



**AUDIT & FINANCE STANDING COMMITTEE  
SPECIAL MEETING  
MINUTES  
January 19, 2021**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Russell, Chair  
Councillor Deagle Gammon, Vice-Chair  
Councillor Hendsbee  
Councillor Purdy  
Councillor Cleary  
Councillor Morse  
Mayor Mike Savage

**STAFF:** John Traves, Municipal Solicitor  
Jane Fraser, Chief Financial Officer  
Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer  
Peter Duncan, Manager, Infrastructure Asset Management  
Vicki Robertson, Deputy Treasurer  
Simon Ross-Siegel, 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, and information items circulated are online at [halifax.ca](http://halifax.ca).*

*The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m., and adjourned at 11:01 a.m.*

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:03 am.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 25, 2020**

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee

**THAT the minutes of the November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020 meeting be approved as circulated.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Deagle Gammon

**THAT the order of business be approved as presented.**

Two-third majority vote required.

**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**

**10.2 Petitions**

**10.3 Presentations**

**10.3.1 Art Gallery of Nova Scotia Halifax Waterfront Arts District – Nancy Noble, Director and CEO of the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia**

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A presentation titled The Future of the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia

Nancy Noble, the Director and CEO of the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, gave a presentation on the new home of the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia. Highlights of the presentation included:

- The design of the future gallery and projected timelines
- The budget for the project and a breakdown of current investments and donations
- An overview of the Art Gallery's Capital Campaign
- How the project aligns with Council priorities
- A request for an investment from the Halifax Regional Municipality of \$7 million over 5 years, or \$1.4 million per year

Nancy Noble responded to questions from members of the Standing Committee on issues including space needs for contemporary collections, opportunities to partner with local organizations, concerns regarding the waterfront location and sea level rise, the anticipated start of construction, and the impact of municipal participation and contributions to the project.

Responding to questions from members of the Standing Committee regarding future operating costs, Jane Fraser, Chief Financial Officer and Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer, provided further details regarding leasable municipal assets.

MOVED by Mayor Savage, seconded Councillor Cleary

**THAT the Audit & Finance Standing Committee request a staff report regarding the request and to refer the matter to Committee of the Whole on Budget for consideration in the 2021/22 budget process as a parking lot item.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

### **12. REPORTS**

#### **12.1 AUDITOR GENERAL – NONE**

#### **12.2 STAFF**

##### **12.2.1 Investment Activities**

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated March 2, 2020 titled, “Investment Activities – Quarter ending December 31, 2019”
- A staff recommendation report dated December 7, 2020 titled, “Investment Activities – Quarter ending March 31, 2020”
- A staff recommendation report dated December 7, 2020 titled, “Investment Activities – Quarters ending June 30 and September 30, 2020”

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Deagle Gammon

**THAT Audit and Finance Standing Committee forward the investment activities reports for quarters ending in December 31, 2019, March 31, June 30 and September 30, 2020 to Halifax Regional Council as an information item.**

Responding to a question from Councillor Cleary, Vicki Robertson, Deputy Treasurer, outlined that although the Municipality’s investments may be considered conservative, the Municipality’s investments are seeing high returns.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

##### **12.2.2 Cathedral Lane Sewer Separation**

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020

MOVED by Mayor Savage, seconded by Councillor Cleary

**THAT Audit and Finance Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council:**

- 1. Authorize a budget increase of \$375,000 to Capital Project No. CT200009 – Wastewater Oversizing; and**
- 2. Authorize an unbudgeted reserve withdrawal of \$375,000 from Q421 – General Contingency**

**Reserve.**

Standing Committee discussed the potential for costs in construction to increase at large due to COVID-19, and Peter Duncan, Manager, Infrastructure Asset Management confirmed that staff considered these factors in drafting staff's recommendation. Peter Duncan also responded to a question regarding the potential use of local improvement charges for the College Street build under the Rapid Housing Initiative.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

- 12.3 GRANTS COMMITTEE – NONE**
- 12.4 COMMITTEE MEMBERS – NONE**
- 13. MOTIONS – NONE**

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

**14.1 Approval of the In Camera (In Private) Minutes – November 25, 2020**

This item was discussing in public session.

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Mayor Savage

**THAT the In Camera (In Private) minutes of November 25, 2020 be approved as circulated.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

- 15. ADDED ITEMS - NONE**
- 16. NOTICES OF MOTION – NONE**
- 17. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – NONE**

**18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – February 11, 2021**

**19. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 11:01 am.

Annie Sherry  
Legislative Assistant