



**AUDIT AND FINANCE STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
November 25, 2025**

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Deputy Mayor Patty Cuttell
Councillor Janet Steele

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.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.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.

1.1. Annual Election of Chair

Dorothy Maponga, Legislative Assistant called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Audit and Finance Standing Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Gillis

THAT Councillor Deagle Gammon be nominated Chair of the Audit and Finance Standing Committee.

Councillor Deagle Gammon was declared the successful nominee.

MOVED by Councillor Morse, seconded by Councillor Gillis

THAT Councillor Deagle Gammon be appointed Chair of the Audit and Finance Standing Committee.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Councillor Deagle Gammon was declared the Chair of the Audit and Finance Standing Committee.

Councillor Deagle Gammon assumed the Chair.

1.2. Annual Election of Vice Chair

Councillor Deagle Gammon called for nominations for the position of Vice Chair of the Audit and Finance Standing Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Gillis

THAT Councillor St-Amand be nominated Vice Chair of the Audit and Finance Standing Committee.

Councillor St-Amand was declared the successful nominee.

MOVED by Councillor Gillis, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee

THAT Councillor St-Amand be appointed Vice Chair of the Audit and Finance Standing Committee.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Councillor St-Amand was declared the Vice Chair of the Audit and Finance Standing Committee.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 15, 2025

MOVED by Councillor Gillis, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee

THAT the minutes of October 15, 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 Morse, seconded by Councillor St-Amand

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 – None

10.2 Petitions – None

10.3 Presentation – None

11. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chair noted there were no registered speakers 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 AUDITOR GENERAL

13.1.1 Recreation Program Planning Audit

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Auditor General report dated November 25, 2025
- Presentation dated November 25, 2025

Andrew Atherton, Auditor General gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee.

13.1.2 Follow-up Review of Outstanding Recommendations – 2021 Audits: Management of Accounts Payable, and Transit Technology Project Management

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Auditor General report dated November 25, 2025
- Presentation dated November 25, 2025

Andrew Atherton, Auditor General 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 and Dave Harley, Director of Financial Management and Operations responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee.

13.2 STAFF

13.2.1 Proposed 2026 Meeting Schedule

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Staff memorandum dated November 25, 2025

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor St-Amand

THAT the Audit and Finance Standing Committee approve the proposed 2026 Audit and Finance Standing Committee meeting schedule as outlined in the staff memorandum.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

13.2.2 Administrative Order 10, Partial Tax Exemption Administrative Order and Land Titles Clarification Act Tax Relief

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Staff report dated August 13, 2025

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Gillis

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

1. **Discharge the property taxes owed by Applicant 1 (as defined in the staff report dated August 13,2025) for a total amount of \$12,252.01.**
2. **Discharge the property taxes owed by Applicant 2 (as defined in the staff report dated August 13,2025) for a total amount of \$5,892.27.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

13.2.3 Request for financial support for purchase of six-unit building for use as affordable housing by Rooted: Community Development Partners

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Staff report dated November 5, 2025

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor St-Amand

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

1. **Refuse the request by Rooted: Community Development Partners for a one-time grant to support the acquisition of a six-unit building in Spryfield.**
2. **Direct staff, following the forthcoming Housing Strategy, to explore options to support acquisitions for use as affordable housing.**

Dave Patterson, Principal Planner, Aaron Murnaghan, Manager, Housing Accelerator Fund, Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance and Asset Management/Chief Financial Officer and John

Traves, K.C., CD, Municipal Solicitor/Chief Governance Officer responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee.

MOTION PUT AND DEFEATED.

MOVED by Councillor Morse, seconded by Councillor Cleary

THAT the Audit and Finance Standing Committee approve a grant of \$150, 000 and authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to negotiate and execute a Contribution Agreement with Rooted using HAF funding. Regional Council could also amend any terms and conditions attached to funding.

Murnaghan responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

13.2.4 Orenda Canoe Club Request for HRM Funding

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Staff report dated November 5, 2025

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor St-Amand

THAT the Audit and Finance standing committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council approve a one-time financial contribution of \$50,000 to the Orenda Canoe Club in fiscal 2025/2026, to be funded from the HRM Opportunity Reserve with such contribution to be contingent upon the Orenda Canoe Club's execution of a Contribution Agreement, consistent with Administrative Order 2019-007-ADM, outlining terms, conditions, and reporting requirements governing the financial contribution.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

13.2.5 Increase to Project No. CBE240005 - Structural Fire Training Prop

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Staff report dated October 1, 2025

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Gillis

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

- 1. Approve an additional \$1,500,000 (net HST included) in debt financing.**
- 2. Increase the 2025/26 Capital Budget, Project Number CE240005 - Structural Fire Training Prop by \$1,500,000 (net HST included).**
- 3. Award RFP 2025-0185 Design Build Fire Training Facility to the highest scoring bidder, Bird Construction Group, at a cost of \$3,001,364 (net HST included) with funding from CE240005 Structure Fire Training Prop, as outlined in the Financial Implications section of the staff report dated October 1, 2025.**

Chief Dave Meldrum, Halifax Regional Fire and Emergency responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

13.2.6 Second Quarter 2025-26 Financial Report

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Staff report dated November 5, 2025

Tiffany Smith, Manager, Service Delivery gave a presentation.

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Morse

THAT the Audit and Finance Standing Committee forward the Second Quarter 2025/26 Financial Report to Regional Council for their information.

Dave Harley, Director of Financial Management and Operations and Smith responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

14. MOTIONS – NONE

15. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE) – NONE

16. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

17. NOTICES OF MOTION – NONE

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – December 10, 2025

19. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Dorothy Maponga
Legislative Assistant