

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

Thursday,
April 6, 2023
9:34 a.m.

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

Mayor Amanda M. McDougall-Merrill called the meeting to order.

Present: Mayor Amanda M. McDougall-Merrill
Councillor Gordon MacDonald
Councillor Earlene MacMullin
Councillor Cyril MacDonald
Councillor Steve Gillespie
Councillor Eldon MacDonald
Councillor Glenn Paruch
Councillor Steve Parsons
Deputy Mayor James Edwards
Councillor Ken Tracey
Councillor Darren O'Quinn
Councillor Lorne Green

Staff:	Marie Walsh	Ray Boudreau
	Jennifer Campbell	Paul Burt
	John MacKinnon	Francis Campbell
	Deborah Campbell Ryan	Kirk Durning
	Demetri Kachafanas	Matthew Viva
	Wayne MacDonald	Bruce Hardy
	Michael Ruus	Desiree Magnus
	Deanna Evely	Angela Ross
	Robert Walsh	
	Kirk Durning	

Absent: Councillor Darren Bruckschwaiger (Leave of Absence)

Summary of Decisions

1. DRAFT Operating Budget 2023-2024 (Continuation of discussions):

It was **agreed** to postpone deliberation of the Operating Budget until discussions with the Provincial Government on the budget have concluded.

2. DRAFT Capital Budget 2023-2024 (Continuation of discussion):

Motion to approve the 2023-24 Capital Budget, totaling \$68,768,310, and

- Associated required borrowing resolutions for \$8,839,633;
- Associated required borrowing resolution for \$4,693,985 (Wastewater);
- Transfer from Capital reserve \$2,350,000;
- Transfer from Operating Reserve \$340,000.

Carried.

ADDENDUM

3. BUSINESS ARISING:

a. Board of Police Commissioners – March 29, 2023:

i) CBRPS Cost Recovery:

Motion to approve the Proposed CBRPS Traffic Fees outlined in the staff Issue Paper dated March 2023 as follows:

- Collision Reports – General:	\$30
- Collision Reports – Investigative:	\$345
- Collision Reconstruction Report:	\$1500
- Statements (electronic):	\$25
- Photos (electronic – contact sheet of four)	\$50

Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor McDougall-Merrill opened the third day of budget deliberations and advised that the Chief Administrative Officer and staff were asked to bring back suggestions for further reductions to the Operating Budget.

1. DRAFT Operating Budget 2023-2024 (Continuation of discussions):

Marie Walsh, Chief Administrative Officer, advised that after careful consideration she is recommending that no cuts be made to the Operational Budget until they move forward and work with the Provincial Government on possible solutions.

During discussion, some of the issues raised included:

- Municipal Capacity Grant
- The \$3 million from the Province for Capital and HRM's special arrangement with the Province
- Current Shortfall of \$4.2 million
- The positions suggested to be removed from Budget considerations be brought back for further discussion
- Overtime costs

It was **agreed** to postpone deliberation of the Operating Budget until discussions with the Provincial Government on the budget have concluded.

Mayor McDougall-Merrill advised that it is important for CBRM to be clear on what had to be removed from the proposed Operating Budget.

2. DRAFT Capital Budget 2023-2024 (Continuation of discussions):

Wayne MacDonald, Director of Engineering and Public Works, noted that the Capital Budget has already been presented and requires approval. He advised that he was available for any additional questions.

Jennifer Campbell, Chief Financial Officer, advised that an updated spreadsheet was circulated at the Budget session the day before and that due to the addition of Centre 200 Project, the totals listed in the proposed motion were different.

Council discussed the following:

- \$3 million in provincial funding not currently included in the budget
- Transfers from Reserve funds
- Main Street, Sydney Mines project and ICIP funding

Continued...

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

After discussion and confirmation of the recommendation, the following motion was put forward:

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Parsons, seconded by Deputy Mayor Edwards, to approve the 2023-24 Capital Budget, totaling \$68,768,310, and

- Associated required borrowing resolutions for \$8,839,633;
- Associated required borrowing resolution for \$4,693,985 (Wastewater);
- Transfer from Capital reserve \$2,350,000;
- Transfer from Operating Reserve \$340,000.

Motion Carried.

ADDENDUM

3. BUSINESS ARISING:

a. Board of Police Commissioners – March 29, 2023:

ii) CBRPS Cost Recovery:

The Chief Administrative Officer noted there are cost recovery items within the Police Service that required approval today.

Police Chief Robert Walsh discussed the fee structure and organizational review that was outlined in the staff Issue Paper dated March 2023 in the Addendum package. He advised that they looked at all fees associated for the services provided and noted that the fees have not changed since 2008, however, the demand for these services has grown significantly.

The Police Chief explained the reasons for the request for a fee structure and explained that as a community based police service, they are trying to provide this service as affordable as possible but need to be fiscally responsible. He added that there is no requirement for these services to be conducted by the Police Service.

Police Chief Walsh discussed the process for record checks for volunteers and provided options for Council to consider which were as follows:

- Maintain the status quo
- Nominal fee of \$5
- \$15
- \$15, or if proof of low income, they could waive the fee

Continued...

CBRPS Cost Recovery (Cont'd):

After the presentation, some of council discussion included the following:

- Record checks for volunteers
- Process for fingerprinting
- Average dollar amount for record checks

Mayor McDougall-Merrill advised that a decision today is only required for the traffic-based fees and the others will come back when we approve the operating budget.

After discussion, the following motion was put forward.

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Cyril MacDonald, seconded by Councillor Paruch, to approve the Proposed CBRPS Traffic Fees outlined in the staff Issue Paper dated March 2023 as follows:

- Collision Reports – General:	\$30
- Collision Reports – Investigative:	\$345
- Collision Reconstruction Report:	\$1500
- Statements (electronic):	\$25
- Photos (electronic – contact sheet of four)	\$50

Motion Carried.

Mayor McDougall-Merrill thanked staff and Council for their effort and discussion.

Prior to adjournment, Councillor Lorne Green brought up a question about a parcel of land in his District. Mayor McDougall-Merrill ruled the Councillor **Out of Order** as the issue did not pertain to the Budget.

The Mayor concluded the session and advised that once communication continues with the Province, the Budget Session will resume.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Cecil P. Clarke
Mayor

Christa Dicks
Municipal Clerk
/acr