



**AUDIT AND FINANCE STANDING COMMITTEE  
DRAFT 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

*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](http://halifax.ca).*

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**Audit and Finance Standing Committee  
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## **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.**

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**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.

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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

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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.**

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### **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