

CAPE BRETON REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
Special Council Meeting – Minutes
BUDGET SESSION 2023-24

Wednesday
April 5, 2023
9:37 a.m.

Council Chambers
2nd Floor, City Hall
320 Esplanade, Sydney, NS

Mayor McDougall called the meeting to order.

Present: Mayor Amanda M. McDougall-Merrill
Councillor Gordon MacDonald (afternoon session only)
Councillor Earlene MacMullin
Councillor Cyril MacDonald (arrived at 9:57)
Councillor Eldon MacDonald
Councillor Glenn Paruch (left at 10:30)
Councillor Steve Parsons
Deputy Mayor James Edwards
Councillor Ken Tracey
Councillor Darren O’Quinn
Councillor Lorne Green

Staff:	Marie Walsh	Paul MacDonald
	John MacKinnon	Ray Boudreau
	Jennifer Campbell	Bruce Hardy
	Deborah Campbell Ryan	Matthew Viva
	Demetri Kachafanas	Kirk MacNeil
	Wayne MacDonald	Cory Youden
	Michael Ruus	Sharon MacSween
	Kirk Durning	Angela Ross
	Michael Seth	

Absent: Councillor Steve Gillespie (Regrets)
Councillor Darren Bruckschwaiger (Leave of Absence)

Summary of Decisions

Continuation of Budget Sessions from April 4th, 2023:

DRAFT Capital Budget 2023-2024:

The Draft Capital Budget for 2023-2024 was presented.

CMHC Rapid Housing Initiative (RHI) Proposals

Motion that New Dawn Enterprises be appointed as CBRM’s Intermediary for the Cites Stream – Round 3 RHI application. **Carried.**

ADJOURNMENT

Continuation of Budget Sessions from April 4th, 2023:

Mayor McDougall-Merrill welcomed everyone back to the continuation of the Budget Deliberations Session for 2023-24. She advised that staff were asked to come back with further reductions to the deficit and consideration of using the Operating Reserve in a sustainable and manageable way.

In response to questions, Jennifer Campbell, Chief Financial Officer, provided an explanation regarding the differences between the Operating and Capital Budgets and the constraints within each (i.e. The municipality cannot borrow for operating expenses.

DRAFT Capital Budget 2023-2024:

Wayne MacDonald, Director of Engineering & Public Works, provided a presentation and overview of the Draft Capital Budget for 2023-2024, noting that there were 2 additional sheets distributed to Council and staff. He highlighted the following:

- General capital and how its funded
- Importance of core infrastructure and use funding
- Condition of assets
- Capital funded out of operating
- Municipal and Provincial Roads
- Infrastructure needs
- Leverage funding for most infrastructure projects
- Sydney Harbor West
- Port Morien and Glace Bay wastewater treatment
- Upgrades to Battery Point and CBRM wastewater
- Washbrook floodwater intensity mitigation project
- Gilholmes Lake
- Charlotte Street revitalization
- Gas tax program
- Active Transportation 2023
- Washbrook greenway coalition
- J Class roads
- Collaborative Investment Program – 2023
- Parks and Grounds funding
- Building Upgrades
- Green Inclusive Community Buildings
- Federal funding
- Provincial Funding - Sustainable Services Growth Fund \$3M
- Port of Sydney
- Transit rolling stock for 2023
- Fire Services 2023
- IT tech projects

Continued...

DRAFT Capital Budget 2023-2024 (Cont'd):

The Director of Engineering & Public Works called on the Chief Financial Officer who summarized the Capital Plan and what the impact has on overall debt.

The Chief Financial Officer provided an update to Council on the impact of the Capital Budget on the overall debt.

After the presentation on the Capital Budget, some of Council's discussion included the following:

- J-class roads
- Provincial Sustainable Services Growth Fund
- Green Inclusive Community Buildings Fund
- Transit rolling stock
- Local roads paving
- Worst first roads
- ICIP
- Signage and renovations for Centre 200
- Sidewalks and bridges
- Tenders
- Accessibility in CBRM
- Project completion dates
- Fleet
- Funding for Library
- Advertising for Facilities
- Wentworth Park Gazebo (full replacement)
- Louisbourg Project update
- Pond 5 and Gilholmes Lake completion
- Revenue from school closures required to be put in Capital Reserve

Bruce Hardy indicated that he would forward the model used to determine “worst first” roads to Councillor Green.

After discussion, it was **agreed** to postpone approving the Capital budget until after the Operating Budget presentation the following day.

Council recessed for Lunch at 12:27 p.m.

Council resumed at 1:07 p.m.

Mayor McDougall welcomed everyone back to the afternoon session.

ADDENDUM:

CMHC Rapid Housing Initiative (RHI) Proposals

Marie Walsh, Chief Administrative Officer, advised that as directed, staff submitted all four proposals from the proponents to CMHC who in turn rated each project in order of eligibility, as follows:

1. New Dawn Enterprises
2. Souls Harbour
3. Town House Glace Bay
4. Joneljim

She advised that she did reach out to all the proponents to address the questions put forward from CMHC. She noted that they are included in the package that was circulated to Council.

The following motion was then put forward:

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Parsons, seconded by Deputy Mayor Edwards, that New Dawn Enterprises be appointed as CBRM's Intermediary for the Cites Stream – Round 3 RHI application.

Discussion

During discussion, Councillors shared their concerns on the new proposed building location being within the Northend Sydney Heritage District.

The Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) spoke to the proposals and noted that while no one proposal met the all criteria, New Dawn Enterprises only had a couple of issues and they made changes to their plan to meet the criteria. Further, the CAO said that New Dawn Enterprises has the most shovel-ready project that poses the least risk to CBRM.

Council discussion continued, and a **Point of Order** was raised by Councillor Green regarding discussion not being related to the motion on the floor.

The Mayor then called for the vote.

Motion Carried.

Continued...

CMHC Rapid Housing Initiative (RHI) Proposals (Cont'd):

Marie Walsh, Chief Administrative Officer, advised that staff will need an official letter from the Province to indicate their support for the project. Staff will continue to work with New Dawn as well as CMHC to get all the information required.

Mayor McDougall-Merrill thanked everyone for their hard work and dedication to this project.

The meeting recessed for the day at 1:22 p.m.

Cecil P. Clarke
Mayor

Christa Dicks
Municipal Clerk
/acr