



**HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES
April 28, 2015**

PRESENT: Mayor Mike Savage
Deputy Mayor Lorelei Nicoll
Councillors: Barry Dalrymple
David Hendsbee
Bill Karsten
Gloria McCluskey
Darren Fisher
Waye Mason
Jennifer Watts
Linda Mosher
Russell Walker
Stephen Adams
Reg Rankin
Matt Whitman
Brad Johns
Steve Craig
Tim Outhit

STAFF: Mr. Richard Butts, Chief Administrative Officer
Mr. John Traves, Municipal Solicitor
Ms. Cathy Mellett, Municipal Clerk
Mr. Liam MacSween, Legislative Assistant

The following does not represent a verbatim record of the proceedings of this meeting.

A video recording of this meeting is available: http://archive.isiglobal.ca/vod/halifax/archive_2015-04-28_live.mp4.html

The agenda, supporting documents, and information items circulated to Council are available online: <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/150428cow-agenda.php>

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m., and recessed at 12:20 p.m. Council reconvened in at 1:00 p.m. and adjourned at 2:39 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Councillor Karsten called the meeting to order in Council Chambers, 3rd Floor City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street Halifax.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – February 25, March 4, March 11, March 25 and March 31

MOVED by Councillor McCluskey, seconded by Deputy Mayor Nicoll that the minutes of February 25, March 4, March 11, March 25 and March 31 be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Mayor Savage suggested that the Board of Police Commissioners budget be moved up on the agenda to take place after the review of the final budget by the Chief Administrative Officer and Chief Financial Officer.

Committee of the Whole agreed by consensus to move the Board of Police Commissioners budget up on the agenda to take place before deliberation on the 2015/16 Capital and Operating Budget.

3. Full Review of Final Budget – Proposed 2015/2016 Capital and Operating Budget

The following documentation was before Committee of the Whole:

- A staff report dated April 14, 2015
- 2015-16 Proposed Capital Budget Book and 2015-16 Proposed Operating Budget Book
- Staff presentation entitled “Halifax Regional Municipality Budget” dated April 28, 2015
- Revised versions one and two (dated April 27, 2015) of the Executive Summary (Summary of Key Trends Table) – 2015-16 Operating Budget Book

Councillor Karsten invited Mr. Richard Butts, Chief Administrative Officer and Mr. Greg Keefe, Chief Financial Officer to provide a presentation on the Proposed 2015/16 Capital and Operating Budget.

Councillor Karsten thanked Mr. Butts and Mr. Keefe for their presentation and requested questions of clarification from members. There were no further questions of clarification on the budget presentation.

(i) Board of Police Commissioners Budget

The following documentation was before Committee of the Whole:

- A report from the Board of Police Commissioners dated April 10, 2015
- A handout from Councillor Adams entitled “A Review of HRP Budget Books Approved by the Board and Council”

MOVED by Councillor Mosher, seconded by Councillor Walker that Halifax Regional Council confirm the recommendation of the Board of Police Commissioners to approve the 2015-16 Halifax Regional Police Budget and Business Plan of \$77,082,800.00.

Councillor Adams requested further information with respect to the movement of the Public Safety Office to HRM administration. He inquired as to what authority Council has to remove the Office from Halifax Regional Police (HRP) given requirements under the HRM Charter to maintain spending in relation to crime prevention under the responsibility of the police.

Councillor Karsten noted that the matter was already addressed during the Committee of the Whole presentation on the Police Budget in January and advised that the item was referred back to the Board of Police Commissioners for further input and discussion.

Mr. John Traves, Municipal Solicitor commented that Committee of the Whole has only one role with respect to the Police Budget, to approve the recommendation of the Board of Police Commissioners or to direct that the budget amount be increased or decreased by a certain number. With respect to the Public Safety Office, he advised that the movement of the office was reviewed by HRM Legal Services at the time Council provided the direction to move it under the authority of the Chief Administrative Office.

Councillor Karsten noted that the motion that is before Committee of the Whole has been forwarded by the Board of Police Commissioners who had fully debated the matter. He advised that the Committee should consider the recommendation that has been provided.

Councillor Adams expressed his opinion that the movement of the Public Safety Office from HRP to HRM Administration is contrary to the Charter as the positions involves crime prevention programming.

Mr. Traves reiterated an earlier point that the terms of reference for the new Public Safety Office have been reviewed by Legal Services in relation to the HRM Charter as well as the Police Act. He stated that the new position does not conflict with the Charter and is well within the mandate of Chief Administrative Office.

Councillor Mosher noted a report on the financial implications associated with the movement of the Public Safety Office from May of 2014 that did not materialize. She requested that an update be provided on this matter and noted that she would encourage Committee of the Whole to approve the budget that has been recommended by the Board of Police Commissioners.

Councillor Johns asked if the Public Safety Officer position is a crime prevention position.

Mr. Traves commented that he did not have the opinion available at the present time. He noted that he will further review the opinion that was provided to Council to address the question as to whether or not the position is one of crime prevention. He reiterated an earlier point that there is no legal impediment that would prevent the movement of the Public Safety Office from HRP to HRM administration.

Councillor Adams noted that he is unaware of any other jurisdictions where work related to crime prevention is handled by a civilian employee of the municipality.

Councillor Walker commented that it is the responsibility of Regional Council to accept the budget or to instruct that it be increased or decreased by a specific amount only. He advised that Council does not have the authority to defer the matter as it has been duly debated several times by the Police Commission as well as voted on by that decision making body and Regional Council.

Councillor Adams requested more information pertaining to the rational for increasing the number of management positions within HRP.

Deputy Chief Bill Moore, HRP provided an overview of the current reorganization of senior management within HRP. He advised that the rational for increase in management is to put HRP's management ratios more in line with other organizations of a similar size across the country. He advised that HRP is proposing an increase of two positions over all and noted that the rank of Inspector is being reintroduced to the force. He advised that the reorganization will lead to a management team of thirteen senior officers which is same size as was in place several years ago.

Mayor Savage commented that he is reluctant to discuss the management structure of the police force as there are certain roles for Regional Council within the Police Budget, of which discussion on management structure is not one. He advised that it is worth noting that the Board of Police has approved this budget and has forwarded its recommendation and best advice to Regional Council.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. Full Review of Final Budget – Proposed 2015/2016 Capital and Operating Budget

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Fisher that Halifax Regional Council:

- 1. Approve the proposed 2015/2016 Budget as presented, which include the addition of the following funded services and initiatives to the draft budget presented at COW:**
 - a. Fire - \$309,500.00 for seven Firefighters and uniforms**
 - b. Capital - \$30,000.00 for additional equipment required for additional Firefighters.**
 - c. Planning & Development - \$210,000.00 for Lake Banook/Mic Mac Weed Harvesting**
 - d. Corporate Accounts - \$4,200,000.00 for Strategic Capital Projects Reserve**
- 2. Recommend Halifax Regional Council approve the 2015/2016 Capital and Operating Budget, including adjustments approved by Committee of the Whole on March 25, 2015 as per Attachment A – “Resolution for Approval of Operating and Capital Budget, and Tax Rates for Fiscal 2015/16,” of the staff report dated April 14, 2015 including**
 - a. the Advance Capital Funding detailed in Schedule 1;**
 - b. the Withdrawal from Reserves detailed in Schedule 2; and,**
 - c. the Reduction and Transfer of Capital Funding detailed in Schedule 3.**

Councillor Mason commented that he is very pleased with the budget and noted that there were many hard decisions which had to be made to bring it before Council. He noted that overall capital pressures are going to rise and stated that he is very pleased in the way staff have been able to manage costs given this reality. He advised that the current year represents the lowest expenditures for the municipality since 2008 and thanked staff for their hard work.

Councillor Fisher thanked Mr. Butts, Mr. Keefe and staff for the presentation on the budget. He commented that every time a new building is constructed, the municipality incurs an operating cost for its maintenance which tends to be lower than that of maintaining old facilities. He provided commentary on the reductions in HRM's overall debt and noted that total household debt numbers have been declining across the municipality.

Councillor McCluskey noted a line item within the budget of \$6.7 million for efficiency savings for HRM Business Units and inquired if the number includes position vacancies. Mr. Keefe replied in the affirmative but noted that position vacancies have not increased substantially for 2015-16. He advised that vacancies are managed effectively to ensure that every position within the organization is required.

Councillor McCluskey noted a recent publication by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB) which stated that municipal spending is increasing higher than overall growth.

Mr. Richard Butts, Chief Administrative Officer commented that the CFIB had presented a ten year analysis of which most of the growth was measured in the first several years of the analysis. He advised that over the last four years Council has aggressively driven down its amount of expenditures as outlined in the presentation to Committee of the Whole.

Councillor Hendsbee requested further information with respect to an implementation time associated with staffing levels for Halifax Regional Fire and Emergency Services which was recently approved by Regional Council.

Mr. Butts commented that Chief Trussler will act on staffing almost immediately and noted that it will take a period of time to hire and train the Fire Service personnel.

Councillor Hendsbee inquired if further direction from Council is required to staff aerial crews in urban areas of the municipality to the appropriate level.

Councillor Karsten noted his recollection that the aerial crews for urban areas will likely be fully staffed by the end of the next fiscal year.

Councillor Whitman requested an update on the service level agreement with the Hubbards Fire Commission as well as an update on the proposed work for a permanent structure on the Emera Oval. He requested further information on Halifax Water stormwater right of way fees and the budget implications of including the fees in the general tax rate, if approved by Regional Council.

Mr. Butts commented that there is funding within the budget for a permanent structure at the Emera Oval. He advised that Council will debate the matter on the Halifax Water stormwater right of way fees during the Regional Council meeting which is scheduled for later in the day and commented that the tax rate can be adjusted to reflect the decision that will be rendered by Council in that regard.

Chief Doug Trussler, Halifax Regional Fire and Emergency Services commented that currently there is no commitment for the Service Level Agreement with the Hubbards Fire Commission as negotiations are still ongoing and several funding models are under discussion. He further advised that a report on the matter will be prepared for Regional Council in the near future.

In response to a follow up question from Councillor Whitman, Chief Trussler advised that if the budget commitment for the proposed service level agreement with the Hubbards Fire Commission is similar to what it has been in previous years, it can likely be absorbed within the budget for the current fiscal year.

Mr. Butts stated that in some instances, additional expenditures are required through budget cycles. He advised that additional expenditures, if warranted are reviewed by the Audit & Finance Standing Committee to determine funding strategies before a recommendation is provided to Regional Council.

Councillor Adams referenced slide 34 of the staff presentation and inquired if any of the other jurisdictions have similar provincial service costs which are comparable to that of the Halifax Regional Municipality.

Mr. Keefe commented that comparing municipal costs across the country is a difficult exercise as municipalities tend to have differing service level agreements for services that are provided. He advised that staff can do a more wholesome analysis in this regard to help illustrate payments provided to other levels of government for certain services.

Councillor Adams further inquired if there is a cross jurisdictional comparison of business tax rates.

Mr. Bruce Fisher, Manager of Financial Policy and Planning commented that HRM has benchmarking information available which was comprised by Colliers that illustrates how HRM measures against other jurisdictions in terms of commercial taxation. He advised that HRM is consistent with other jurisdictions of a similar size across the country.

Councillor Adams noted past concerns regarding tax rates in the downtown being very high as opposed to other locations and requested further clarification as to why this takes place.

Mr. Fisher commented that the tax rates across the municipality do not differ greatly but rather the difference is demonstrated in the assessed value of the properties to which they are applied. He commented that a geographical representation of this is provided on page C-16 of the 2015-16 Project and Capital Budget document.

Councillor Craig thanked staff for the hard work that was undertaken with respect to the budget. He advised that for the current fiscal year, \$61.6 million in reserve spending being proposed and requested further information regarding the remaining balances of the accounts and projections for future years.

Mr. Keefe commented that the projected balance of the reserve accounts are listed in the budget document provided to Council and commented that the projected balance of reserves for April 1, 2015 is approximately \$106 million and noted that the projected balance for March 31, 2016 stands at \$145 million. He further advised that gas tax revenue, the sale of surplus property, as well as budgeted contributions to the reserve accounts through the operating budget will allow for the projected increase to the reserves.

Councillor Craig noted that staff is effective in ensuring that reserve accounts are well funded to assist with capital projects. He further inquired as to the total dollar amount for the snow removal budget for 2015-16.

Mr. Butts commented that the snow budget for 2015-16 is currently budgeted between \$20 and \$21 million.

Councillor Craig expressed his concern that staff is under budgeting for snow removal. He requested further information from the Chief Administrative Officer in this regard.

Mr. Butts commented that the budget for snow removal over the past several years has been increased and noted that HRM is like any other municipality in that staff budgets for an average year and sets up a reserve fund for exceptional circumstances. He commented that with the possible exception of the current year, the municipality has not had to draw from reserve accounts to cover overages in the snow removal budget. He advised that if the snow removal budget was raised, through increased levels of taxation when it is not necessarily required, it would amount to asking tax payers to pay more to fund a reserve account which may or may not be utilized. He further advised that risk management with respect to the snow budget has been managed effectively by staff.

Councillor Watts stated that she was glad to see issues such as the stabilization of asset conditions and items related to diversity and accessibility included in the budget. She requested further information with respect to snow removal metrics on table J-7 in the budget book. She further inquired if the reserves for snow removal are significant enough to handle enough hard winter if one occurs next year.

Mr. Butts commented that staff is preparing to conduct a data based study which compares HRM to other jurisdictions regarding snow removal. He advised that the data will assist in determining benchmarking as well as to establish best practices. He noted that once the data is obtained and analyzed, it will help facilitate discussions by Regional Council on the matter to make an informed decision in that regard. He further advised that he would caution Council to not to budget for snow removal operations on a worst case scenario as costs will likely rise dramatically.

Mayor Savage noted that Committee of the Whole is in the last stage of the budget process and advised that the process, as well as the information that has been gathered as part of it has been very informative and conducted in a very open and transparent manner. He noted his support for staff's work in managing debt and reiterated a point made by Councillor Mason that HRM's expenditures are at the lowest level since 2008. He commented that there are slight increases proposed in the budget and advised that the Committee must be realistic with respect to the ever increasing costs of providing municipal services. Overall, he noted that the budget is a good news story.

Committee of the Whole recessed for a break at 12:20 p.m. Committee of the Whole reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

Councillor Rankin noted his support for the budget and concurred with the remarks provided by the Mayor. He advised that the municipality has done quite well in managing expenditures given the current economic circumstance.

Councillor Outhit noted that he is in support of the budget and commented that the municipality needs to do more to grow the commercial tax base, not in terms of increases to the commercial tax rate but rather to increase the number of people paying taxes. He inquired as to how much the overall tax rate for residential rate payers has increased with this budget.

Mr. Keefe noted that the average increase for residential tax payers stands at 3.2 percent.

Councillor Outhit inquired if the budget includes revenue from the Irving Shipbuilding agreement that has yet to be approved.

Mr. Keefe commented that the assumption for the Irving Shipbuilding agreement is within the budget but noted that it has yet to be approved by Regional Council.

In response to a follow up question from Councillor Outhit regarding Fire Services, Mr. Butts commented that staff has direction from Council to address staffing levels for Fire Services. He further advised that an implementation plan in this regard will be brought before Council.

Deputy Mayor Nicoll noted her support for the budget and advised that it is reflective of the hard work of staff. She commented that she is thankful to residents for the input that was provided on the budget. She inquired if there has been follow up with respect to the feedback that has been provided by the public with respect to the budget process. She further commented that if residents see improvements to municipal services they may be more willing to pay slightly higher taxes and requested further information regarding the state of good repair for municipal assets. She further inquired if the new technological systems for transit can be tied in to HRM's upcoming parking strategy.

Mayor Savage left the meeting at 1:15 p.m.

Mr. Keefe noted that finance staff pays close attention to clarity and communicating facts regarding the budget to the public. He advised that the format of the budget presentation has been an excellent way to make the budget process more accessible to the budget.

With respect to the state of good repair for assets, Mr. Keefe commented that staff is doing more work to assess the state of municipal assets, particularly in the area of roads and noted funding commitments within the budget as well as in future years in this regard. He commented that the backend system which will be used by Halifax Transit for the new Automated Vehicle Location (AVL) system as well as the Fare box system will be integrated as part of the technological components for the upcoming Parking Strategy.

Councillor Dalrymple commented that he will not support recommendation 1 (d) respecting an increase for strategic capital projects as there is no guarantee that the benefits will be spread around the municipality evenly. He expressed his displeasure that there has been no consideration for the installation of a Library in Musquodoboit Valley noting that a commitment was made at the time of amalgamation in this regard. He expressed further concern that District One was removed from any further transit expansion yet is still subject to an area rate for transit services. He commented that he is pleased with the elimination of area rates for recreation facilities, but commented that he is not supportive of an increase on the general tax rate to pay for recreation improvements. He advised that he would like to vote separately on recommendation 1(d) and noted if that is not possible he will likely not support the budget.

Councillor Karsten requested that Mr. John Traves, Municipal Solicitor review whether or not the recommendation can be voted on separately given that direction was already approved by Council in this regard.

Councillor Mosher noted her concern with respect to the snow removal budget and inquired about the impact on the budget given the upcoming service standard review. She requested further information regarding maintenance standards for the maintenance of roads. She advised that she cannot support the budget given her understanding that the budget was only supposed increased by the rate of inflation (1.8 percent). She commented that the budget has been increased by 3.2 percent and requested further information on the implications of the tax increase for future budget years. She concluded by requesting further information with respect to eight new positions within the Chief Administrative Officer's Business Unit, vacancies within public works staff, as well as the proposed increase to the budget for the Office of the Auditor General.

Mr. Butts commented that staff is looking for external assistance with respect to snow operations and standards which are utilized across the country to help inform the discussion on the upcoming service standard review for snow operations. With respect to road maintenance, he noted that Council has increased the budget by \$2 million for this fiscal year and is proposing an additional \$5 million increase for the next fiscal year for road rehabilitation.

Mr. Butts advised that the budget has increased by 1.8 percent due to inflation as noted by the Councillor and commented that additional increases in relation to the strategic capital reserve as well as increases to Fire Services which were approved by Regional Council brings the total budget increase to 3.2 percent.

With respect to Transportation and Public Works staffing levels, Mr. Butts commented that there was a large drop in Transportation and Public Works staffing levels five years ago and advised that there have been moderate changes since that time.

With respect to the eight positions within the CAO's Office, Mr. Butts advised that there have been no increases in staffing levels within his Business Unit but rather a reallocation of staff from other Business Units to staff the newly formed Diversity Office as well as the new public safety coordinator and a position within the Deputy CAO's office related to building management. Mr. Butts further remarked that the Auditor General reports directly to Council and noted that staff reviews his office budget for accuracy only.

Mr. Traves responded to an earlier question by Councillor Dalrymple pertaining to splitting the vote for recommendation 1 (d) noting that the recommendation cannot be voted on separately as it does not contain distinct prepositions but rather an amalgam of direction previously approved by Regional Council.

Councillor Walker congratulated staff on the budget and noted that it is one of restraint and balance. He noted the current agreement with respect to supplementary funding agreement with the Halifax Regional School Board has expired and noted that the budget book reflects it. He advised that it should not be represented in the budget book and advised that further communication with the School Board should be brought in sooner in the process to ensure that agreements are in place prior to the budget.

Mr. Traves commented that the agreement with the School Board has expired and noted that staff has been provided direction from Council in regard to negotiating a supplementary Memorandum of Understanding.

Mr. Butts commented that staff has been in contact with the School Board and that negotiations are underway in this regard.

Councillor Johns noted his support for the budget. He commented that staff has been very accommodating in working with him on priority issues within his District.

In response to a question from Councillor McCluskey, Chief Trussler commented that Halifax Regional Fire and Emergency Services currently have 21 vacancies in its operational division as well as an overtime budget of \$1.3 million which has been exceeded by a rate almost equivalent rate to vacancy figure of \$900,000.00.

In response to a follow up question from Councillor McCluskey, Chief Trussler commented that in many instances Fire Fighters work straight time overtime with the exception of emergency call back situations. He noted that some support divisions work at a rate of time and a half.

Councillor Hendsbee requested further information regarding the proposed oval pavilion, the demolition of surplus fire halls, the acquisition of park land in Sandy Lake, the next phase of public consultation for Halifax Transit's Moving Forward Plan, Emergency Measures Plan, as well as the distribution of new radio equipment for Fire Services.

Mr. Butts commented that he did not have the information requested by the Councillor readily available but noted that staff would respond to with the information.

Councillor Craig requested further information with respect to snow removal operations. He requested that the Municipal Clerk display snow removal budget numbers from 2010 to 2015, which were provided in the media that illustrates that HRM has consistently exceeded its snow removal budget by an average of \$ 6 million over the five year period of time. He inquired as to why staff has under budgeted for snow removal.

Mr. Butts commented that the numbers provided by the Councillor were different than the numbers that he had available and likely did not include revenues from area rates for snow removal. He commented that staff have exceeded the snow removal budget but have been able to absorb the overages through efficiency savings in other areas.

Councillor Craig noted his appreciation that staff can absorb the costs through other areas but expressed his concern that HRM is still under budgeting for snow removal operations.

Councillor Watts requested further information with respect to supplementary education agreement with the Halifax Regional School Board, outlined on page C-12 of the budget book and noted concern that the matter has not yet been discussed by Council.

Mr. Keefe commented that there was a typo within the budget book and noted that the page referenced by the Councillor should have indicated the expiry date of March 31, 2015 for the supplementary education funding provided to the School Board. He noted that staff has been in discussion with the School Board on this matter and stated that the area rates for the supplementary funding agreements will be set in early June as they have been for the past number of years.

Mr. Traves commented that any further discussion on this matter would be more appropriate to be discussed during the scheduled In Camera session for this matter as the negotiations in this regard are ongoing.

Councillor Adams inquired about the potential for programming to assist small businesses in terms of taxation.

Councillor Whitman acknowledged Mr. Eddie Robar who had replied to messages from him regarding transit services for his district.

Councillor Mosher noted that the Auditor General's Office budget was not brought before Committee of the Whole and noted that she would like to see a presentation from his office during next year's budget deliberations. She noted that she supports the Office of the Auditor General but advised that the budget for the office has increased by 11.5 percent.

Councillor Hendsbee requested clarification with respect to increases to the senior snow removal program as a result of the review snow operations review. He further inquired about playground replacements referenced on page G-6 of the budget document asking if the resources listed are underutilized funds or carried forward from previous years.

Mr. Butts commented that senior snow removal program will be examined as part of the upcoming review on snow operations.

Ms. Jane Fraser, Director of Operations Support commented that the \$500,000.00 as referenced in the budget for parks and playgrounds are a combination of both carry over revenues and previously approved projects which did not get completed on time for various logistical reasons.

Mr. Butts commented that staff has instituted a more robust capital spending report and noted that as a result staff have dramatically reduced capital carry overs over the past five years. He suggested that more can be done in this regard to ensure that capital carry overs do not take place.

Councillor Outhit expressed his opinion that snow removal operations need to be improved and advised that the availability of snow removal equipment needs to be revamped. He stated that staff should also budget more effectively for the next year's snow removal operations.

Mr. Butts expressed his opinion that staff did well with respect to the retention of snow removal equipment due to good planning. He advised that Council should be pragmatic in terms of allocating resources for snow removal until more information on the services standards is provided rather than budgeting a set amount without gaining a full understanding of what is required in this regard.

Councillor Craig advised that the numbers he had previously provided to Council regarding snow removal were obtained from a Chronicle Herald Article published March 2, 2015 with the numbers being provided by HRM's Corporate Communications staff. He commented that he does not need to look at additional resources for snow operation, but rather the practice of appropriately budgeting. With respect to Fire Services he inquired about HRM's capacity to train fire fighters.

Chief Trussler noted the maximum capacity for fire training is two classes of 16 recruits per year for a total of 32. He advised that the intent for this year it to train 28 recruits who are already on an eligibility list. He further advised that more recruitment will be undertaken in the near future.

In response to a follow up question from Councillor Craig, Chief Trussler noted his belief that there are restrictions with respect to outsourcing training within the collective agreement for Fire Services.

Councillor Mason commented that further communication with the school board with respect to supplementary education funding should take place for future years. He concurred with comments provided by Councillor Craig and Councillor Outhit with respect to underfunding snow removal operation.

Councillor Watts requested further information with respect to an increase in funding for the World Trade and Convention Centre on slide 21 of the presentation.

Mr. Keefe commented that the 2014-15 budget for the new World Trade and Convention Centre increased due to marketing. He commented that the 2015-16 budget is sufficient to cover the costs for an event management system as well as operational management costs which were anticipated. He advised that the costs were anticipated and that he does not for see any further increases to the budget for the project. He further commented that a report on this matter will be forthcoming to Regional Council after the provincial government provides an update on its share of the budget for the project. He commented that the information from the province is anticipated in the near future.

Mr. Butts commented that the report has been drafted and that staff is currently awaiting feedback from partners. He advised that the report will speak to operating costs for the convention centre, the lease agreement, as well as capital and operating projections.

Further discussion ensued.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

(i) Board of Police Commissioners Budget

This item was dealt with earlier in the meeting. Please see pages 2-3.

4. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:39 p.m.

Cathy J. Mellett
Municipal Clerk