



**AUDIT AND FINANCE STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
September 6, 2024**

PRESENT: Councillor Paul Russell, Chair
Councillor Cathy Deagle Gammon, Vice Chair
Councillor David Hendsbee
Councillor Shawn Cleary
Councillor Iona Stoddard
Councillor Pam Lovelace

STAFF: Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance and Asset
Management/Chief Financial Officer
John Traves, K.C., Municipal Solicitor/Chief Governance Officer
Dorothy Maponga, 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 10:05 a.m. and the Standing Committee adjourned at 10:26 a.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:05 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 – August 21, 2024

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Deagle Gammon, seconded by Mayor Savage

THAT the minutes of August 21, 2024 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

As provided for in section 12 (5) of Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, Councillor Hendsbee requested that Information Item 2 – Memorandum from the Chief Administrative Officer dated August 12, 2024 re: Action Plan for the Management of Hiring Practices Audit be brought forward at a future Audit and Finance Standing Committee Meeting.

MOVED by Councillor Stoddard, seconded by Deputy Mayor Deagle Gammon

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

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

10.3 Presentation – None

11. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chair noted there were no registered speakers.

12. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

13. REPORTS

13.1 AUDITOR GENERAL – NONE

13.2 STAFF

13.2.1 Discovery Centre Contribution Agreement Renewal

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Staff report dated July 23, 2024

MOVED by Mayor Savage, seconded by Deputy Mayor Deagle Gammon

THAT Audit and Finance Standing Committee recommend to Regional Council to authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to execute a five-year Contribution Agreement with the Discovery Centre substantially in accordance with the draft agreement attached to the staff report dated July 23, 2024, with annual funding of \$145,000.

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee

THAT the motion be amended to provide Discovery Centre 'with annual funding of \$200,000'.

Cathie O' Toole, Chief Administrative Officer and Brendon Smithson, Director, Regional Recreation responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee on the request from the Discovery Centre and the continuation of the existing funding.

Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance and Asset Management/Chief Financial Officer responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee on the tax exemption status of the Discovery Centre.

Smithson responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee on the financial implications of the contribution agreement.

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED.

The motion as amended now read:

MOVED by Mayor Savage, seconded by Deputy Mayor Deagle Gammon

THAT Audit and Finance Standing Committee recommend to Regional Council to authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to execute a five-year Contribution Agreement with the Discovery Centre substantially in accordance with the draft agreement attached to the staff report dated July 23, 2024, with annual funding of \$200,000.

MOTION AS AMENDED PUT AND PASSED.

13.3 GRANTS COMMITTEE – NONE

13.4 MEMBERS OF STANDING COMMITTEE – NONE

14. MOTIONS – NONE

15. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE) – NONE

16. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

17. NOTICES OF MOTION – NONE

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – October 9, 2024

19. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:26 a.m.

Dorothy Maponga
Legislative Assistant