



**AUDIT AND FINANCE STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
April 20, 2022**

PRESENT: Councillor Paul Russell, Chair
Councillor Cathy Deagle Gammon, Vice Chair
Councillor David Hendsbee
Councillor Trish Purdy
Councillor Shawn Cleary
Councillor Kathryn Morse
Mayor Mike Savage, Ex-Officio

STAFF: Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance and Asset Management/
Chief Financial Officer
John Traves, Municipal Solicitor
Evangeline Colman-Sadd, Auditor General, Halifax Regional Municipality
Krista Vining, Acting Deputy Clerk
Eric Bowdridge, 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 10:03 a.m. and adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:03 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 – March 9, 2022

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Deagle Gammon

THAT the minutes of March 9, 2022 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 Cleary

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. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

12. REPORTS

12.1 AUDITOR GENERAL

12.1.1 Follow Up Review of 2019-20 Audits

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Recommendation report April 12, 2022
- Presentation dated April 20, 2022

Evangeline Coleman-Sadd, Auditor General gave a presentation on the Follow Up Review of the 2019-20 Audits and responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee.

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

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Deagle Gammon

THAT Audit and Finance Standing Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to provide a staff report on developing:

- 1. A comprehensive risk assessment process for planning significant capital projects; and**
- 2. Policy related to significant capital project files.**

Crystal Nowlan, Director, Asset Management responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee regarding large capital project planning and departmental documentation.

Evangeline Coleman-Sadd, Auditor General responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee regarding documentation expectations.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.2 STAFF

12.2.1 Humanitarian Relief Efforts for Ukraine

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Staff recommendation report dated April 4, 2022

MOVED by Mayor Savage, seconded by Councillor Morse

THAT the Audit and Finance Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council provide a \$50,000 grant from the Options Reserve (Q421) to the Canada-Ukraine Foundation to support humanitarian relief efforts for Ukraine as a result of the invasion by Russia.

Conor O’Dea, Director, Building & Compliance responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.2.2 Investment Activities – Quarter Ending December 31, 2021

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Staff recommendation report dated March 7, 2022

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Purdy

THAT the Audit and Finance Standing Committee forward the staff information report dated March 7, 2022 to Halifax Regional Council as an information item.

Aaron Khan, Deputy Treasurer responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.2.3 Amendments to Administrative Order-2014-015-ADM-Respecting Reserve Funding Strategies

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Staff recommendation report dated March 9, 2022

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Gammon

THAT that the Audit & Finance Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council adopt the amendments to Administrative Order 2014-015-ADM, the Financial Reserves Administrative Order, as set out in Attachment 2 of the staff report dated March 9, 2022.

Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance and Asset Management/Chief Financial Officer responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee regarding the emergency measures, municipal reserves, and the proposed removal of language from the Administrative Order.

John Traves, Municipal Solicitor responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee.

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

Councillor Russell resumed the Chair.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.2.4 Increase to Project No. CB000042 – Woodside Ferry Terminal Upgrade

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Staff recommendation report dated March 1, 2022

John W. MacPherson, Executive Director, Executive Management Team responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Deagle Gammon, seconded by Councillor Morse

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

1. **Approve a transfer of \$350,000 (net HST included) from the Capital Fund Reserve Account Q526; and**
2. **Approve an increase in multi-year funding for Project No. CB000042 Woodside Ferry Terminal Upgrade by \$350,000 (net HST included), in fiscal year 2022/23, as outlined in the Financial Implications section of the staff report dated March 1, 2022.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.3 MEMBERS OF STANDING COMMITTEE – NONE

13. MOTIONS – NONE

14. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE) – NONE

15. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

16. NOTICES OF MOTION – NONE

17. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chair noted there were no registered speakers.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – May 18, 2022

19. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Eric Bowdridge
Legislative Assistant