EAST HANTS

MINUTES

Budget Meeting

January 30, 2025

A Budget meeting of the Corporate & Residential Services Committee was held on the above date in the Council Chambers.

Councillor Garden-Cole, as Chairperson of the Corporate & Residential Services Committee, called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. with all members of Council present, with the exception of Councillor Hebb who sent regrets and Councillors Moussa and Perry arrived at 6:55 p.m.

Staff Present:

- Ms. Kim Ramsay, Chief Administrative Officer
- Ms. Wade Tattrie, Director of Finance
- Ms. Janice Taylor, Manager of Finance
- Mr. Jordan Baltzer, Accountant and Budget Analyst
- Mr. Adam Clarkson, Director of Corporate Services
- Mr. John Woodford, Director of Planning & Development
- Ms. Alana Taper, Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture
- Ms. Erin Taylor, Communications Coordinator
- Mr. Tom Gignac, Manager of Information Services
- Ms. Sheralee MacEwan, Assistant Municipal Clerk
- Ms. Alana Richards, Business & Legislative Administrator

Guests:

- Paul Beazley, Municipal Account Manager (PVSC)
- Jeff Caddell, Director of Valuation Standards (PVSC)
- Dion Regular, Assistant Director Operations (PVSC)
- Rebecca Vorstermans, VP Stakeholders Relations (PVSC)

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Councillor Garden-Cole respectfully acknowledged that East Hants is in Mi'kma'ki and the District of Sipekne'katik, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people. East Hants further acknowledges the 50 African Nova Scotian communities whose 400-year history have contributed to the provinces culture, history and legacies. We are all Treaty People.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

CRS25(9) January

On the motion of Councillors Mitchell and Dixon:

Moved that the agenda be approved.

MOTION CARRIED

PRESENTATION - PVSC

Mr. Paul Beazley, PVSC Municipal Account Manager presented the "2025 Assessment Roll Presentation" dated January 30, 2024. A copy of the presentation was attached to the agenda and available to Committee members. Councillors had their questions answered by the presenters.

Councillor Garden-Cole thanked the presenters.

OVERVIEW OF BUDGET TOPICS, DATES AND PROCESS

The Director of Finance and Manager of Finance made a presentation titled "2025/2026 Budgets And Business Plan" dated January 30, 2025. A copy of the presentation was attached to the agenda and available to Committee members.

The Director of Finance presented a possible schedule for upcoming budget meetings from January 30th – February 18th.

Councillors had questions addressed by Staff throughout the presentation. The presentation was not completed by the time of adjournment, and the Director of Finance stopped at slide 32 and will resume at the February 6th, 2025 Budget meeting.

CRS25(10) January

On the motion of Councillors Dixon and Mitchell:

Moved that the Corporate & Residential Services Committee adjourn at 9:07 p.m. and reconvene at the next Budget Meeting on February 6, 2025.

MOTION CARRIED

Approved by: Wade Tattrie, Director of Finance
Date: February 6, 2025

Approved by: Adam Clarkson, Director of Corporate Services
Date: February 6, 2025

/AR

EAST HANTS

MINUTES

Budget Meeting

February 11, 2025

A Budget meeting of the Corporate & Residential Services Committee was held on the above date in the Council Chambers.

Councillor Garden-Cole, as Chairperson of the Corporate & Residential Services Committee, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with all members of Council present, with the exception of Councillor Perry who arrived at 7:09 p.m. and Councillor Tingley attended remotely via Zoom.

Staff Present:

- Ms. Kim Ramsay, Chief Administrative Officer
- Ms. Wade Tattrie, Director of Finance
- Ms. Janice Taylor, Manager of Finance
- Mr. Jordan Baltzer, Accountant and Budget Analyst
- Mr. Adam Clarkson, Director of Corporate Services
- Mr. John Woodford, Director of Planning & Development
- Ms. Alana Tapper, Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture
- Ms. Jo Swinemer, Community Development Coordinator
- Mr. Scott Preston, Manager of Recreation and Facilities
- Ms. Juliann Cashen, Communications Coordinator
- Mr. Tom Gignac, Manager of Information Services
- Ms. Sheralee MacEwan, Assistant Municipal Clerk
- Ms. Alana Richards, Business & Legislative Administrator

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Councillor Garden-Cole respectfully acknowledged that East Hants is in Mi'kma'ki and the District of Sipekne'katik, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people. East Hants further acknowledges the 50 African Nova Scotian communities whose 400-year history have contributed to the provinces culture, history and legacies. We are all Treaty People.

APPROVAL OF OR AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

CRS25(19) February

On the motion of Councillors Hebb and Mitchell:

Moved that the agenda be approved.

MOTION CARRIED

Warden Roulston asked if Council could come to agreement to do the Budget meeting virtually on Thursday night due to the weather forecast.

Council agreed and it was determined that the meeting will be held virtually for the February 13th Budget Meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

CRS25(20) February

On the motion of Councillors Dixon and Mitchell:

Moved that the minutes of the Budget Meeting held February 6, 2025 be approved.

MOTION CARRIED

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP FUND AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT GRANTS

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP FUND 2025/2026

The Community Development Coordinator presented a report titled "*Community Partnership Fund 2025/2026*", dated January 2025. Councillors had questions addressed by Staff throughout the presentation.

CRS25(21) February

On the motion of Councillors Merriam and Hebb:

Move that the Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommend to Council that Council approve the list of recommended Community Partnership Fund Organizations to be included in the draft 2025/2026 budget and grants to be disbursed following final budget approval:

- ***Corridor Community Options for Adults, $15,000***
- ***East Hants Community Rider, $50,000***
- ***East Hants Family Resource Centre, $20,000***
- ***East Hants Historical Society, $20,000***
- ***East Hants Sports Heritage Society, $5,000***
- ***East Hants Youth Links, $8,000***
- ***Kids Action (Annapolis Valley-Hants Community Action Program), $10,000***

MOTION CARRIED

GENERAL GOVERNMENT GRANTS 2025/2026

The Community Development Coordinator presented a report titled "*General Government Grants 2025/2026*", dated January 2025. Councillors had questions addressed by Staff throughout the presentation.

CRS25(22) February

On the motion of Warden Roulston and Councillor Moussa:

Moved that the Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommends to Council that pending appropriate documentation is received, and the passing of 2025/2026 budget, Council approve the following General Government Grants for disbursement in 2025/2026:

- ***Safe Grad Activities (for any eligible East Hants students) $ 7,000***
- ***Remembering Canada's Heroes $1,000***
- ***Hants County Exhibition $ 500***
- ***Dr. Snow Bursaries $3,000***
- ***East Hants Foodbanks/Christmas Programs (Caring & Sharing, Hants North Food Bank, Shumiliacke, Indian Brook Food Bank, Uniacke Wishgivers, Kids Action Angel Tree Program, Hants County Christmas Angels) $7,000***
- ***COAT Association $2,000***
- ***Cst. Heidi Stevenson Memorial Golf Tournament, RCMP $1,000***
- ***Recycle Your Cycle (Rotary Club) $ 500***
- ***4H Sponsorships $ 200***
- ***Braeden Bannister Memorial, RCMP/HERH $ 650***

MOTION CARRIED

SPORTSPLEX - REVIEW OF DRAFT 2025/2026 OPERATING BUDGET

The Director of Finance reviewed the 2025/2026 Operating Budget for the East Hants Sportsplex (Slide 48 – Pg. 30). Councillors had questions addressed by Staff throughout the presentation.

(IN CAMERA) CONTRACTUAL ISSUE

CRS25(23) February

On the motion of Mitchell and Moussa:

Moved that the Corporate & Residential Services Committee move to in camera discussion regarding a contractual issue at 8:06 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED

Committee returned to open session at 9:02 p.m. Councillor Garden-Cole, as Chairperson of the Corporate and Residential Services Committee, noted that the Committee met in camera to discuss a contractual matter, direction was given to staff, and there are no motions coming forth.

CRS25(24) February

On the motion of Councillors Rhyno and Warden Roulston:

Moved that the Corporate & Residential Services Committee adjourn at 9:03 p.m. and reconvene at the next Budget Meeting on February 13, 2025.

MOTION CARRIED

Approved by: Wade Tattrie, Director of Finance
Date: February 12, 2025

/AR

EAST HANTS

MINUTES

Budget Meeting

February 13, 2025

A Budget meeting of the Corporate & Residential Services Committee was held on the above date via Zoom due to inclement weather.

Councillor Garden-Cole, as Chairperson of the Corporate & Residential Services Committee, called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. with all members of Council present.

Staff Present:

- Ms. Kim Ramsay, Chief Administrative Officer
- Ms. Wade Tattrie, Director of Finance
- Ms. Janice Taylor, Manager of Finance
- Mr. Jordan Baltzer, Accountant and Budget Analyst
- Mr. Adam Clarkson, Director of Corporate Services
- Mr. John Woodford, Director of Planning & Development
- Ms. Alana Tapper, Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture
- Mr. Scott Preston, Manager of Recreation and Facilities
- Ms. Juliann Cashen, Communications Coordinator
- Mr. Tom Gignac, Manager of Information Services
- Ms. Sheralee MacEwan, Assistant Municipal Clerk
- Ms. Alana Richards, Business & Legislative Administrator

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Councillor Garden-Cole respectfully acknowledged that East Hants is in Mi'kma'ki and the District of Sipekne'katik, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people. East Hants further acknowledges the 50 African Nova Scotian communities whose 400-year history have contributed to the provinces culture, history and legacies. We are all Treaty People.

APPROVAL OF OR AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

CRS25(25) February

On the motion of Councillors Mitchell and Merriam:

Moved that the agenda be approved.

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

CRS25(26) February

On the motion of Councillors Dixon and Mitchell:

Moved that the minutes of the Budget Meeting held February 11, 2025 be approved.

MOTION CARRIED

SPORTSPLEX - RENTAL RATES REVIEW

The Manager of Recreation and Facilities and Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture presented a report titled "*East Hants Sportsplex – Rate Review*", dated November 28, 2024. A copy of the report was attached to the agenda and available to all Committee members. Committee members had questions addressed by Staff throughout the presentation.

CRS25(27) February

On the motion of Councillors Tingley and Merriam:

Moved that the list of recommended rates for the East Hants Sportsplex be included in the draft 2025/2026 budget as outlined below with a proposed fee increase beginning September 1, 2025, increasing by 2% per year as of April 1, 2026 and all fees listed as pre-tax and subject to HST.

Fee Name	Current Fee	Sept 1 2025	Apr 1 2026	Apr 1 2027	Apr 1 2028
Regular Season – (1 Field) Prime	$121.74	$121.74	$124.17	$126.66	$129.19
Regular Season – (1 Field) Non-Prime	$76.52	$40.00	$40.80	$41.62	$42.45
Regular Season – (Whole Field) Prime	$291.30	$320.00	$326.40	$332.93	$339.59
Regular Season – (Whole Field) Non-Prime	$184.35	$120.00	$122.40	$124.85	$127.34
Regular Season – Arena (Ice) Prime	$217.39	$223.36	$227.83	$232.38	$237.03
Regular Season – Arena (Ice) Non-Prime	$117.39	$117.39	$119.74	$122.13	$124.58
Regular Season – Arena (Ice) Youth Prime	$217.39	$178.68	$182.25	$185.90	$189.62
Regular Season – Arena (Ice) Youth Non-Prime	$117.39	$117.39	$119.74	$122.13	$124.58
Summer Season – 1 Field Prime	$36.52	$40.00	$40.80	$41.62	$42.45
Summer Season – 1 Field Non-Prime	$36.52	$40.00	$40.80	$41.62	$42.45
Summer Season – Whole Field Prime	$85.22	$120.00	$122.40	$124.85	$127.34
Summer Season – Whole Field Non-Prime	$85.22	$120.00	$122.40	$124.85	$127.34
Summer Season – Arena (Dry) Any	$75.00	$75.00	$76.50	$78.03	$79.59

Regular Season – (1 Field) Corporate		$121.74	$124.17	$126.66	$129.19
Regular Season – (Whole Field) Corporate		$320.00	$326.40	$332.93	$339.59
Regular Season – Arena (Ice) Corporate		$223.36	$227.83	$232.38	$237.03
Summer Season – (1 Field) Corporate		$121.74	$124.17	$126.66	$129.19
Summer Season – (Whole Field) Corporate		$320.00	$326.40	$332.93	$339.59
Summer Season – Arena (Ice) Corporate		$223.36	$227.83	$232.38	$237.03

MOTION CARRIED

2024 HUMAN RESOURCES (HR) REPORT

The CAO presented the 2024 Human Resources (HR) Annual Report. Councillors had questions addressed by Staff throughout the presentation.

BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

The Director of Finance and CAO reviewed the Proposed 2025/2026 Operating Budget Adjustments. Councillors had questions addressed by Staff throughout the presentation.

CRS25(28) February

On the motion of Councillors Perry and Moussa:

Moved (later defeated) to reduce the Commercial Tax Rate by $0.01 in the 2025/2026 Operating Budget.

MOTION DEFEATED

Eight (8) voting against and three (3) voting in favour, with Deputy Warden MacPhee and Councillors Perry and Moussa voting yay.

ADJOURNMENT

CRS25(29) February

On the motion of Councillors Rhyno and Hebb:

Moved that the Corporate & Residential Services Committee adjourn at 9:03 p.m. and reconvene Budget discussions during Executive Committee on February 18, 2025.

MOTION CARRIED

Approved by: Wade Tattrie, Director of Finance
Date: February 14, 2025

/AR

EAST HANTS

MINUTES

Budget Meeting

February 6, 2025

A Budget meeting of the Corporate & Residential Services Committee was held on the above date in the Council Chambers.

Councillor Garden-Cole, as Chairperson of the Corporate & Residential Services Committee, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with all members of Council present. Councillor Tingley attended remotely via Zoom.

Staff Present:

- Ms. Kim Ramsay, Chief Administrative Officer
- Ms. Wade Tattrie, Director of Finance
- Ms. Janice Taylor, Manager of Finance
- Mr. Jordan Baltzer, Accountant and Budget Analyst
- Mr. Adam Clarkson, Director of Corporate Services
- Mr. John Woodford, Director of Planning & Development
- Ms. Alana Tapper, Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture
- Ms. Juliann Cashen, Communications Officer
- Mr. Tom Gignac, Manager of Information Services
- Ms. Sheralee MacEwan, Assistant Municipal Clerk
- Ms. Alana Richards, Business & Legislative Administrator

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Councillor Garden-Cole respectfully acknowledged that East Hants is in Mi'kma'ki and the District of Sipekne'katik, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people. East Hants further acknowledges the 50 African Nova Scotian communities whose 400-year history have contributed to the provinces culture, history and legacies. We are all Treaty People.

APPROVAL OF OR AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

CRS25(11) February

On the motion of Councillors Mitchell and Dixon:

Moved that the agenda be approved.

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

CRS25(12) February

On the motion of Councillors Mitchell and Hebb:

Moved that the minutes of the Budget Meeting held January 30, 2025 be approved.

MOTION CARRIED

REVIEW OF DRAFT 2025/2026 OPERATING BUDGET

The Director of Finance and Manager of Finance continued the presentation titled *"Review of draft 2025/2026 Operating Budget"* dated January 30, 2025. A copy of the presentation was attached to the agenda and available to Committee members. The Director began his presentation on Slide 34 (Pg.14).

CRS25(13) February — On the motion of Councillors Tingley and Merriam: — Tattrie

Moved that the Draft 2025/2026 Operating Budget be amended to reflect an increase to the Lantz Fire Levy from $0.14 to $0.16.

MOTION CARRIED

CRS25(14) February — On the motion of Councillors Mitchell and Hebb:

Moved (later withdrawn) that the Draft 2025/2026 Operating Budget be amended to reflect an increase to the Elmsdale Fire Levy from $0.14 to $0.16.

Discussion continued. It was agreed that it would be appropriate for another Councillor to make the motion. Councillor Mitchell with the agreement of the seconder withdrew his motion. Councillor Mitchell declared a conflict of interest with respect to his relationship with the Elmsdale Fire Department, signed the Book of Disclosure, and stepped out of Council Chambers until after the vote.

CRS25(15) February — On the motion of Councillors Hebb and Rhyno: — Tattrie

Moved that the Draft 2025/2026 Operating Budget be amended to reflect an increase the Elmsdale Fire Levy from $0.14 to $0.16.

MOTION CARRIED

The CAO confirmed that a report to update the Council Procedural Policy will be coming forward this spring regarding the conflict-of-interest concerns with respect to those Council members who volunteer with community groups, ie. Fire departments.

Councillor Merriam advised that following discussions with the Milford Fire Department, he is giving one-year notice of the intent to increase their fire levy from $0.17 to $0.19 in 2026/2027.

The Director of Finance continued his presentation at Slide 51.

2025/2026 BUSINESS PLANS

The CAO presented the 2025/2026 Business Plan. A copy of the plan was attached to the agenda and available to all Committee members.

Discussion was held regarding the Beautification Grants and the increasing need for support as a result of updated boundaries and increasing costs.

CRS25(16) February — On the motion of Warden Roulston and Councillor Perry: — Tattrie

Moved to amend the Draft 2025/2026 Operating Budget to increase Beautification Grant amounts from $22,000 to $33,000.

MOTION CARRIED

CRS25(17) February — On the motion of Councillor Hebb and Deputy Warden MacPhee:

Moved that the Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommends that Council request options and costs associated to a new playground in Belnan (replacing the one that was removed), for study this year and for an install next year.

MOTION CARRIED

Councillors had questions addressed by Staff throughout the presentation. The Director of Finance finished the review of draft 2025/2026 Operating Budget and the CAO completed the review of the draft 2025/2026 Business Plan. The in-depth budget (District Recreation Fund, General Government Grants, Sportsplex & HR Reports) review will resume at the February 11th, 2025 Budget meeting.

CRS25(18) February — On the motion of Councillors Rhyno and Mitchell:

Moved that the Corporate & Residential Services Committee adjourn at 8:58 p.m. and reconvene at the next Budget Meeting on February 11, 2025.

MOTION CARRIED

Approved by: Wade Tattrie, Director of Finance
Date: February 7, 2025

/AR

EAST HANTS

MINUTES

Budget Meeting

January 30, 2025

A Budget meeting of the Corporate & Residential Services Committee was held on the above date in the Council Chambers.

Councillor Garden-Cole, as Chairperson of the Corporate & Residential Services Committee, called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. with all members of Council present, with the exception of Councillor Hebb who sent regrets and Councillors Moussa and Perry arrived at 6:55 p.m.

Staff Present:

- Ms. Kim Ramsay, Chief Administrative Officer
- Ms. Wade Tattrie, Director of Finance
- Ms. Janice Taylor, Manager of Finance
- Mr. Jordan Baltzer, Accountant and Budget Analyst
- Mr. Adam Clarkson, Director of Corporate Services
- Mr. John Woodford, Director of Planning & Development
- Ms. Alana Taper, Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture
- Ms. Erin Taylor, Communications Coordinator
- Mr. Tom Gignac, Manager of Information Services
- Ms. Sheralee MacEwan, Assistant Municipal Clerk
- Ms. Alana Richards, Business & Legislative Administrator

Guests:

- Paul Beazley, Municipal Account Manager (PVSC)
- Jeff Caddell, Director of Valuation Standards (PVSC)
- Dion Regular, Assistant Director Operations (PVSC)
- Rebecca Vorstermans, VP Stakeholders Relations (PVSC)

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

CRS25(9) January

On the motion of Councillors Mitchell and Dixon:

Moved that the agenda be approved.

MOTION CARRIED

PRESENTATION - PVSC

Mr. Paul Beazley, PVSC Municipal Account Manager presented the "2025 Assessment Roll Presentation" dated January 30, 2024. A copy of the presentation was attached to the agenda and available to Committee members. Councillors had their questions answered by the presenters.

Councillor Garden-Cole thanked the presenters.

OVERVIEW OF BUDGET TOPICS, DATES AND PROCESS

The Director of Finance and Manager of Finance made a presentation titled "2025/2026 Budgets And Business Plan" dated January 30, 2025. A copy of the presentation was attached to the agenda and available to Committee members.

The Director of Finance presented a possible schedule for upcoming budget meetings from January 30th – February 18th.

Councillors had questions addressed by Staff throughout the presentation. The presentation was not completed by the time of adjournment, and the Director of Finance stopped at slide 32 and will resume at the February 6th, 2025 Budget meeting.

CRS25(10) January

On the motion of Councillors Dixon and Mitchell:

Moved that the Corporate & Residential Services Committee adjourn at 9:07 p.m. and reconvene at the next Budget Meeting on February 6, 2025.

MOTION CARRIED

Approved by: Wade Tattrie, Director of Finance
Date: February 6, 2025

Approved by: Adam Clarkson, Director of Corporate Services
Date: February 6, 2025

/AR