



**AUDIT AND FINANCE STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
October 17, 2018**

PRESENT: Councillor Bill Karsten, Chair
Councillor Russell Walker, Vice Chair
Councillor Stephen D. Adams
Councillor Steve Craig
Councillor Matt Whitman
Councillor Lorelei Nicoll

REGRETS: Mayor Mike Savage

STAFF: Jacque Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer
Martin Ward, Acting Municipal Solicitor
Jerry Blackwood, Acting Chief Financial Officer
Krista Vining, 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 10:00 a.m. and adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. in Halifax Hall, 2nd Floor City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 19, 2018

MOVED by Councillor Whitman, seconded by Councillor Adams

THAT the minutes of September 19, 2018 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Craig

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

11. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – September 19, 2018

11.1 Councillor Whitman – Update on Recommendations from the Auditor General's Audit of Procurement Dated May 2018

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A staff information report dated August 13, 2018

Councillor Whitman and Jerry Blackwood, Acting Chief Financial Officer recognized staff's efforts to meet the Auditor General's recommendations in a timely manner.

No further action was taken.

12. REPORTS

12.1 FINANCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT – NONE

12.2 INVESTMENT REPORTS – NONE

12.3 AUDITOR GENERAL – NONE

12.4 STAFF

12.4.1 Case #H00464 - Request for additional financial assistance for St. Paul's Church, 1749 Argyle Street, Halifax

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated August 23, 2018

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Walker

THAT the Audit and Finance Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council approve the following, conditional upon i) the execution of an amendment to the Heritage Agreement with the Parish of St. Paul's dated November 24, 2017 and its registration at the Land Registry Office, and ii) the execution of a Contribution Agreement with the Government of Canada:

- 1. the provision of in-kind financial assistance of a value up to but not exceeding \$150,000, with a net municipal project cost up to but not exceeding \$75,000, to the Parish of St. Paul's for the continued restoration of a portion of the perimeter ironstone wall and cast iron fencing surrounding St. Paul's Church in accordance with the Heritage Agreement dated November 24, 2017 and the proposed amendments thereto, with funding as outlined in the Financial Implications section of this report;**
- 2. a budget increase of \$150,000 to Project Account No. CR000008 – St. Paul's Church Wall Restoration, funded 50% by cost sharing with the Parks Canada National Cost Sharing Program for Heritage Places and 50% by funding from the General Contingency Reserve (Q421);**
- 3. an unbudgeted withdrawal of \$75,000 from the General Contingency Reserve (Q421) to the project budget to fund the net municipal cost of the financial assistance;**
- 4. the expansion of the scope of work, in the 2018/19 fiscal year to allow for the restoration of additional portions of the ironstone wall and cast iron fencing, providing that the net municipal project cost does not exceed \$75,000, and to authorize any necessary amendments to the Heritage Agreement to reflect the expanded scope of work; and**
- 5. Increase Purchase Order #2070780659 for Schooner Excavation Limited in the amount of \$112,229 (net HST included) for the replacement of 25 feet of additional wall. This is a cumulative increase of 41.50% of the original Purchase Order Value.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.4.2 Nova MultiFest Grant Request

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated July 31, 2018

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

THAT the Audit and Finance Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council refer the Nova MultiFest Society to the 2019-20 Regional Special Events Grant Program.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.4.3 National Disaster Mitigation Program – Flood Risk Assessment Study

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated October 1, 2018

MOVED by Councillor Craig, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

THAT the Audit and Finance Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council approve an increase to the Planning and Development operating budget in the amount of \$450,000, with funding as an unbudgeted withdrawal from Q421, the General Contingency Reserve, in the amount of \$225,000, and funding through cost sharing of \$225,000 from the National Disaster

Mitigation Program, as described in the Financial Implications section of the staff report dated October 1, 2018, contingent upon the Municipality receiving cost sharing through the National Disaster Mitigation Program.

Staff responded to questions respecting the National Disaster Mitigation Program. Members were advised that the application deadline for the National Disaster Mitigation Program was October 24, 2018. Regional Council approved the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee's recommendation to apply to the Program to carry out follow-up studies on October 16, 2018, which is contingent on funding. Should the Standing Committee approve the funding request, staff would apply October 17, 2018. In the event the funding request is not ratified by Regional Council, staff would withdraw the application. Staff further explained that the National Disaster Mitigation Program would be ending March 2020. There are plans to use the Program as a pilot project to develop strategies and a cost-sharing mechanism for assessing and funding future sites.

Reference was made to the work being done by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) around climate change and disaster mitigation.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.5 GRANTS COMMITTEE – NONE

12.6 COMMITTEE MEMBERS – NONE

13. MOTIONS – NONE

14. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE) – NONE

15. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

16. NOTICES OF MOTION – NONE

17. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public came forward.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – November 28, 2018 at 10 a.m., Halifax Hall, 2nd Floor City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax

19. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.