



**AUDIT AND FINANCE STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
April 19, 2017**

PRESENT: Councillor Lorelei Nicol, Vice Chair
Councillor Matt Whitman
Councillor Russell Walker
Deputy Mayor Steve Craig
Mayor Michael Savage

REGRETS: Councillor Bill Karsten, Chair
Councillor Stephen Adams

STAFF: John Traves, Municipal Solicitor
Amanda Whitewood, Director of Finance & FICT/CFO
Sheilagh Edmonds, 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 Audit and Finance Standing Committee are available online: <http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/SCfinance/index.php>

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. The Standing Committee moved into an In Camera (In Private) session at 10:34 a.m. and reconvened at 10:42 a.m. The Standing Committee adjourned at 10:43 a.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Councillor Nicoll, Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 8, 2017

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Whitman

THAT the minutes of March 8, 2017 be approved.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions:

15.1 Information Item - Auditor General Annual Report and 2017-18 Audit Priorities

There was general consensus to add the item to the agenda.

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 - NONE

11. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

12. REPORTS

12.1 FINANCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT:

12.1.1 Grant Request – Parking Lot Reconstruction Maritime Conservatory of Performing Arts Society and Maritime Muslim Academy

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A staff report dated March 3, 2017.

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Whitman

That the Audit and Finance Standing Committee recommend Regional Council decline the grant request for \$124, 195.11 towards private parking lot upgrades.

The Committee entered a discussion with staff responding to questions. The following points being noted:

- The parking lot is private property
- There is no right of use of the parking lot by staff; however, there is a right of easement and access in order that Parks and Recreation staff can access the adjacent field.

Committee members expressed both support for the staff recommendation to refuse the request and support for finding some manner in which the Municipality could assist the community group.

Mayor Savage expressed his support for finding a way to assist the group and indicated that he was prepared to put forward a motion to request a staff report on possible alternatives. Councillor Walker expressed support for a staff report and advised that Councillor Mason spoke with him about this matter and suggested there may be a way to assist the group by having the Municipality enter into an agreement, whereby, if the Municipality provided some assistance with the financial request, it could then, in turn, be provided public access and use of the parking lot after hours.

MOVED by Mayor Savage, seconded by Councillor Walker

That the Audit and Finance Standing Committee request a staff provide a report that explores options to assist the Community Group.

Subsequently, following further discussion, it was noted that, ultimately Regional Council makes the final decision on this matter. The Standing Committee felt that, due to time constraints rather than request a staff report at this time, it would be more effective to send the matter to Regional Council as soon as possible, for consideration and debate.

With the agreement of the Committee, **Mayor Savage withdrew his motion.**

The Chair called for the question on the motion.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.2 INVESTMENT REPORTS: NONE

12.3 AUDITOR GENERAL: NONE

12.4 STAFF: NONE

12.5 GRANTS COMMITTEE: NONE

12.6 SPECIAL EVENTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE: NONE

12.7 COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

12.7.1 Councillor Nicoll – Strategic Capital Funding Plan Update

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A 'Request for Audit & Finance Standing Committee Consideration' form submitted by Councillor Nicoll.

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Deputy Mayor Craig

That the Audit and Finance Standing Committee request a staff report outlining an updated strategic capital funding plan for the next four years that aligns with Council's priority areas.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

13. MOTIONS - NONE

14. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE)

14.1 Minutes

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Whitman

That the minutes of March 8, 2017 be approved.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

At this time in the meeting, the Standing Committee dealt with items 15 – 18, and then convened in camera (In private) at 10:34 a.m. to deal with the following item. The Standing Committee reconvened in the public session at 10:42 a.m. to ratify the motion from in camera (in private) as follows.

14.2 Personnel Matter

14.2.1 Citizen Nominations to the Grants Committee

MOVED by Councillor Whitman, seconded by Deputy Mayor Craig

That the Audit and Finance Standing Committee recommend Regional Council approve the nominee to the Grants Committee for a term to November 30, 2017 as recommended in the in camera session held on this date.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

15. ADDED ITEMS

15.1 Information Item - Auditor General Annual Report and 2017-18 Audit Priorities

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Whitman

That the Auditor General Annual Report and 2017-18 Audit Priorities be placed on the regular agenda of the May 17, 2017 meeting and that the Auditor General be requested to provide a presentation.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

16. NOTICES OF MOTION - NONE

17. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Colin May addressed the Standing Committee with concern about capped assessments and, in his view, inequities of the CAP program, citing examples in this regard. He advised that the Municipality through its representative on the Board of Property Valuation Services Corporation should encourage the Board to have the program amended. He also suggested that the Enid Slack report should be implemented and explained to the public.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – May 17, 2017.

19. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:43 a.m.

Sheilagh Edmonds
Legislative Assistant