



**AUDIT AND FINANCE STANDING COMMITTEE  
DRAFT MINUTES  
October 20, 2021**

PRESENT: Councillor Russell, Chair  
Councillor Deagle Gammon, Vice Chair  
Councillor Hendsbee  
Councillor Purdy  
Councillor Morse  
Councillor Cleary

REGRETS: Mayor Savage

STAFF: Jerry Blackwood, Chief Financial Officer  
Karen Brown, Senior Solicitor  
Annie Sherry, Legislative Assistant  
Simon Ross-Siegel, Legislative Assistant

*These minutes are considered draft and will require approval by the Audit and Finance Standing Committee at a future meeting.*

*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 10:01 a.m. and adjourned at 11:30 a.m.*

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 15, 2021**

MOVED by Councillor Deagle Gammon, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee

**THAT the minutes of September 15, 2021 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 Purdy, seconded by Councillor Morse

**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 Presentations – None**

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

**12. REPORTS**

**12.1 AUDITOR GENERAL – NONE**

**12.2 STAFF**

**12.2.1 Investment Activities – Quarter ending June 30, 2021**

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Staff recommendation report dated September 13, 2021

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Deagle Gammon

**THAT the Audit and Finance Standing Committee forward this report to Halifax Regional Council as an information item.**

Renée Towns, Director of Revenue, Treasurer, responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**12.2.2 Award – NRFP 21-164 – Halifax Commons Aquatic Project**

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Staff recommendation report dated October 1, 2021

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Morse

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

- 1. Approve an unbudgeted withdrawal in the amount of \$1,538,135 (net HST included), from the General Contingency Reserve, Q421; and**
- 2. Increase 2021/22 Capital Project Number CB210020 – Halifax Common Pool Reconstruction by \$1,538,135 (net HST Included); and**
- 3. Award NRFP 21-164 – Halifax Commons Aquatic Project, to the highest scoring proponent meeting specifications, Marco Construction Limited, at a cost of \$18,134,293 (net HST included) with funding from Project Account No. CB210020 – Halifax Common Pool Reconstruction and Project Account No. CB190008 – Energy Efficiency Initiatives, as outlined in the Financial section of this report.**

Denise Schofield, Executive Director, Parks & Recreation, responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee and confirmed that the Business Unit would work with the Municipal Clerk's Office to redistribute sketches of the initial proposal for Regional Council.

Darren Young, Acting Director of Facility Design and Construction, responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee regarding alterations to the initial design, soil contamination, and greenspace.

Councillor Russell stepped down from the Chair and Councillor Deagle Gammon assumed the Chair.

Jerry Blackwood, Chief Financial Officer, responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee.

Councillor Russell resumed the Chair.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**12.2.3 Fire Station and Volunteer Firefighter Paging System Upgrades**

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Staff recommendation report dated September 1, 2021

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Deagle Gammon

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

- 1. Approve an unbudgeted withdrawal in the amount of \$559,374 from the Fleet Vehicle & Equipment Reserve, Q531 in the current fiscal year**

- 2. Approve a budget increase of \$559,374 to capital project BT31 HRFE Power & Backhaul Upgrades.**
- 3. Award Alternative Procurement # 21-1168 for the HRFE Pager System upgrade to Bell Mobility Radio for \$559,374 (net HST included) plus operating costs, with the option to extend beyond the initial five (5) year term subject to operational requirements as outlined in the Financial Implications section of this report subject to terms and conditions that are acceptable to the Municipality.**

David Meldrum, Deputy Chief, and Ken Stuebing, Executive Director and Fire Chief, responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee regarding timelines for end of service life, risk considerations, and highlighted that this infrastructure will be co-owned with Bell Mobility. Chief Stuebing stated that additional details pertaining to the operational budget line would be provided for Regional Council.

Paul Shaffelburg, Manager, GIS, responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee regarding capital budgeting cycles and the technical infrastructure required for these upgrades.

Jerry Blackwood, Chief Financial Officer, responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Not Present: Councillor Cleary

**12.3 GRANTS COMMITTEE – NONE**

**12.4 COMMITTEE MEMBERS - NONE**

**13. MOTIONS – NONE**

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

**14.1 In Camera (In Private) Minutes – September 15, 2021**

MOVED by Councillor Deagle Gammon, seconded by Councillor Morse

**THAT the In Camera (In Private) minutes of September 15, 2021 be approved as circulated.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Not Present: Councillor Cleary

**15. ADDED ITEMS – NONE**

**16. NOTICES OF MOTION – NONE**

**17. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - NONE**

**18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – November 17, 2021**

**19. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Annie Sherry  
Legislative Assistant

DRAFT