



**AUDIT AND FINANCE STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
June 21, 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: Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance and Asset
Management/Chief Financial Officer
Chris Giddens, Solicitor
Annie Sherry, Legislative Assistant
Dorothy Maponga, Legislative Assistant

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

The agenda, reports, supporting documents, and information items circulated are online at halifax.ca.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. The Standing Committee moved into an In Camera (In Private) session at 11:04 a.m. and reconvened at 11:41 a.m. The Standing Committee adjourned at 11:43 a.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.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 – May 17, 2023

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Stoddard

THAT the minutes of May 17, 2023 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions:

- Item 14.1 – In Camera (In Private) - Personnel Matter

Deletions: None

As provided for in section 12 (5) of Administrative Order One, Councillor Deagle Gammon requested that item 17 Public Participation be considered prior to item 8.

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee

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 – May 17, 2023

8.1 Auditor General – 2022-23 Annual Report and 2023-24 Audit Priorities

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Auditor General report dated May 17, 2023
- Presentation dated June 21, 2023

Evangeline Coleman-Sadd, Auditor General gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee.

8.2 Councillor Cleary – CAO Contract Amendment Report

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Staff report dated April 12, 2023

Jane Pryor, Director Procurement and Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance and Asset Management/Chief Financial Officer responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee.

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 – NONE

12.2 STAFF

12.2.1 Investment Activities – Quarter Ending March 31, 2023

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Staff report dated June 15, 2023

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Deagle Gammon

THAT the Audit and Finance Standing Committee forward the staff report dated June 5, 2023 to Regional Council as an Information Item.

Vicki Robertson, Deputy Treasurer responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.2.2 Fire Station and Volunteer Firefighter Paging System Upgrades

The following was before the Committee:

- Staff report dated June 14, 2023

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Deagle Gammon

THAT the Audit and Finance Standing Committee recommend that Regional Council:

- 1. Approve a budget increase to Project Account No. CI210020 – HRFE Power & Backhaul Upgrades in the amount of \$52,585 (net HST included) to fund upgrades to six paging transmission tower sites outlined in the staff report dated June 14, 2023;**
- 2. Approve an unbudgeted withdrawal in the amount of \$52,585 (net HST included) from the Capital Fund Reserve, Q526 to fund this budget increase; and**
- 3. Authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to negotiate and enter into an amending agreement with Bell Mobility Inc. for \$52,585 (net HST included) to complete upgrades to six paging transmission tower sites outlined in the staff report dated June 14, 2023.**

Deputy Chief Dave Meldrum, Performance and Safety responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.2.3 Increase to Halifax Commons Pool Reconstruction

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Staff report dated June 15, 2023

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Stoddard

THAT the Audit and Finance Standing Committee recommend that Regional Council:

- 1. Approve a transfer of \$2,000,000 (net HST included) from CI200002 Finance & HR Business Foundations; and**
- 2. Increase Capital Project Number CB210020 – Halifax Common Pool Reconstruction by \$2,000,000 (net HST included).**

Philip Dugandzic, Director, Corporate Facility Design and Construction, and Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance and Asset Management/Chief Financial Officer responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee. Blackwood highlighted that the \$2,000,000 funding to complete the pool would be taken from the Finance and HR Business Foundations program which currently had the funding capacity to support the reconstruction.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.2.4 Award - 23-057 Supply and Delivery of Driver Protection System (DPS)

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Staff report dated June 13, 2023

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Lovelace

THAT Audit and Finance Standing Committee recommend that Regional Council:

- 1. Approve a transfer of \$1,021,683 (net HST included) from Project Account No. CM200006 Conventional Bus Replacement;**
- 2. Approve a budget increase of \$1,021,683 (net HST included) to Project Account No. CV230001 Operator Safety Barriers;**

Gagan Jaggi, Acting Director, Fleet Transit, and Philip Herritt, Director, Transit Operations responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.3 GRANTS COMMITTEE – NONE

12.4 MEMBERS OF STANDING COMMITTEE – NONE

13. MOTIONS – NONE

14. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE)

MOVED by Councillor Deagle Gammon, seconded by Mayor Savage

THAT the Audit and Finance Standing Committee convene to In Camera (In Private) to discuss Item 14.1 – PERSONNEL MATTER.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

14.1 PERSONNEL MATTER – Private and Confidential

This matter was dealt with In Camera (In Private) and ratified in public as follows:

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee

THAT the Audit and Finance Standing Committee adopt the direction provided In Camera (In Private).

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

15. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

16. NOTICES OF MOTION – NONE

17. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – NONE

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – July 19, 2023

19. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:43 a.m.

Dorothy Maponga
Legislative Assistant