



Budget Meeting

February 10, 2026

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. and recited the historical acknowledgement with all members of Council present with the exception of Councillor Moussa who arrived at 7:03 p.m.

Staff Present:

- Ms. Kim Ramsay, Chief Administrative Officer
- Mr. Wade Tattrie, Director of Finance
- Mr. Jordan Baltzer, Manager of Finance
- Ms. Breeanna Allum, Accountant & Budget Analyst
- Mr. Adam Clarkson, Director of Corporate Services
- Mr. John Woodford, Director of Planning & Development
- Mr. Jesse Hulsman, Director of Infrastructure & Operations
- Ms. Alana Tapper, Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture
- Ms. Juliann Cashen, Communications Officer
- Mr. Tom Gignac, Manager of Information Services
- Ms. Sheralee Mitchell-MacEwan, Assistant Municipal Clerk
- Ms. Erin Maclsaac, Legislative & HR Administrator

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Councillor Hebb noted he wanted an opportunity to discuss the Fire Department levies in more detail. Staff indicated that this would be included on the agenda to be discussed during the next meeting.

CRS26(17)
February

The agenda was approved with unanimous consent.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

CRS26(18)
February

The February 5, 2026 Budget Meeting Minutes were approved with unanimous consent.

CONTINUATION OF REVIEW OF DRAFT 2026/2027 BUSINESS PLAN

The Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) continued with the presentation titled “Business Plans”, starting with a recap of Slides 54-56. A copy of the presentation and the “Operational Business Plans 2026/2027” document dated February 5, 2026 were both attached to the agenda and available to all Committee members.

Discussion was held on several slides of the presentation, specifically;

Slide 60 - Clarified the increase in postage costs as a result of discontinuation of Canada Post E-Post service.

Slide 61 - use of debt vs reserves for some projects and Household Hazardous Waste events.

Slides 63 - "I&O Capital Projects (Priority 1)

Slide 64 - "I&O Capital Projects (Priority 2) and "I&O Non-Capital Projects"

Questions were addressed by the CAO and other staff.

2025 HUMAN RESOURCES REPORT

The CAO presented a report titled "*2025 Human Resources Report*" dated as of December 31, 2025. A copy of the report was attached to the agenda and available to all Committee members.

Discussion ensued over FOIPOP requests and employee retention. Questions were addressed by the CAO and the staff.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned with unanimous consent at 9:03 pm.

Approved by: Wade Tattrie, Director of Finance

Date: February 12, 2026

Approved by: Adam Clarkson, Director of Corporate Services

Date: February 11, 2026

/em



Budget Meeting

February 12, 2026

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. and recited the historical acknowledgement with all members of the Council present with the exception of Councillor Moussa who arrived at 7:11 p.m.

Staff Present:

- Ms. Kim Ramsay, Chief Administrative Officer
- Mr. Wade Tattrie, Director of Finance
- Mr. Jordan Baltzer, Manager of Finance
- Ms. Breeanna Allum, Accountant & Budget Analyst
- Mr. Adam Clarkson, Director of Corporate Services
- Mr. John Woodford, Director of Planning & Development
- Mr. Jesse Hulsman, Director of Infrastructure & Operations
- Ms. Alana Tapper, Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture
- Ms. Juliann Cashen, Communications Officer
- Mr. Tom Gignac, Manager of Information Services
- Ms. Sheralee Mitchell-MacEwan, Assistant Municipal Clerk
- Ms. Erin MacIsaac, Legislative & HR Administrator
- Mr. Scott Preston, Manager of Recreation & Facilities

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

CRS26(19)
February *The agenda was approved with unanimous consent.*

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

CRS26(20)
February *The February 10, 2026 Budget Meeting Minutes were approved with unanimous consent.*

STATE OF EMERGENCY IN SIPEKNE'KATIK

Councillor Mitchell wished to bring forward and acknowledge the current State of Emergency in Sipekne'katik.

CRS26(21)
February On the motion of Councillors Mitchell & MacPhee:

Moved that the Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommends to Council that Council direct the CAO to send a letter of support to Sipekne'katik during their current State of Emergency indicating that Council is thinking of them and hoping that things turn out the best as possible.

MOTION CARRIED

SPORTSPLEX - OPERATING BUDGET AND CAPITAL BUDGET PROJECTS

The Manager of Recreation & Facilities presented a report titled “*East Hants Sportsplex Operating & Capital Budget*”. A copy of the report was attached to the agenda and available to all Committee members. The Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture was also available for questions.

Discussion ensued regarding Slide 2 - Sportsplex Operating Budget - Current & Proposed. Questions were addressed by staff and the CAO.

Discussion continued regarding Slide 5 - Potential Future Projects, specifically surrounding “Keith Miller Penalty/Score Keeper Improvements. Questions were addressed by staff and clarification was given by the CAO.

CRS26(22)
February

On the motion of Councillor Mitchell & Deputy Warden Dixon:

Tattrie

Move that staff update the budget for the Keith Miller Penalty/Score Keeper Improvements project be moved from “future study” to “approval sought”

Discussion continued and further questions were addressed by staff.

MOTION CARRIED

Discussion continued.

The CAO asked for direction from Council on Slide 4 - Score Clock Replacement with option of including LED screens for future study vs. approval sought now.

Discussion ensued and questions were addressed by staff.

CRS26(23)
February

On the motion of Councillors Tingley & Moussa:

Tattrie

Move that staff include the Score Clock and LED Screen as “approval sought” for this year 26/27.

MOTION CARRIED

Ten (10) in favour and one (1) against, with Councillor Rhyno voting nay.

FIRE DEPARTMENT LEVY INCREASE REQUESTS

The Director of Finance presented a report titled “*Request for Fire Levy Increases*” dated February 12, 2026. A copy of the report and supporting documents were attached to the agenda and available to all Committee members.

Discussion ensued and questions were addressed by staff.

CRS26(24)
February

On the motion of Councillors Merriam & MacPhee:

Tattrie

Moved that Staff Update the 26/27 Operating Budget with a 2-cent increase for the Milford Fire Department.

MOTION CARRIED

CRS26(25) On the motion Councillors Tingley & Merriam: Tattrie
February

Moved that Staff Update the 26/27 Operating Budget with a 2-cent increase for the Lantz Fire Department.

Discussion ensued and questions were addressed by the CAO.

The Chairperson requested the Warden to take the Chair.

MOTION CARRIED

CRS26(26) On the motion of Councillors Garden-Cole & MacPhee: Tattrie
February

Moved that Staff Update the 26/27 Operating Budget with a 2-cent increase for the Enfield Fire Department.

Further discussion ensued.

MOTION CARRIED

The Chairperson resumed the Chair.

Further discussion ensued regarding the Fire Departments and known impacts of the FSANS Review recommendations and upcoming provincial legislation.

Questions were addressed by staff and the CAO.

Due to time constraints, it was decided to continue the remaining agenda items; Fire Departments: Exempt Municipal Properties and Snow Removal - Uniacke Business Park” at the next Budget Meeting on February 19, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned with unanimous consent at 9:03 p.m.

Approved by: Wade Tattrie, Director of Finance
Date: February 13, 2026

Approved by: Adam Clarkson, Director of Corporate Services
Date: February 13, 2026

/em



Budget Meeting

February 19, 2026

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 7:02 p.m. and recited the historical acknowledgement with all members of the Council present with the exception of Councillor Perry who arrived at 7:05 pm and regrets received from Councillors Hebb and MacPhee.

Staff Present:

- Ms. Kim Ramsay, Chief Administrative Officer
- Mr. Wade Tattrie, Director of Finance
- Mr. Jordan Baltzer, Manager of Finance
- Ms. Breeanna Allum, Accountant & Budget Analyst
- Mr. Adam Clarkson, Director of Corporate Services
- Mr. John Woodford, Director of Planning & Development
- Mr. Jesse Hulsman, Director of Infrastructure & Operations
- Ms. Alana Tapper, Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture
- Ms. Juliann Cashen, Communications Officer
- Mr. Tom Gignac, Manager of Information Services
- Ms. Sheralee Mitchell-MacEwan, Assistant Municipal Clerk

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

CRS26(35)
February

The agenda was approved with unanimous consent.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

CRS26(36)
February

The February 12, 2026 Budget Meeting Minutes were approved with unanimous consent.

MUNICIPALLY-OWNED PROPERTIES EXEMPT FROM PROPERTY TAX AND FIRE LEVIES

The Director of Finance presented the Staff report titled "Municipally Owned Properties Exempt from Property Tax and Fire Levies" dated February 10, 2026. A copy of the report was attached to the agenda and available to all Committee members.

Discussion was held and questions addressed by staff.

CRS26(37)
February

On the motion of Warden Roulston and Councillor Mitchell:

Moved that the Municipality pay (a grant) equivalent to the fire levies that would be paid on municipally-owned properties to the appropriate fire departments that are charged with protecting them.

Discussion continued and questions were addressed by staff.

MOTION DEFEATED

Two (2) voting in favor; Seven (7) voting against; with Deputy Warden Dixon and Councillors Rhyno, Garden-Cole, Merriam, Perry, Moussa and Tingley voting nay.

HOUSING ACCELERATOR FUND - ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Director of Finance presented the Staff information sheet titled “2026/2027 Budget - Housing Accelerator Funds (HAF) - Additional Information”. A copy of the information sheet was attached to the agenda and available to all Committee members.

No motions resulted.

SNOW REMOVAL - UNIACKE BUSINESS PARK

The Director of Infrastructure & Operations presented the Staff report titled “Winter Road Maintenance Service Levels for the Mount Uniacke Business Park” dated February 6, 2026. A copy of the report was attached to the agenda and available to all Committee members.

CRS26(38)
February

On the motion of Councillors Moussa and Perry:

Moved that the Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommend that Council direct staff to provide the Mount Uniacke Business Park winter road maintenance at a Priority 1 service level as established in the “East Hants Policy for Winter Clearing Standard for Roads & Sidewalks”, aligning it to the same priority level as the Elmsdale Business Park for fiscal year 2026-27, and to set the same service level of winter road maintenance for all Municipally developed Business Parks going forward, with adjustments to be made for no salt use areas as requested.

Questions were addressed by staff.

MOTION CARRIED

2026/2027 TO 2030/2031 CAPITAL BUDGET

The Manager of Finance presented the “Capital Budget 2026/2027 to 2030/2031”. A copy of the presentation and budget document were attached to the agenda and available to all Committee members.

Discussion was held throughout the presentation and questions addressed by staff.

CRS26(39)
February

On the motion of Warden Roulston and Councillor Mitchell:

Moved that the Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommends to Council that the five-year Capital Budget for the fiscal years 2026/2027 to 2030/2031 as presented, be approved and adopted effective April 1st, 2026. Administration is given approval to proceed with the previously approved capital projects and those in the “Approval Sought” sections, subject to any conditions limiting such projects in previous motions of Council or in policies of Council. Should time permit, staff are authorized to embark on projects in this Capital Budget that require long-term pre-planning prior to April 1st, 2026. Projects “Approved for Further Study” are approved in principle only; amounts

identified as “Approved for Further Study” cannot be expended prior to presentation of a full report to Council for consideration or approval through a future capital budget process. Where time permits, staff are given approval to proceed with “Approval Sought” projects from 2027/2028 prior to April 1st, 2027;

And that, any projects approved in the 2025/2026 Capital Budget not reflected as carried forward to the 2026/2027 Capital Budget, but that are substantially committed at March 31st, 2026, shall be carried forward to 2026/2027, based on the remaining budget at March 31st, 2026;

And that, this five-year estimate of capital spending from the Capital Investment Plan (CIP) as required by the Federal and Provincial government funding agreements;

And that, the Water Utility sections of this budget are permitted to stand alone as the East Hants Water Utility Capital Budget as required by the Nova Scotia Regulatory and Appeals Board (NSRAB);

And that, staff be given authority to alter the source(s) of funding where necessary, but in no case shall the amounts to be debentured increase without prior approval of Council;

And that, Council seek Ministerial approval for a temporary borrowing resolution (TBR) for any amounts in this Capital Budget under the “Debenture/Debt” category of funding;

And that, pre-approval to borrow amounts in this Capital Budget under the “Debenture/Debt” category of funding for a term not to exceed twenty-five (25) years at a rate not to exceed 6.5%.

Staff addressed final questions.

MOTION CARRIED

The Director of Finance noted that there were no additional topics to be discussed, unless Committee had additional requests.

As a result of a request, staff agreed to provide a breakdown of CCBF funding by email and to be posted later.

Tattrie

2026/2027 OPERATING BUDGET

CRS26(40)
February

On the motion of Warden Roulston and Councillor Mitchell:

Moved that the Corporate and Residential Services Committee recommend to Council approval of the 2026/2027 Operating Budget, as amended by the Committee during budget deliberations, with a final table of adjustments and rates to be prepared for Council’s consideration on February 25th, 2026.

Discussion continued.

MOTION CARRIED

Seven (7) voting in favor; Two (2) voting against; Councillors Rhyno and Moussa voting nay.

It was agreed that the Budget Meeting booked for Tuesday, February 24th could be cancelled.

Discussion continued.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned with unanimous consent at 9:06 p.m.

Approved by: Wade Tattrie, Director of Finance

Date:

Approved by: Adam Clarkson, Director of Corporate Services

Date: February 20, 2026

/sm

DRAFT



Budget Meeting

February 5, 2026

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. and recited the historical acknowledgement with all members of Council present with the exception of Councillor Moussa who arrived at 7:08 pm and Councillor Perry who arrived at 7:10 pm.

Staff Present:

- Ms. Kim Ramsay, Chief Administrative Officer
- Mr. Wade Tattrie, Director of Finance
- Mr. Jordan Baltzer, Manager of Finance
- Ms. Breeanna Allum, Accountant & Budget Analyst
- Mr. Adam Clarkson, Director of Corporate Services
- Mr. John Woodford, Director of Planning & Development
- Mr. Jesse Hulsman, Director of Infrastructure & Operations
- Ms. Alana Tapper, Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture
- Ms. Jo Swinemer, Community Development Coordinator
- Ms. Juliann Cashen, Communications Officer
- Mr. Tom Gignac, Manager of Information Services
- Ms. Sheralee Mitchell-MacEwan, Assistant Municipal Clerk
- Ms. Erin MacIsaac, Legislative & HR Administrator

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

CRS26(10)
February

The agenda was approved with unanimous consent.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

CRS26(11)
February

The January 29, 2026 Budget Meeting Minutes were approved with unanimous consent.

CONTINUATION OF REVIEW OF DRAFT 2026/2027 OPERATING BUDGET

The Director of Finance with support of the Manager of Finance resumed the presentation titled “2026/2027 Budgets” dated January 29, 2026 at Slide 24. The presentation and the “Operating Budget 2026/2027” document were attached to the agenda and available to all Committee members.

Discussion was held regarding Slide 32 “Fire Departments” regarding current fire levy rates and interest by some departments to increase their rates, specifically Milford, Enfield and Lantz.

Staff addressed questions.

On the motion of Councillors Merriam and Tingley:

CRS26(12)
February

Moved (later amended) that Staff prepare a report to review potential increases in the Milford and Lantz fire levy of 2 cents re: the 26/27 fiscal period, the additional revenue that will be generated and the impact on the tax burden for residents and business.

Discussion continued and staff addressed additional questions from Committee members.

On the motion of Councillors Garden-Cole and Tingley:

CRS26(13)
February

Moved to amend Motion CRS26(12) to include Enfield Fire too.

Discussion continued and staff addressed additional questions from Committee members.

AMENDMENT CARRIED

AMENDED MOTION CARRIED

For further clarification, Motion CRS26(12) is as follows:

That Staff prepare a report to review potential increases in the Milford, Lantz and Enfield fire levy of 2 cents re: the 26/27 fiscal period, the additional revenue that will be generated and the impact on the tax burden for residents and business.

Tattrie

The Director of Finance continued the presentation on Slide 44 and completed the presentation on Slide 50.

Staff addressed questions from Committee members regarding policing costs, fire fighter insurance, education costs, general tax rate, uniform assessments, the inability to compare the general tax rate from one municipality to another as there are variable factors, and RCMP shared costs.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP FUND 2026/2027

The Community Development Coordinator presented the Staff report titled "Community Partnership Fund 2026/2027" dated January 8, 2026. A copy of the report and supporting documentation were attached to the agenda and available to all Committee members.

CRS26(14)
February

On the motion of Councillors Perry and Merriam:

Moved that the Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommends to Council that Council approve the list of recommended Community Partnership Fund Organizations to be included in the draft 2026/2027 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, \$40,000*
- *East Hants Historical Society, \$20,000*
- *East Hants Sports Heritage Society *Based on operational expenses, up to \$5,000*

- **East Hants Youth Links, \$8,000**
- **Kids Action (Annapolis Valley-Hants Community Action Program), \$20,000**

Staff addressed questions from Committee members.

MOTION CARRIED

GENERAL GOVERNMENT GRANTS 2026/2027

The Community Development Coordinator presented the Staff report titled “General Government Grants 2026/2027” dated January 5, 2026. A copy of the report was attached to the agenda and available to all Committee members.

Discussion was held and staff addressed questions from Committee members.

CRS26(15)
February

On the motion of Councillors Mitchell and Dixon:

Moved (later amended) that the Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommends to Council that pending appropriate documentation is received, and the passing of the 2026/2027 budget, Council approve the following General Government Grants for disbursement in 2026/2027:

Remember Canada’s Heroes	\$1,000
Hants County Exhibition	\$500
Dr. Snow Bursaries	\$3,000
East Hants Foodbanks/Christmas Programs	\$14,000
COAT Association	\$2,000
Cst. Heidi Stevenson Memorial Golf Tournament, RCMP	\$1,000
4H Sponsorship	\$200
Recycle Your Cycle (Rotary Club)	\$500
Safe Grad Activities (facility fees up to a max of)	\$7,000
EH Farmers Market (Facility fees up to a max of)	\$4,000

Discussion was held regarding increasing the Dr. Snow Bursary amount.

CRS26(16)
February

On the motion of Warden Roulston and Councillor Perry:

Moved to amend Motion CRS26(15) to increase the Dr. Snow Bursary amount to \$7,500; \$2,500 per school.

Discussion continued.

AMENDMENT CARRIED

Seven (7) voting in favor; four (4) voting against with Councillors Garden-Cole, Hebb, Rhyno and Mitchell voting nay.

AMENDED MOTION CARRIED

Nine (9) voting in favor; two (2) voting against with Councillors Garden-Cole and Rhyno voting nay.

For further clarification, Motion CRS26(15) is as follows:

That the Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommends to Council that pending appropriate documentation is received, and the passing of the 2026/2027 budget, Council approve the following General Government Grants for disbursement in 2026/2027:

Remember Canada's Heroes	\$1,000
Hants County Exhibition	\$500
Dr. Snow Bursaries	\$7,500
East Hants Foodbanks/Christmas Programs	\$14,000
COAT Association	\$2,000
Cst. Heidi Stevenson Memorial Golf Tournament, RCMP	\$1,000
4H Sponsorship	\$200
Recycle Your Cycle (Rotary Club)	\$500
Safe Grad Activities (facility fees up to a max of)	\$7,000
EH Farmers Market (Facility fees up to a max of)	\$4,000

REVIEW OF DRAFT 2026/2027 BUSINESS PLANS

The Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) began the presentation titled "Business Plans" (starting at Slide 51). A copy of the presentation and the "Operational Business Plans 2026/2027" document dated February 5, 2026 were both attached to the agenda and available to all Committee members.

The CAO reviewed Slide 53 (Council budget) and Slides 54-56 (Significant Initiatives Proposed for 2026/2027).

Due to time constraints, the presentation concluded and will resume at the next meeting on Tuesday, February 10th on Slide 56.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned with unanimous consent at 9:03 pm.

Approved by: Wade Tattrie, Director of Finance
Date: February 6, 2026

Approved by: Adam Clarkson, Director of Corporate Services
Date: February 6, 2026

/sm



Budget Meeting

January 29, 2026

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

Warden Roulston as acting Chairperson of the Corporate & Residential Services Committee, called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and recited the historical acknowledgement with all members of Council present, with the exception of Councillor MacPhee who arrived at 7:05 p.m. and Councillor Garden-Cole who arrived at 7:28 p.m. Councillor Garden-Cole assumed the Chair on her arrival.

Staff Present:

- Ms. Kim Ramsay, Chief Administrative Officer
- Ms. Wade Tattrie, Director of Finance
- Mr. Jordan Baltzer, Manager of Finance
- Ms. Breeanna Allum, Accountant & 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. Juliann Cashen, Communications Officer
- Mr. Tom Gignac, Manager of Information Services
- Ms. Sheralee MacEwan, Assistant Municipal Clerk
- Ms. Erin MacIsaac, Legislative & HR Administrator

Guests:

- Paul Beazley, Municipal Account Manager (PVSC)
- Dion Regular, Assistant Director Operations (PVSC)

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

CRS26(08)
January

The agenda was approved with unanimous consent.

PRESENTATION - PVSC

Mr. Paul Beazley, PVSC Municipal Account Manager and Mr. Dion Regular, PVSC Assistant Director Operations presented the “PVSC 2026 Assessment Roll Presentation” dated January 29, 2026. 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 assumed the Chair during the presentation at 7:28 p.m.

Councillor Garden-Cole thanked the presenters.

REVIEW OF DRAFT 2026/2027 OPERATING BUDGET

The Director of Finance and Manager of Finance made a presentation titled “2026/2027 Budgets” dated January 29, 2026. A copy of the presentation was attached to the agenda and available to Committee members. The CAO assisted with the presentation and clarified some of the presentation material.

The Director of Finance presented the planned schedule for budget meetings from January 29 - February 24th, noting more meetings could be scheduled if needed.

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 23 and will resume at the February 5th, 2026 Budget meeting.

CRS26(09) On the motion of Councillors Mitchell and Merriam:
January

Moved that the Corporate & Residential Services Committee adjourn at 9:01 p.m. and reconvene at the next Budget Meeting on February 5th, 2026.

MOTION CARRIED

Approved by: Wade Tattrie, Director of Finance
Date: February 2, 2026

Approved by: Adam Clarkson, Director of Corporate Services
Date: February 2, 2026

/sm