



**AUDIT AND FINANCE STANDING COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
December 3, 2018**

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

STAFF: Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer  
John Traves, 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](http://halifax.ca).*

*The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. and adjourned at 10:39 a.m.*

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – NONE**

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

MOVED by Councillor Karsten, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

**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 – NONE**

**12. REPORTS**

**12.1 STAFF**

**12.1.1 Funding Request – THE LINK Performing Art Centre**

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated November 21, 2018
- In Camera (In Private) handout

MOVED by Councillor Craig, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

**THAT the Audit and Finance Standing Committee recommend that, subject to the recommendation of the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee, Halifax Regional Council approve the provision of a one-time contribution to The Link Performing Arts Society for capital costs relating to The Link Performing Arts Centre, a purpose-built facility in the former World Trade and Convention Centre, 1800 Argyle Street, not to exceed 10% of the overall capital project costs, to a maximum of \$1,000,000.00, subject to the terms set out in Table 2 of the discussion section of the staff report dated November 21, 2018, with funding to come from Q421 the General Contingency Reserve.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**12.1.2 2018/19 Winter Funding for Snow Removal Program for Seniors**

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated November 9, 2019

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Karsten

**THAT the Audit and Finance Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council approve an increase to the Snow Removal Program for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities (the "Program") in an amount up to \$200,000.00, for a total 2018/19 operating budget of up to \$600,000.00, with funding to be found through operating efficiencies within Transportation and Public Works, or if operating efficiencies cannot be achieved, through the Risk Reserves: General Contingency Reserve, Q421, as per the Financial Implications section of the staff report dated November 9, 2018.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

#### **12.1.3 Funding Request – YMCA of Greater Halifax/Dartmouth**

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A staff report dated June 18, 2018

MOVED by Councillor Craig, seconded by Councillor Karsten

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

- 1. Refer a one-time capital contribution in the amount of \$1,000,000 to the YMCA of Greater Halifax/Dartmouth towards the purchase of replacement YMCA facility located at the intersection of South Park and Sackville Street, Halifax, for consideration in the 2019-2020 budget deliberations during the Budget Adjustment List (BAL) review; and**
- 2. Subject to Council's decision as applicable, Authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to negotiate, enter into an execute a Contribution Agreement on behalf of the Municipality with the YMCA of Greater Halifax/Dartmouth based on the terms and conditions outlined in Table 1 of the staff report dated June 18, 2018.**

The Standing Committee discussed the motion with staff responding to questions on the building's height and YMCA facility proposal. Concern was expressed with the YMCA being affordable and inclusive (e.g. free) to all members of the public, not just to those that can afford a reduced rate.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

#### **12.1.4 Funding Request – Hospice Society of Greater Halifax – Supplementary Report**

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A supplementary staff report dated October 9, 2018

MOVED by Councillor Craig, seconded by Councillor Walker

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

- 1. Approve provision of a one-time capital grant to the Hospice Society of Greater Halifax in the amount of \$500,000 towards the construction of a residential hospice facility at 618 Franklyn Street, Halifax to be funded as an unbudgeted withdrawal from the General Contingency Reserve Q421; and**
- 2. Authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, or their designate, to negotiate, enter into and execute a Contribution Agreement on behalf of the Municipality with the Hospice Society of Greater Halifax, including the terms and conditions outlined in Table 1 of the supplementary staff report dated October 9, 2018, and otherwise acceptable to the Chief Administrative Officer.**

Member discussed the motion with concern being expressed that funding hospices was not the Municipality's mandate.

**MOTION PUT AND DEFEATED.**

John Traves, Municipal Solicitor reminded members that Halifax Regional Council had approved a \$250,000 capital contribution in 2018-19 and a \$250,000 capital contribution in 2019-20 to the Hospice Society of Greater Halifax, and requested staff identify the funding source through the Audit and Finance Standing Committee at its October 2, 2018 meeting.

MOVED by Councillor Whitman, seconded by Councillor Craig

**THAT the Audit and Finance Standing Committee reconsider the motion of Audit and Finance Standing Committee at the December 3, 2018 meeting to defeat recommending that Halifax Regional Council approve provision of a one-time capital grant to the Hospice Society of Greater Halifax in the amount of \$500,000 to be funded as an unbudgeted withdrawal from the General Contingency Reserve Q421.**

The Committee discussed reconsidering the defeated motion in order to bring the funding source to Halifax Regional Council for debate.

It was noted that, under section 61(9) *Administrative Order One*, a motion being reconsidered is debatable but cannot be amended.

Two-third majority vote required.

**MOTION TO RECONSIDER PUT AND DEFEATED.**

As per the direction provided by Halifax Regional Council on June 21, 2016, that matters reviewed by Standing Committee be delivered to Regional Council, the Audit and Finance Standing Committee recommendation in the negative will be reported to Regional Council.

**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 at this time.

**18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – January 9, 2019 at 10 a.m., Council Chamber, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax**

**19. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 10:39 a.m.