HALIFAX

AUDIT AND FINANCE STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
February 25, 2026

PRESENT:	Councillor Cathy Deagle Gammon, Chair Councillor Jean St-Amand, Vice Chair Councillor David Hendsbee Councillor Kathryn Morse Councillor Billy Gillis
REGRETS:	Councillor Shawn Cleary
STAFF:	Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance and Asset Management/Chief Financial Officer Chris Giddens, Solicitor 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 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. The Chair led the Committee in the African Nova Scotian Affirmation.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 21, 2026

MOVED by Councillor St-Amand, seconded by Councillor Morse

THAT the minutes of January 21, 2026 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 Gillis, 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 – January 21, 2026
8.1 Wanderers Grounds Stadium Expenditures

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Staff report dated January 14, 2026

MOVED by Councillor St-Amand, seconded by Councillor Gillis

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

1. **Approve a one-time withdrawal of $590,385 from the Options Reserve Q421, with this amount deposited to Cost Centre C721 in order to fund the Wanderers Grounds Temporary Stadium Expenditures; and**

2. **Pay the Halifax Wanderers Football Club (HWFC) the amount of $590,385, in accordance with the Services Agreement, with such payment addressing both the HWFC fees to manage the Wanderers Grounds stadium on behalf of HRM and to reimburse HWFC the additional expenses it properly incurred in its management of the Wanderers Grounds stadium.**

MOVED by Councillor St-Amand, seconded by Councillor Morse

THAT Audit and Finance Standing Committee convene to In Camera (In Private) to discuss 15.1 In Camera (In Private) Minutes and Item 15.3 CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The question was called on the main motion:

MOVED by Councillor St-Amand, seconded by Councillor Gillis

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

1. **Approve a one-time withdrawal of $590,385 from the Options Reserve Q421, with this amount deposited to Cost Centre C721 in order to fund the Wanderers Grounds Temporary Stadium Expenditures; and**

2. **Pay the Halifax Wanderers Football Club (HWFC) the amount of $590,385, in accordance with the Services Agreement, with such payment addressing both the HWFC fees to manage the Wanderers Grounds stadium on behalf of HRM and to reimburse HWFC the additional expenses it properly incurred in its management of the Wanderers Grounds stadium.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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 STAFF
13.1.1 Transfer of Approved Business Systems Funding to HRP Technology Innovation Project CI250012

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Staff report dated February 12, 2026

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor St-Amand

THAT the Audit and Finance Standing Committee recommend Halifax Regional Council approve the transfer of funds from capital project CI990023 – HRP Records Management Optimization and capital project CI220002 – HRP Intranet Refresh to capital project CI250012 – HRP Technology Innovation as outlined in the Financial Implications section of the staff report dated February 12, 2026.

David Thorpe, Chief Information Officer responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

13.1.2 2025/2026 Write off of Uncollectible Accounts

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Staff report dated February 21, 2026

MOVED by Councillor St-Amand, seconded by Councillor Gillis

THAT the Audit and Finance Standing Committee forward this report to HRM Regional Council for approval and recommend that Halifax Regional Council approve:

1. **The real property tax accounts in the amount of $42,291.98 comprised of $28,510.58 principal and $13,781.40 interest as summarized in Schedule 1 of the staff report dated February 21, 2026 be formally written out of the books of account;**

2. **The general revenue accounts in the amount of $96,431.83 comprised of $86,245.29 principal and $10,215.66 interest as summarized in Schedule 1 of the staff report dated February 21, 2026 be formally written out of the books of account; and**

3. **The recreation accounts in the amount of $6,056.96 comprised of $6,056.96 principal and $0.00 interest as summarized in Schedule 1 of the staff report dated February 21, 2026be formally written out of the books of account.**

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

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

13.1.3 Third Quarter 2025/26 Financial Report

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Staff report dated February 12, 2026
- Staff presentation dated February 25, 2026

Tiffany Smith, Manager, Service Delivery gave a presentation.

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Gillis

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

Smith, Dave Harley, Director of Financial Management and Operations and Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance and Asset Management/Chief Financial Officer 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 – January 21, 2026

This matter was dealt with In Camera (In Private) and ratified in public as follows:

MOVED by Councillor Morse, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee

THAT the In Camera (In Private) minutes of January 21, 2026 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

15.2 PERSONNEL MATTER - Private and Confidential Report

This matter was dealt with in public as follows:

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Private and confidential staff report dated February 19, 2026

MOVED by Councillor St-Amand, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee

THAT the Audit and Finance Standing Committee:

1. **Adopt the recommendations as outlined in the private and confidential report dated February 19, 2026; and**

2. **Direct that the private and confidential report dated February 19, 2026 be maintained private and confidential.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

15.3 CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS - Private and Confidential Report

The following was before Standing Committee:

- Private and confidential staff report dated February 3, 2026

This matter was dealt with In Camera (In Private).

16. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

17. NOTICES OF MOTION – NONE

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – March 25, 2026

19. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:06 a.m.

Dorothy Maponga
Legislative Assistant