



**AUDIT & FINANCE STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
February 12, 2016**

PRESENT: Councillor Bill Karsten, Vice-Chair
Councillor Barry Dalrymple
Councillor Gloria McCluskey
Councillor Reg Rankin
Councillor Steve Craig
Mayor Mike Savage

REGRETS: Councillor Linda Mosher, Chair

STAFF: Ms. Amanda Whitewood, Chief Financial Officer
Ms. Karen Brown, Acting Municipal Solicitor
Mr. John Traves, Acting Chief Administrative Officer
Mr. Liam MacSween, Legislative Assistant

The following does not represent a verbatim record of the proceedings of this meeting.

The agenda, supporting documents, and information items circulated to the Standing Committee are available online: <http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/SCfinance/160212afsc-agenda.php>.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m., and adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Councillor Karsten, Vice-Chair called the meeting to order in Council Chambers, 3rd Floor City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 15, 2016

MOVED by Councillor McCluskey, seconded by Councillor Dalrymple

THAT the minutes of January 15, 2016 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions: None

Councillor Karsten, Vice-Chair suggested that Item No. 12.2.1 - T.I.P.S. Hotline (Taking Improvement and Performance Seriously) 2015 Annual Report be moved to the first item on the agenda.

MOVED by Councillor McCluskey, seconded by Councillor Dalrymple

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

Two-third majority vote required.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

5. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

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 – NONE

11. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

12.2.1 T.I.P.S. Hotline (Taking Improvement and Performance Seriously) 2015 Annual Report

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A report and presentation from the Office of the Auditor General dated December 2015

Mr. Larry Munroe, Auditor General provided a presentation with respect to the TIPs Hotline 2015 Annual Report.

Councillor Karsten thanked Mr. Munroe for his presentation and requested questions of clarification from members of the Audit & Finance Standing Committee.

In response to a comment Councillor McCluskey, Mr. Munroe advised that the Office of the Auditor General is satisfied with the response from the public in relation to the TIPS hotline.

Mr. Munroe concluded his presentation by thanking his staff for their involvement in preparing the report and presentation.

12. REPORTS

12.1 STAFF

12.1.1 Integrated Mobility Plan

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- *A report from the Transportation Standing Committee dated January 22, 2016*

MOVED by Councillor McCluskey, seconded by Mayor Savage

THAT the Audit & Finance Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council approve an increase to the 2015/16 operating budget, to reflect the approval to undertake the Integrated Mobility Plan, as directed by Council, with funding from the Strategic Studies Reserve, Q330, as described in the Financial Implications section of the attached report dated January 5, 2016..

In response to a follow up question from Councillor Craig, Mr. Bob Bjerke, Director of Planning & Development advised that all internal staff resources which will be utilized as part of the Integrated Mobility Plan are included within the Planning and Development Business Unit Budget.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.1.2 Tax Relief for Non-Profit Organizations: Proposed Renewal of Tax Relief for Leases Removed from Administrative Order Schedules

The following was before the Standing Committee

- *A staff recommendation report dated January 27, 2016*

MOVED by Councillor Dalrymple, seconded by Councillor Craig

THAT the Audit & Finance Standing Committee recommend that Regional Council approve a grant for the nine (9) organizations/ten (10) properties listed in Attachment 1 of the staff report dated January 27, 2016 for fiscal year 2015-16, effective April 1, 2015, unless stated otherwise, at an estimated combined cost of \$129,766 from Account M311-8006.

In response to a question from Councillor Craig, Ms. Peta-Jane Temple, Team Lead, Grants and Contributions advised that the groups received funding in the previous year through a valuation allowance, which was intended as an interim measure. She advised that staff have determined that this measure was not acceptable to use for a second time.

In response to a follow up question from Councillor McCluskey, Ms. Temple advised that all the groups noted in the staff report have been advised of the proposed granting framework.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.1.3 Budget Increase CBU01004 Former CA Beckett School Remediation

The following was before Standing Committee:

- *A staff report dated January 11, 2016*

MOVED by Councillor McCluskey, seconded by Councillor Craig

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

- 1. Increase Project No. CBUOIOO4 — Former CA Beckett School — Soil Remediation by \$135,000.00 (net HST included) with cost sharing \$121,500.00 from Halifax Regional School Board (HRSB) and \$13,500.00 from CAPPOOL as outlined in the Financial Implications section of the staff report dated January 11, 2016.**
- 2. Increase Po No. 2070720498 to Vector Demolition, by \$130,000.00 (net HST included) with cost sharing \$117,000.00 from Halifax Regional School Board (HRSB) and \$13,000.00 (10%, net HST included) HRM's cost-shared portion.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.1.4 Third Quarter 2015/16 Financial Report

The following was before the Standing committee:

- *A staff recommendation report dated February 4, 2016*
- *A staff presentation dated February 12, 2016.*

Mr. Louis De Montbrun, Manager of Financial Reporting provided a presentation with respect to the Third Quarter 2015/16 Financial Report.

MOVED by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Craig

THAT the Audit & Finance Standing Committee forward the staff report dated February 4, 2016 to Halifax Regional Council as an information item.

In response to a question from Councillor McCluskey, Mr. Louis De Montbrun advised that a staff report pertaining to Capital Cost Contributions for the Mount Hope Connector project is forthcoming.

In response to a follow up question from Councillor McCluskey, Mr. Jerry Blackwood, Manager of Revenue advised that staff pursues assessment appeals for accounts where an appeal is warranted. He further advised that currently, there are active appeal accounts which staff is managing.

In response to a question from Councillor Craig, Mr. De Montbrun advised that the amount that HRM pays to the RCMP for provincial policing services is based on assumptions of what the costs to provide the service will be as the budget is prepared. He advised that funding including contingencies for any increased costs is set aside in fiscal services.

In response to a follow up question from Councillor Craig, Ms. Amanda Whitewood, Chief Financial Officer advised that the cost for RCMP services is managed as staff prepares the budget for approval. She noted that a budget presentation for the RCMP is typically not brought forward in a separate presentation but is outlined in the final budget report which is presented to Council.

In response to a question from Councillor Rankin, Mr. De Montbrun advised that page 16 of attachment two – note eleven of the staff report dated February 4, 2016, provides a summary of the liabilities related to Solid Waste Management Facilities in HRM.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.2 OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL

12.2.1 T.I.P.S. Hotline (Taking Improvement and Performance Seriously) 2015 Annual Report

This matter was dealt with earlier in the meeting. Please refer to pages 2-3.

12.3 INVESTMENT POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE – NONE

12.4 GRANT COMMITTEE – NONE

12.5 SPECIAL EVENTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE – NONE

12.6 MEMBERS OF THE AUDIT & FINANCE STANDING COMMITTEE – NONE

13. MOTIONS

14. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE)

14.1 Approval of In Camera Minutes – November 16, 2015

The following motion was passed in public session:

MOVED by Councillor Rankin, seconded Councillor McCluskey

THAT the Audit & Finance Standing Committee approve the In Camera (In Private) minutes of November 16, 2015 as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

14.2 Property Matter

14.2.1 Property Acquisition – 145 Main Street, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia

The following motion was passed in public session:

MOVED by Councillor McCluskey, seconded by Councillor Rankin

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

- 1. Approve an increase to Capital Project CTU00897, Road Corridor Land Acquisition for the purchase of land to be funded from the Sale of Capital Assets Reserve (Sale of Land) Q101, as detailed in the Financial Implications of the January 6, 2016 private and confidential staff report and Table 3; and**
- 2. Authorize the Mayor and Municipal Clerk to execute an Agreement of Purchase for 145 Main Street, PID 191668, located in Dartmouth for future right-of-way requirements, as per the terms and conditions outlined in the private and confidential staff report dated January 6, 2016, Table 1, and the financial implications section of the private and confidential staff report dated January 6, 2016; and**
- 3. Authorize staff to proceed with Alternative No. 4, as shown in Table 2 of the private and confidential staff report dated January 6, 2016, following the conveyance of 145 Main Street, Dartmouth; and**
- 4. It is further recommended that this report not be released to the public until the transaction has closed.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

15. ADDED ITEMS

16. NOTICES OF MOTION – NONE

17. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ms. Elizabeth Campbell, of Dartmouth requested further information with respect to Project Tender T-16-020 advertised on the provincial website respecting bus terminal signage. She commented that she is witnessed new signage being put in place and questioned how work can be completed in this regard without the tender being officially closed.

Councillor Karsten thanked Ms. Campbell for her comments and advised that the information which she had provided will be forwarded to staff for follow up.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – March 11, 2016

19. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

Liam MacSween
Legislative Assistant