



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

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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)
January On the motion of Councillors Mitchell and Merriam:

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

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