



**AUDIT AND FINANCE STANDING COMMITTEE
DRAFT MINUTES
May 21, 2025**

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: Dave Harley, Director of Financial Management and Operations
Chris Giddens, Solicitor
Dorothy Maponga, Legislative Assistant

These minutes are considered draft and will require approval by 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, information items circulated, and video (if available) are online at halifax.ca.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:02 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 – April 16, 2025

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor St-Amand

THAT the minutes of April 16, 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 St-Amand, seconded by Councillor Morse

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 13.1.2.

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

10.2 Petitions – None

10.3 Presentation – None

11. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chair noted there was one registered speaker, but they were not in attendance and called three times for any other members of the public wishing to speak; there were none.

12. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

13. REPORTS

13.1 STAFF

13.1.1 Investment Activities – Quarter ending December 31, 2024

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The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Staff report dated April 23, 2025

MOVED by Councillor St-Amand, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee

THAT the Audit and Finance Standing Committee forward the staff report dated April 23, 2025 to Halifax Regional Council as an information item.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

13.1.2 2025/26 Capital Budget Adjustments

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Staff report dated April 14, 2025
- Correspondence from Scott MacKenzie

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Gillis

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

1. **The increase to four 2025/26 capital project budgets, as detailed in the Financial Implications section of the staff report dated April 14, 2025, for new contribution agreements awarded after budget approval with no net increase from HRM funding;**
2. **The transfer of funding between approved 2025/26 capital project budgets, as detailed in the Financial Implications section of the staff report dated April 14, 2025.**
3. **The budget increase to the HRFE - Sheet Harbour Fire Station project CB210018 and PR – Sheet Harbour Rec Centre (ESLC) project CB000080 to be funded by debt financing, as detailed in the Financial Implications section of the staff report dated April 14, 2025.**
4. **The amendment to the 2025/26 Multi-Year Capital Projects schedule, as per Attachment 1 to the staff report dated April 14, 2025.**

Philip Dugandzic, Director, Facility Design & Construction, Anne Sherwood, Director, Transportation Design & Construction and Richard Harvey, Manager, Policy & Planning responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

13.1.3 Increase to Project No. CB210020 Halifax Common Pool Recon and Award RFP 2024-0662 Halifax Common Playground

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Staff report dated March 14, 2025

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Morse

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

1. **Approve an unbudgeted transfer of \$200,000 (net HST included) from CP200001 Park Recapitalization to CB210020 PR - Halifax Common Pool Recon., and**

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- 2. Award RFP 2024-0662, Halifax Commons Playground Request for Proposals (RFP), to the highest scoring proponent, Turf Masters Landscaping Ltd., for \$1,042,339 (net HST included) with funding from CB210020 PR Halifax Common Pool Recon., as outlined in the Financial Implications section of the staff report dated March 14, 2025.**

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

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

13.1.4 Halifax Transit Dual-Fuel (Diesel/Hydrogen) Bus Demonstration

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Staff report dated April 22, 2025

MOVED by Councillor Morse, seconded by Councillor Gillis

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

- 1. Approve the transfer of funds and budget increase between accounts as outlined in the Financial Implications section of the staff report dated April 22, 2025 and as follows:**
 - a. Approve the transfer of \$75,766 (net HST included) from Project Account CV210011- Electric Bus Procurement to CV210014- Transit Strategies/Studies; and**
 - b. Approve an increase to the gross budget of project CV210014, with no impact to HRM's net budget of \$443,266 (net HST included) to support the dual-fuel (hydrogen/diesel) bus demonstration project.**

Norman Henry, Director, Transit Fleet responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

13.1.5 One-time Withdrawal from the Options Reserve Q421 for Year 10 (2025/26) Funding for the Halifax Mobile Food Market

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Staff report dated May 4, 2025

MOVED by Councillor Gillis, seconded by Councillor Cleary

THAT the Audit and Finance Standing Committee approve a one-time, unbudgeted withdrawal from the Options Reserve Q421 to fund \$175,700.00 for Year 10 (2025/26) of the Mobile Food Market (MFM), as approved by Halifax Regional Council on March 25, 2025 and outlined in the attached staff report dated May 4, 2025.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

14. MOTIONS – NONE

15. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE)

15.1 In Camera (In Private) Minutes – April 16, 2025

This matter was dealt with in public.

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MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Cleary

THAT the In Camera (In Private) minutes of April 16, 2025 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

16. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

17. NOTICES OF MOTION – NONE

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – June 18, 2025

19. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:39 a.m.

Dorothy Maponga
Legislative Assistant