



ATTENDING

- Mayor Wendy Donovan
- Deputy Mayor Isabel Madeira-Voss
- Councillor Mike Butler
- Councillor Jodi MacKay
- Councillor Jennifer Ingham
- Councillor Wendy Elliot
- Chief Administrative Officer Erin Beaudin, and
- Recording Secretary Laura Morrison

ALSO ATTENDING

- Director of Finance, Mike MacLean,
- Director of Engineering & Public Works, Alex de Souza
- Director of Parks and Recreation, Kelton Thomason,
- Director Planning & Development Devin Lake,
- Special Projects & Communications Coordinator, Barb Shaw

CALL TO ORDER

Chair, Mayor Donovan, called the meeting to order at 9:02am.

Agenda Item	Discussion and Decisions
1. Approval of Agenda	27-11-22 IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED AS CIRCULATED.

CARRIED

2. Public Input / Question Period	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Noel McQueen thankful repair of Fairfield moved up in budget, happy to have sidewalk but concern about trees potentially being removed from people's property. If that is the case could Council advise residents and allow them feedback. Would like to see repair to sidewalk on Hillside Ave to better accommodate those using motorized mobility vehicles. Higher priority than Fairfield.• Would also like to have budget consideration for increase in resources to allow for more inspections of buildings to ensure rental properties are meeting health and safety standards.
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3. Staff Reports for Discussion

a. IR 019-2022: Preliminary Discussion - 2023/24 Budget Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Director of Finance Mike MacLean presented on this first step in the Town's Budget Process.• First formal discussion with Council in the process.• CAP percentage 7.68%• PVSC (Property Valuation Services Corporation) sets CAP.• Last year CAP was 5.4% higher than avg cost of living.
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Agenda Item

Discussion and Decisions

- Previous year it was 0.3%.
- Messaging required to explain why tax still going up despite no increase to rate or removal of CAP.
- Recommended infrastructure funding assessment of \$100k is based specifically to the nature of the components that make up the street.
- Electrical underground is not part of Town’s infrastructure so not included.
- Development Agreement conditions will decide when Town takes over. Not all the same and not tied to how many houses are being completed.
- Discussion on GIS system and improvements capturing street work and repair completed.
- Discussion on early thoughts of Council on inflation. Inflation for municipal operation is not the same as household inflation. Inflationary pressures could be more or less, some costs have increased more than inflation. Important to have good communication and information provided to residents to appreciate true costs and true changes to costs.

Adjournment for break 10:30am

Meeting resumed: 10:48am

- Overview of CIP Changes.
- In response a question it was advised a report on the Regional Recreation Facility will come to Council in December including cost structure.
- Water/sanitary/storm sewer priorities as well as pedestrian safety – tackled through operational budget rather than capital projects.
- Work is being done on Project Charters to come back to Council which will assist with understating all the elements, measuring progress and decisions-making for Council.
- Reserves almost balanced. Short in Fiscal Year ending 2026 but recover following year. However, can’t overdraw on reserves so may have to work on some project moves if reserve based.
- Recognize if a project doesn’t get done it will fall into following year’s budget – which would still require approval for that year’s budget.

4. Adjournment of regular meeting to in camera

28-11-22 IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE MEETING ADJOURN TO INCAMERA SESSION UNDER SECTION 22(e) at 11:54am.

CARRIED

Lunch Break 12:01-1245pm

Regular Meeting Resumed 12:45pm

5. IR 019-2022: Preliminary Discussion - 2023/24 Budget Process (Continued)

- Overview of 10-year Capital Budget Plan
- \$51m worth of projects in 10 years.
- Town Hall/Library - \$8.8m – not including street infrastructure/lights – was \$5.6m previous year. Not including grants.
- **Consider something showing totals with grants going forward.**

Agenda Item

Discussion and Decisions

- Fire Hall scheduled for year 3.
- Public Works Building currently in phase 1 due to flooding and some necessary improvements.
- Directors may move to Town Hall but improvements required for staff based out of the PW building.
- Welcome Centre (previously VIC) year 1 at \$600k.
- Clarification that the Rec Centre is the building at Rotary Park.
- In response to a question Director of PW explained the repairs required with the East Main/Maple culverts and Harbourside.
- It was clarified that the Master Parks Plan currently in progress, will contain projects that Council specify as their priorities. The money that was earlier earmarked for the pickleball courts is still there, but awaiting completion of plan so Council can decide what budget year it should be in.
- Parks Plan will take into consideration any future park areas in west end.
- Dam upgrade is in year 6/7 – PW needs time to review. Consultant did report that said it wasn't as imminent as initially thought.
- Old burying ground is included in parks discussion.
- Project Charters will come back at a later date once more information is included.

6. Round Table Discussion

Operations & Capital Priorities from Council

- Operational budget would like more information on staff resourcing and data required in respect to service levels.
- Economic Prosperity: Re-integrating into REN; MOU with Acadia renegotiation looking at economic opportunities work on housing file/business development; Mayors Task Force on Economic Development and other reports and initiatives into Project Charters looking at C2 zone, East End and corridor from East End gateway to farm market.
- Social Equity, Affordable housing – messaging around what that means.
- Operations – economic development – Imagine Wolfville and pictorial graphic of what people imagine downtown to look like.
- Staffing – in housing area we are light on staffing to support. Ongoing discussions with Acadia around their desire to build more student housing – they have land but not capacity or skillset to manage, Town have skillset but not the capacity. Consider staff resource to take on grant writing and research to see what's available and write the applications.
- Capital budget: all roads and traffic lights, would like to see what that does to capital budget, multipurpose rec centre – whatever we decide where that fits in. Museum is in dire need of infrastructure support. Mayor would like to meet with them. It is outside of Town responsibilities but would like to flag these items for further discussion.
- Pedestrian safety.



Agenda Item

Discussion and Decisions

- Community asks, not sure if those things are built in to budget.
- Landmark East looking at an MOU to be developed could be a couple of years away. Smaller scale asks Devour, Performing Arts. Social equity questions around follow on from pandemic, historical society for example have challenges to replace members and keep things going.
- Students volunteering connect with first year students and see if any opportunities that appeal to them – part of MOU? Kings County Volunteer Resource centre – look at outside of budget process.
- Heritage Society – help with where to get grants.
- Welcome week where closing the streets worked well for this even, hearing from students would like to do again could tie into an international food festival.
- Grants – CAO clarified numbers in CIP is total cost but do try to go after grants as much as possible. Appreciate support by Council looking for opportunities to help staff.
- Tree policy
- Low Income Property Tax Policy review could affect Budget.
- Consultants will bring a list as part of ops plan to see how we will procure – might need additional resources
- Currently working with other municipalities to do a salary review in next month or two.
- Acadia Pool request come back to Council next month.
- Crosswalk Evaluation Policy may have some costs from operations around possibly utilizing external consultants.
- RCMP – no decision been made on retro costs but will be some cost escalations built in which we haven't received yet. Increased costs per officer will go up.
- Calendar for all meetings for 2023 will be circulated including special all day budget COW meeting on 19th January.

7. Communications & Public Engagement – Open House Budget Discussions

- Barb Shaw, Communications Specialist started the discussion on how to get more interaction from residents and buy in for open house budget discussions.
- Wolfville Blooms has information on this budget session including two interactive spaces where people can ask questions. All agendas and slides from budget meetings will be accessible. Council to direct people with questions to the site.
- Community Engagement – is going to the community and seeking feedback – it should be targeted, those doing it should have background and knowledge.
- Discussion on what questions Council want residents to ask about or give feedback on and how to encourage participation.

9. Public Input / Question Period

- No public input



Agenda Item	Discussion and Decisions
10. Adjournment of Regular Meeting	29-11-22 IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REGULAR MEETING ADJOURN AT 3:20pm

CARRIED

Approved by Committee of the Whole Motion 06-12-22, December 6, 2022
As recorded by Laura Morrison, EA/Town Clerk, Office of the CAO.