



**AUDIT AND FINANCE STANDING COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
September 20, 2023**

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

**REGRETS:** Councillor Shawn Cleary  
Councillor Pam Lovelace

**STAFF:** 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  
Dorothy Maponga, Legislative Assistant  
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 10:06 a.m. The Standing Committee moved into an In Camera (In Private) session at 11:08 a.m. and reconvened at 11:26 a.m. The Standing Committee adjourned at 11:29 a.m.*

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

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:06 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 – August 16, 2023**

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Deagle Gammon

**THAT the minutes of August 16, 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

MOVED by Councillor Deagle Gammon, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee

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

**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. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**Matt Stickland, President of the Legal Road Users Bicycle Club** spoke as about concerns with the Municipality being fiscally unprepared to deal with the impacts of climate change, and the impacts of low-density patterns of development and an automotive monopoly on transportation on the annual capital budget. Stickland cited a Harvard University study on the costs of automotive infrastructure in Massachusetts and noted the high cost of the transportation economy on taxpayers. Stickland asked that the Committee ask Finance and Asset Management staff to find out the true cost of the transportation monopoly on taxpayers, to explore budget alternatives that fully account for the cost of automotive infrastructure, and ways that the Municipality can start to make up that debt.

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

## **13. REPORTS**

### **13.1 AUDITOR GENERAL – NONE**

### **13.2 STAFF**

#### **13.2.1 First Quarter 2023/24 Financial Report**

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Staff report dated August 18, 2023
- Staff presentation dated September 20, 2023

Tiffany Smith, Manager, Service Delivery gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee.

MOVED by Mayor Savage, seconded by Councillor Deagle Gammon

**THAT the Audit & Finance Standing Committee forward the First Quarter 2023/24 Financial Report to Regional Council for their information.**

Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance and Asset Management/Chief Financial Officer, and Dave Harley, Director, Accounting & Financial Reporting responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

#### **13.2.2 Risk and Resiliency Reserve Withdrawals & Emergency Funding**

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Staff report dated September 11, 2023

MOVED by Councillor Deagle Gammon, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee

**THAT the Audit & Finance Standing Committee recommends that Regional Council:**

- 1. Approve a transfer of \$15,000,000 from the Capital Funds Reserve, Q526 into the Risk and Resiliency Reserve, Q416;**
- 2. Approve an unbudgeted withdrawal of up to \$25,000,000 from the Risk and Resiliency Reserve, Q416;**
- 3. Approve the full, remaining balance of the Risk and Resiliency Reserve, Q416, (after the withdrawal of the \$25,000,000 as set forth in Recommendation 2 of the staff report dated September 11, 2023) be used toward unbudgeted costs for remediation and replacement expenditures related to emergency and disaster events which are more fully described in this report; and,**
- 4. Direct that any funding that is received from other external sources, such as provincial or federal government relief programs, be reallocated to the Risk and Resiliency Reserve, Q416.**

Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance and Asset Management/Chief Financial Officer responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee and noted that staff would return with an information report detailing the financial impacts of Hurricane Dorian recovery, and further information on the lack of a disaster relief claim submission to the provincial government at the time.

Cathie O'Toole, Chief Administrative Officer, and 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.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**13.2.3 Former Herring Cove Treatment Plant Community Integration Fund – Proposed Upgrade to William King Elementary School Park Playground**

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Staff report dated August 23, 2023

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Deagle Gammon

**THAT the Audit and Finance Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council approve the transfer of \$55,000 from Options Reserve Q421 to Capital Account CP200001 – Park Recapitalization for the purpose of capital upgrades to the William King Elementary School Park playground.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**13.3 GRANTS COMMITTEE – NONE**

**13.4 MEMBERS OF STANDING COMMITTEE – NONE**

**14. MOTIONS – NONE**

**15. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE)**

**15.1 In Camera (In Private) Minutes – August 16, 2023**

This matter was dealt with in public.

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Mayor Savage

**THAT the In Camera (In Private) minutes of August 16, 2023 be approved as circulated.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

MOVED by Mayor Savage, seconded by Councillor Deagle Gammon

**THAT the Audit & Finance Standing Committee convene to In Camera (In Private) to discuss Item 15.2 PERSONNEL MATTER and Item 15.3 PROPERTY MATTER.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**15.2 PERSONNEL MATTER - Private and Confidential Report**

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

The following was before Standing Committee:

- Private and confidential staff report dated September 6, 2023

MOVED by Councillor Deagle Gammon, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee

**THAT the Audit & Finance Standing Committee:**

1. **Adopt the recommendations as outlined in the private and confidential report dated September 6, 2023; and**
2. **Direct that the private and confidential report dated September 6, 2023 be maintained private and confidential.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**15.3 PROPERTY MATTER - Private and Confidential Report**

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

The following was before Standing Committee:

- Private and confidential staff report dated June 1, 2023

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Stoddard

**THAT the Audit & Finance Standing Committee:**

1. **Adopt the recommendations as outlined in the private and confidential report dated June 1, 2023; and**
2. **Direct that the private and confidential report dated June 1, 2023 be maintained private and confidential.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**16. ADDED ITEMS – NONE**

**17. NOTICES OF MOTION – NONE**

**18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – October 18, 2023**

**19. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 11:29 a.m.

Annie Sherry  
Legislative Assistant