



**AUDIT AND FINANCE STANDING COMMITTEE
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

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.

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