



**AUDIT AND FINANCE STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
MARCH 9, 2022**

PRESENT:

Councillor Paul Russell, Chair
Councillor Cathy Deagle Gammon, Vice Chair
Councillor David Hendsbee
Councillor Trish Purdy
Councillor Shawn Cleary
Councillor Kathryn Morse

STAFF:

Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance & Asset Management/Chief
Financial Officer
John Traves, Municipal Solicitor
Annie Sherry, Legislative Assistant
Simon Ross-Siegel 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 11:01 a.m. and adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m. and acknowledged that the meeting took place in the traditional and ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq people, and that we are all treaty people.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 17, 2022

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Morse

THAT the minutes of February 17, 2022 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions: None

Deletions: None

MOVED by Councillor Deagle Gammon, seconded by Councillor Cleary

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

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

10.3 Presentation – None

11. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

12. REPORTS

12.1 AUDITOR GENERAL - NONE

12.2 STAFF

12.2.1 ICIP Contribution Agreement: Community Building Retrofits

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Staff recommendation report dated February 24, 2022

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Deagle Gammon

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

- 1. Approve amendments to the Capital Budget for multi-year funding for capital account CB190008 - Energy Efficiency Initiatives, for HRM Community Building Retrofits as outlined in the Financial Implications section of this report; and**
- 2. Increase capital account. CB190008 - Energy Efficiency Initiatives by \$1,539,930 with funding from the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program in 2021/22, with no net impact to the net budget.**

Philip Dugandzic, Director, Corporate Facility Design & Construction, responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.2.2 Amendment of Partial Tax Exemption Administrative Order (AO 10)

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Staff recommendation report dated February 17, 2022
- Staff presentation dated March 9, 2022

MOVED by Councillor Deagle Gammon, seconded by Councillor Purdy

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

- 1. Adopt the amendments to Administrative Order 10, the Partial Tax Exemption Administrative Order, as set out in Attachment 2 to this report; and**
- 2. Adopt By-law T-706, amending By-law T-700, the Tax Deferral By-law, as set out in Attachment 4 to this report.**

Andre MacNeil, Senior Financial Consultant, gave a presentation on Amendments to the Partial Tax Exemption Administrative Order and responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee.

Bruce Fisher, Manager, Financial Policy & Planning, responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee regarding the exploration of further supplementing this program by tying to provincial and federal low-income programs in the future.

Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance & Asset Management/Chief Financial Officer, responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.3 GRANTS COMMITTEE – NONE

12.4 COMMITTEE MEMBERS – NONE

13. MOTIONS

13.1 Councillor Cleary

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Request for Audit & Finance Standing Committee's consideration form submitted by Councillor Cleary

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Morse

THAT the Audit & Finance Standing Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to provide a staff report outlining the financial impact of ensuring a minimum wage of \$15 per hour for all employees of Halifax Regional Municipality, Halifax Public Libraries, as well as employees of the Multi-District Facilities, regardless of employment status (i.e., covering part-time, casual, seasonal, etc.) to be implemented no later than April 1, 2023. This report should be completed in time to inform the 2023-24 budget process.

Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance & Asset Management/Chief Financial Officer, and John Traves, Municipal Solicitor, responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee and suggested that a report to Halifax Regional Council would provide for a broader analysis.

Councillor Cleary proposed that the motion be amended to begin with, "THAT the Audit & Finance Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council." As provided for in section 53 (2) of Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, the amendment was accepted as friendly.

The motion as amended now read:

THAT the Audit & Finance Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to provide a staff report outlining the financial impact of ensuring a minimum wage of \$15 per hour for all employees of Halifax Regional Municipality, Halifax Public Libraries, as well as employees of the Multi-District Facilities, regardless of employment status (i.e., covering part-time, casual, seasonal, etc.) to be implemented no later than April 1, 2023. This report should be completed in time to inform the 2023-24 budget process.

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Morse

THAT the motion be amended to include new section 2 which reads as follows;

Ensuring a living wage for all employees of Halifax Regional Municipality, Halifax Public Libraries, as well as employees of the Multi-District Facilities, regardless of employment status (i.e., covering part-time, casual, seasonal, etc.) to be implemented no later than April 1, 2024. This report should be completed in time to inform the 2024-25 budget process.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED. (5 in favour, 1 against)

In favour: Chair Russell, Councillors Deagle Gammon, Hendsbee, Cleary, Morse

Against: Councillor Purdy

The motion as amended now read:

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Morse

THAT the Audit & Finance Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to provide a staff report outlining the financial impact of:

- 1. Ensuring a minimum wage of \$15 per hour for all employees of Halifax Regional Municipality, Halifax Public Libraries, as well as employees of the Multi-District Facilities, regardless of employment status (i.e., covering part-time, casual, seasonal, etc.) to be implemented no later than April 1, 2023. This report should be completed in time to inform the 2023-24 budget process; and**

- 2. Ensuring a living wage for all employees of Halifax Regional Municipality, Halifax Public Libraries, as well as employees of the Multi-District Facilities, regardless of employment status (i.e., covering part-time, casual, seasonal, etc.) to be implemented no later than April 1, 2024. This report should be completed in time to inform the 2024-25 budget process.**

As provided for in section 90 of Administrative Order One, the motion was separated for voting purposes.

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Morse

THAT the Audit & Finance Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to provide a staff report outlining the financial impact of:

- 1. Ensuring a minimum wage of \$15 per hour for all employees of Halifax Regional Municipality, Halifax Public Libraries, as well as employees of the Multi-District Facilities, regardless of employment status (i.e., covering part-time, casual, seasonal, etc.) to be implemented no later than April 1, 2023. This report should be completed in time to inform the 2023-24 budget process**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Morse

THAT the Audit & Finance Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to provide a staff report outlining the financial impact of:

- 2. Ensuring a living wage for all employees of Halifax Regional Municipality, Halifax Public Libraries, as well as employees of the Multi-District Facilities, regardless of employment status (i.e., covering part-time, casual, seasonal, etc.) to be implemented no later than April 1, 2024. This report should be completed in time to inform the 2024-25 budget process.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED. (5 in favour, 1 against)

In favour: Chair Russell, Councillors Deagle Gammon, Hendsbee, Cleary, Morse

Against: Councillor Purdy

14. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE)

14.1 In Camera (In Private) Minutes – February 17, 2022

This matter was dealt with in public.

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Deagle Gammon

THAT the In Camera (In Private) minutes of February 17, 2022 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 – April 20, 2022

19. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Annie Sherry
Legislative Assistant