



**BUDGET COMMITTEE
(STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ON BUDGET)
SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES
February 17 and 19, 2021**

PRESENT: Councillor Paul Russell, Chair
Mayor Mike Savage
Deputy Mayor Tim Outhit
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
Pam Lovelace
Lisa Blackburn (February 19, 2021)

REGRETS: Councillor Lisa Blackburn (February 17, 2021)

STAFF: Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer
Jane Fraser, Executive Director of Finance & Asset Management/Chief Financial Officer
John Traves, Municipal Solicitor and Executive Director of Legal & Legislative Services
Chief Superintendent Janis Gray, Halifax District Royal Canadian Mounted Police
Chief Dan Kinsella, Halifax Regional Police
Craig Horton, Financial Controller, Halifax Regional Police
Åsa Kachan, Chief Librarian and Chief Executive Officer, Halifax Public Libraries
Iain MacLean, Municipal Clerk
Andrea Lovasi-Wood, Legislative Assistant
Haruka Aoyama, 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 on February 17, 2021 at 9:38 a.m., and recessed at 11:58 a.m. Budget Committee moved into an In Camera (In Private) session at 1:00 p.m. and reconvened to public session at 1:48 p.m. Budget Committee recessed on February 17, 2021 at 3:48 p.m., reconvened on February 19, 2021 at 9:31 a.m. and adjourned at 11:22 a.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:38 a.m. on February 17, 2021

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – NONE

3. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS – NONE

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Harry Critchley, Halifax, Co-Chair of the East Coast Prison Justice Society spoke before the Budget Committee regarding the proposed Halifax Regional Police 2021/22 Budget. Critchley expressed a desire that Halifax Regional Police (HRP) be held accountable for completion of Wortley Report recommendations when the Budget Committee considers HRP's budget requests. Critchley also spoke regarding their concerns about the use of polygraph testing by HRP and the funding of victim services.

Tari Ajadi, Halifax, Board member of East Coast Prison Justice Society and the Nova Scotia Policing Policy Working Group spoke before the Budget Committee regarding their concerns about the proposed body worn camera pilot project. Ajadi expressed concerns about increasing HRP's budget when the Board of Police Commissioners and Regional Council are researching the definition of defunding the police. Ajadi also expressed concerns regarding the results of the Auditor General's IT security audit and requested that the Budget Committee reject HRP's budget request.

5. Halifax Regional Police

The following was before Budget Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated February 10, 2021
- A staff presentation entitled Halifax Regional Police and Royal Canadian Mounted Police 2021/22 Budget and Business Plan
- Correspondence from Martha Paynter, Chair Wellness Within, Harry Critchley, Co-Chair East Coast Prison Justice Society and Tara Ajadi, East Coast Prison Justice Society
- A handout dated February 17, 2021 including the following:
 - Halifax Regional Police report to the Board of Police Commissioners dated December 14, 2020
 - Halifax Regional Police presentation to the Board of Police Commissioners entitled Body Worn Video at Halifax Regional Police: Proposal for phased implementation and estimate of costing dated December 14, 2021
 - Halifax Regional Police supplementary report to the Board of Police Commissioners dated January 18, 2021

MOVED by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Cuttall

THAT the Budget Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to prepare the Halifax Regional Police 2021/22 Budget and Business Plan, as approved by the Board of Police Commissioners on January 28, 2021.

Councillor Lindell Smith provided an introduction summarizing the Board of Police Commissioner's advisory and oversight role over the Halifax Regional Police budget requests.

Dan Kinsella, Chief of Halifax Regional Police and Craig Horton, Financial Controller, Halifax Regional Police, provided an overview of Halifax Regional Police 2021/22 Budget and Business Plan and gave a presentation. Kinsella and Horton answered Budget Committee questions.

MOVED by Councillor Mancini, seconded by Deputy Mayor Outhit

THAT the Budget Committee include \$85,000 in additional funding for costs associated with the Body Worn Video Project Coordinator (12 month term) within the proposed 2021/22 budget for the Halifax Regional Police in the parking lot as an operating OVER budget option for consideration.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Mayor Savage, Councillors Mason and Blackburn

MOVED by Councillor Austin, seconded by Councillor Cleary

THAT Halifax Regional Council convene to an In Camera (In Private) session to discuss private and confidential information related to item 5.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Outhit, seconded by Councillor Mancini

THAT the Budget Committee include \$60,000 in additional funding for costs associated with the Journey to Change Training within the proposed 2021/22 budget for the Halifax Regional Police in the parking lot as an operating over budget option for consideration.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillors Hendsbee and Blackburn

MOVED by Councillor Austin, seconded by Councillor Cleary

THAT the Budget Committee include \$85,800 in additional funding for costs associated with the Court Disposition Clerk within the proposed 2021/22 budget for the Halifax Regional Police in the parking lot as an operating over budget option for consideration.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Mayor Savage and Councillor Blackburn

The question was called on the main motion as follows:

MOVED by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Cuttell

THAT the Budget Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to prepare the Halifax Regional Police 2021/22 Budget and Business Plan, as approved by the Board of Police Commissioners on January 28, 2021.

MAIN MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not Present: Councillor Blackburn

C/Supt. Janis Gray, Halifax District Royal Canadian Mounted Police, provided an overview of Halifax District Royal Canadian Mounted Police 2021/22 Operating Budget and Business Plan and gave a presentation.

MOVED by Councillor Mancini, seconded by Councillor Cuttell

THAT the Budget Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to include the Royal Canadian Mounted Police 2021/22 Budget for the Halifax District RCMP, as recommended by the Board of Police Commissioners on January 28, 2021, in the 2021/22 HRM budget.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED. (14 in favour, 1 against)

In favour: Mayor Savage, Deputy Mayor Outhit, Councillors Deagle Gammon, Hendsbee, Kent, Purdy, Austin, Mancini, Mason, Smith, Morse, Cuttell, Stoddard, Russell

Against: Councillor Cleary

Not present: Councillors Lovelace and Blackburn

John Traves advised the Budget Committee that a member can move an over or under budget item be added to the parking lot after the main motion requesting approval of the main budgetary request.

MOVED by Councillor Deagle-Gammon, seconded by Councillor Kent

THAT the Budget Committee include \$151,381 in ongoing additional funding for one new Royal Canadian Mounted Police Officer in the proposed 2021/22 budget for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to the parking lot as an operating over budget option for consideration.

MOTION PUT AND DEFEATED. (7 in favour, 8 against)

In favour: Deputy Mayor Outhit, Councillors Deagle Gammon, Hendsbee, Kent, Purdy, Cuttell, Russell

Against: Mayor Savage, Councillor Austin, Mancini, Mason, Smith, Cleary, Morse, Stoddard,

Not present: Councillors Lovelace and Blackburn

6. Halifax Public Libraries

The Chair reconvened the meeting on February 19, 2021 at 9:31 a.m.

The following was before Budget Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated January 29, 2020
- A staff presentation dated February 18, 2021 entitled "Halifax Public Libraries 2021/22 Budget and Business Plan"

MOVED by Councillor Mancini, seconded by Deputy Mayor Outhit

THAT the Budget Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to incorporate the Halifax Public Libraries proposed 2021/22 Halifax Public Libraries Budget and Business Plan, as set out and discussed in the January 29, 2021 staff report and supporting presentation by staff, into the Draft 2021/22 Operating Budget.

Åsa Kachan, Chief Librarian and Chief Executive Officer, Halifax Public Libraries, provided an overview of 2021/22 Budget and Business Plan and gave a presentation.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Outhit, seconded by Councillor Mancini

THAT the Budget Committee include \$50,000 in additional funding for costs associated with Food Programming within the proposed 2021/22 budget for the Halifax Public Libraries in the parking lot as an operating over budget option for consideration.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Mayor Savage

MOVED by Councillor Mancini, seconded by Councillor Austin

THAT the Budget Committee include \$100,000 in additional funding for costs associated with Electronic Resources within the proposed 2021/22 budget for the Halifax Public Libraries in the parking lot as an operating over budget option for consideration.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Mayor Savage

The question was called on the main motion:

MOVED by Councillor Mancini, seconded by Deputy Mayor Outhit

THAT the Budget Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to incorporate the Halifax Public Libraries proposed 2021/22 Halifax Public Libraries Budget and Business Plan, as set out and discussed in the January 29, 2021 staff report and supporting presentation by staff, into the Draft 2021/22 Operating Budget.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Mayor Savage

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned on February 19, 2021 at 11:22 a.m.

Iain MacLean
Municipal Clerk