



**AUDIT & FINANCE STANDING COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
DRAFT MINUTES
January 19, 2021**

PRESENT: Councillor Russell, Chair
Councillor Deagle Gammon, Vice-Chair
Councillor Hendsbee
Councillor Purdy
Councillor Cleary
Councillor Morse
Mayor Mike Savage

STAFF: John Traves, Municipal Solicitor
Jane Fraser, Chief Financial Officer
Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer
Peter Duncan, Manager, Infrastructure Asset Management
Vicki Robertson, Deputy Treasurer
Simon Ross-Siegel, Legislative Assistant
Annie Sherry, Legislative Assistant

These minutes are considered draft and will require approval by the Audit and Finance Standing Committee at a future meeting.

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

The agenda, reports, supporting documents, and information items circulated are online at halifax.ca.

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m., and adjourned at 11:01 a.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:03 am.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 25, 2020

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee

THAT the minutes of the November 25th, 2020 meeting be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Deagle Gammon

THAT the order of business be approved as presented.

Two-third majority vote required.

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

10.2 Petitions

10.3 Presentations

10.3.1 Art Gallery of Nova Scotia Halifax Waterfront Arts District – Nancy Noble, Director and CEO of the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A presentation titled The Future of the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia

Nancy Noble, the Director and CEO of the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, gave a presentation on the new home of the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia. Highlights of the presentation included:

- The design of the future gallery and projected timelines
- The budget for the project and a breakdown of current investments and donations
- An overview of the Art Gallery's Capital Campaign
- How the project aligns with Council priorities
- A request for an investment from the Halifax Regional Municipality of \$7 million over 5 years, or \$1.4 million per year

Nancy Noble responded to questions from members of the Standing Committee on issues including space needs for contemporary collections, opportunities to partner with local organizations, concerns regarding the waterfront location and sea level rise, the anticipated start of construction, and the impact of municipal participation and contributions to the project.

Responding to questions from members of the Standing Committee regarding future operating costs, Jane Fraser, Chief Financial Officer and Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer, provided further details regarding leasable municipal assets.

MOVED by Mayor Savage, seconded Councillor Cleary

THAT the Audit & Finance Standing Committee request a staff report regarding the request and to refer the matter to Committee of the Whole on Budget for consideration in the 2021/22 budget process as a parking lot item.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

11. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

12. REPORTS

12.1 AUDITOR GENERAL – NONE

12.2 STAFF

12.2.1 Investment Activities

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated March 2, 2020 titled, "Investment Activities – Quarter ending December 31, 2019"
- A staff recommendation report dated December 7, 2020 titled, "Investment Activities – Quarter ending March 31, 2020"
- A staff recommendation report dated December 7, 2020 titled, "Investment Activities – Quarters ending June 30 and September 30, 2020"

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Deagle Gammon

THAT Audit and Finance Standing Committee forward the investment activities reports for quarters ending in December 31, 2019, March 31, June 30 and September 30, 2020 to Halifax Regional Council as an information item.

Responding to a question from Councillor Cleary, Vicki Robertson, Deputy Treasurer, outlined that although the Municipality's investments may be considered conservative, the Municipality's investments are seeing high returns.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.2.2 Cathedral Lane Sewer Separation

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated December 3rd, 2020

MOVED by Mayor Savage, seconded by Councillor Cleary

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

- 1. Authorize a budget increase of \$375,000 to Capital Project No. CT200009 – Wastewater Oversizing; and**
- 2. Authorize an unbudgeted reserve withdrawal of \$375,000 from Q421 – General Contingency**

Reserve.

Standing Committee discussed the potential for costs in construction to increase at large due to COVID-19, and Peter Duncan, Manager, Infrastructure Asset Management confirmed that staff considered these factors in drafting staff's recommendation. Peter Duncan also responded to a question regarding the potential use of local improvement charges for the College Street build under the Rapid Housing Initiative.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

- 12.3 GRANTS COMMITTEE – NONE**
- 12.4 COMMITTEE MEMBERS – NONE**
- 13. MOTIONS – NONE**

14. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE)

14.1 Approval of the In Camera (In Private) Minutes – November 25, 2020

This item was discussing in public session.

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Mayor Savage

THAT the In Camera (In Private) minutes of November 25, 2020 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

- 15. ADDED ITEMS - NONE**
- 16. NOTICES OF MOTION – NONE**
- 17. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – NONE**

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – February 11, 2021

19. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:01 am.

Annie Sherry
Legislative Assistant