



**AUDIT AND FINANCE STANDING COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
March 23, 2023**

PRESENT: Councillor Paul Russell, Chair  
Councillor Cathy Deagle Gammon, Vice Chair  
Councillor David Hendsbee  
Councillor Shawn Cleary  
Councillor Iona Stoddard  
Councillor Pam Lovelace  
Mayor Mike Savage, Ex Officio

STAFF: Cathie O'Toole, Chief Administrative Officer  
Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance and Asset Management/Chief Financial Officer  
John Traves, K.C., CD, Executive Director of Legal & Legislative Services/Municipal  
Solicitor/Chief Governance Officer  
Evangeline Colman-Sadd, Auditor General, Halifax Regional Municipality  
Annie Sherry, Legislative Assistant

*The following does not represent a verbatim record of the proceedings of this meeting.*

*The agenda, reports, supporting documents, information items circulated, and video (if available) are  
online at [halifax.ca](http://halifax.ca).*

*The meeting was called to order at 2:22 p.m. and moved into an In Camera (In Private) session at 2:55 p.m. The Standing Committee reconvened at 3:49 p.m. and adjourned at 3:50 p.m.*

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:22 p.m. and acknowledged that the meeting took place in the traditional and ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq people, and that we are all treaty people.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 23, 2023**

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Cleary

**THAT the minutes of February 23, 2023 be approved as circulated.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS**

Additions: None

Deletions: None

As provided for in section 37 (1) of Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, Councillor Deagle Gammon requested that Item 17 – Public Participation be considered prior to Item 12 – Reports.

MOVED by Councillor Deagle Gammon, seconded by Councillor Lovelace

**THAT the agenda be approved as amended.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES – NONE**

**5. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS – NONE**

**6. MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION – NONE**

**7. MOTIONS OF RESCISSION – NONE**

**8. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE**

**9. NOTICES OF TABLED MATTERS – NONE**

**10. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS**

**10.1 Correspondence – None**

**10.2 Petitions – None**

**10.3 Presentation – None**

**11. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE**

**12. REPORTS**

**12.1 AUDITOR GENERAL**

**12.1.1 Halifax Water: SCADA System Audit**

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Auditor General report dated March 20, 2023
- Presentation dated March 23, 2023

Evangeline Colman-Sadd, Auditor General, Halifax Regional Municipality, and Leanne Burnett, Audit Manager, gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee regarding the scope of the audit, utility of the SCADA system, and concerns that led to the recommendations outlined in the report.

**13. MOTIONS – NONE**

**14. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE)**

MOVED by Councillor Deagle Gammon, seconded by Councillor Lovelace

**THAT the Audit and Finance Standing Committee convene to In Camera (In Private) session to discuss Item 14.1 – Personnel Item.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**14.1 PERSONNEL MATTER – Private and Confidential Report**

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Private and confidential report dated March 20, 2023
- Private and confidential report dated March 23, 2023

This matter was dealt with In Camera (In Private).

**15. ADDED ITEMS – NONE**

**16. NOTICES OF MOTION – NONE**

**17. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**Colin May, Dartmouth**, spoke to concerns with public access to details associated with materiality within the municipal audit and noted a transparency issue with pensions and special payments being listed on a different website than the website where the results of the municipal audit are housed. May responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee and suggested including a disclosure statement within the municipal audit regarding special payments.

Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance and Asset Management/Chief Financial Officer responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee regarding the scope of special payments and noted that staff would explore the inclusion of a statement of disclosure into the year-end statement.

John Traves, K.C., CD, Executive Director of Legal & Legislative Services/Municipal Solicitor/ Chief Governance Officer responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee.

**18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – April 19, 2023**

**19. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Annie Sherry  
Legislative Assistant