Zurawski  
Matt Whitman  
Lisa Blackburn  
Tim Outhit

**REGRETS:** Deputy Mayor Wayne Mason  
Councillors: Bill Karsten  
Russell Walker

**STAFF:** Jerry Blackwood, Acting Director of Finance & Asset Management/CFO  
John Traves, Municipal Solicitor  
Sherryl Murphy, Deputy Clerk  
Krista Vining, 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 adjourned at 11:46 a.m.*

## 1. CALL TO ORDER

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

The following was before the Committee:

- A handout entitled Budget Adjustment List Summary

## 2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – January 24, 2018

MOVED by Councillor Whitman, seconded by Councillor Smith

**THAT the minutes of January 24, 2018 be approved as presented.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

## 3. Fiscal and Consolidation Accounts

The following was before the Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated February 20, 2018 with attached Fiscal and Consolidation Accounts 2018/19 Multi-year Budget presentation

Bruce Fisher, Manager, Financial Policy and Planning, provided introductory remarks and presented the draft 2018/19 Multi-year Fiscal and Consolidation Accounts Budget.

Councillor Craig called for members of the public to address the Committee on the budget.

**Tim Rissesco, Executive Director, Downtown Dartmouth Business Commission** asked that the extended Alderney ferry service route be included in the 2018-19 budget and future budgeting. Rissesco explained that Council's decision to expand the ferry service in 2015, in response to the Big Lift project, has provided a convenient and reliable ferry service, and played a role in the revitalization and economic growth of Downtown Dartmouth. They spoke to revenue generated from the increase in ridership to offset the costs to expand the service. Rissesco also pointed out that the extended service achieves some of Council's objectives in the Regional Plan and Integrated Mobility Plan, as it encourages more people to use transit. They suggested that this service may also help Council achieve its population targets in the proposed Centre Plan. Additional points the speaker made in support of maintaining the Alderney ferry service route were that: it connects the communities of Dartmouth and Halifax, decreases congestion on the harbor bridges, decreases parking issues, makes travel more convenient and reliable and is a healthier and more sustainable way to commute daily. In response to a question raised, Tim Rissesco commented on the Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) working with HRM Finance to create models for commercial taxation that will benefit the overall Municipality.

**Paul McKinnion, Executive Director, Downtown Halifax Business Commission** spoke in support of maintaining the enhanced Alderley ferry service route and the urban revitalization it has brought to both sides of the Halifax Harbor. They saw the ferry service as a 'sidewalk', connecting Lower Water Street, Halifax to Alderney Drive, Dartmouth. McKinnion added that the extended service was affordable, feasible and effective. In response to the work being done on commercial taxation, McKinnion commented the BIDs want to have a holistic solution that complements the Municipality's Economic Strategy and Regional Plan.

**Juanita Spencer, Executive Director, Spring Garden Area Business Association** agreed with and echoed points made by the previous speakers respecting the work being done with the BIDs on commercial taxation.

Councillor Craig called three times for any further members of the public wanting to speak to the budget; there were none.

MOVED by Councillor Austin, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

**THAT the Budget Committee direct staff to proceed to prepare the 2018-19 Fiscal and Consolidated Accounts, as proposed in the accompanying presentation entitled Fiscal & Consolidated Accounts 18/19 Multi-Year Budget & Business Plan, March 7, 2018 and consistent with the preliminary fiscal direction.**

Staff responded to various questions of clarification.

During the discussion staff was asked to provide additional information on the following:

- The history on the Corrections transfer to the Province
- Identify the Provincial portion of the Tax Rate and how it will impact the overall Municipal Tax Rate

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

**THAT the Budget Committee direct that \$60,000 for rural transit be added to the Parking Lot for future consideration in the 2018/2019 Budget.**

**MOTION TO ADD TO THE PARKING LOT PUT AND PASSED.**

The discussion continued on the main motion, with staff responding to further questions of clarification.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

#### **4. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:46 a.m.

Kevin Arjoon  
Municipal Clerk