



**AUDIT AND FINANCE STANDING COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
March 24, 2024**

PRESENT: Councillor Cathy Deagle Gammon, Chair  
Councillor Shawn Cleary, Vice Chair  
Councillor David Hendsbee  
Councillor Kathryn Morse  
Councillor Billy Gillis  
Councillor Jean St-Amand

STAFF: Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance and Asset  
Management/Chief Financial Officer  
John Traves, K.C., CD, 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](http://halifax.ca).*

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:34 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 18, 2025**

MOVED by Councillor St-Amand, seconded by Councillor Cleary

**THAT the minutes of February 18, 2025 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 Hendsbee, 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 – 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**

Correspondence was received and circulated for item 10.3.1.

For a detailed list of correspondence received refer to the specific agenda item.

**10.2 Petitions – None**

**10.3 Presentation**

**10.3.1 James Braun - Orenda Canoe Club: Capital Expansion Project**

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Request to present dated February 5, 2025
- Correspondence from James Braun
- Presentation dated March 24, 2025
- Handout dated March 24, 2025

Ben Fraser, Orenda Canoe Club and Mark Doyle, Orenda Canoe Club gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee.

MOVED Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Gillis

**THAT the Audit and Finance Standing Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to provide a staff report to consider funding the Orenda Canoe Club for renovations.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

## **11. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**Miia Suokonautio, YWCA Halifax** spoke on the affordable housing grant program and contributions to the YWCA affordable housing projects, and the Mount Hope planning area project. Suokonautio responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee.

**John Stevens, Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth** spoke on their application for the affordable housing grant program and recommended the Committee reallocate \$500,000 from the Density Bonus reserve or the Housing Accelerator Fund to the Dublin Street Apartments project. Stevens responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee.

## **12. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE**

## **13. REPORTS**

### **13.1 STAFF**

#### **13.1.1 2024-2025 Affordable Housing Grant Program Funding - Administrative Order 2020-008 ADM, Respecting Grants for Affordable Housing**

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Staff report dated February 27, 2025
- Staff presentation dated March 24, 2025

Dave Paterson, Principal Planner, Housing Accelerator Program – Affordable Housing Programs gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee.

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

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Morse

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

- 1. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to allocate \$4,652,318 from the Density Bonus Reserve Q640 to fund the Affordable Housing Grant Program; and**
- 2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to allocate \$623,400 from the Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF) to fund awards under the Affordable Housing Grant Program.**

Aaron Murnaghan, Manager, Housing Accelerator Program responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

## **14. MOTIONS – NONE**

## **15. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE)**

**15.1 In Camera (In Private) Minutes – February 18, 2025**

This matter was dealt with in public.

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Cleary

**THAT the In Camera (In Private) minutes of February 18, 2025 be approved as circulated.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**16. ADDED ITEMS – NONE**

**17. NOTICES OF MOTION - NONE**

**18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – April 16, 2025**

**19. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 11:39 a.m.

Dorothy Maponga  
Legislative Assistant