



**AUDIT AND FINANCE STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
September 20, 2017**

PRESENT: Councillor Bill Karsten, Chair
Councillor Russell Walker
Deputy Mayor Steve Craig
Mayor Mike Savage

REGRETS: Councillor Matt Whitman
Councillor Stephen D. Adams
Councillor Lorelei Nicoll, Vice Chair

STAFF: John Traves, Municipal Solicitor
Amanda Whitewood, CFO/Director of Finance and Asset Management
Sheilagh Edmonds, 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.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. and adjourned at 11:21 a.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 21, 2017; July 17, 2017

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Craig, seconded by Mayor Savage

THAT the minutes of June 21, 2017 and the special meeting of July 17, 2017 be approved.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda; the agenda was accepted as presented.

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 - NONE

11. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

12. REPORTS

12.1 STAFF

12.1.1 Long-term Strategic Capital Projects Update

The following was before the Audit and Finance Standing Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated September 6, 2017

Bruce Fisher, Manager, Financial Policy and Planning, and Kenzie MacNeil, Senior Financial Consultant provided a staff presentation updating the Standing Committee on the long-term strategic capital projects, as outlined in the submitted staff report.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Craig, seconded by Mayor Savage

THAT the Audit and Finance Standing Committee recommend that Regional Council direct staff to bring forward a framework for a ten-year capital outlook aligned with Regional Council Priorities, along with an initial ten-year capital outlook that includes funding for the Planned Strategic Projects as noted in the September 6, 2017 staff report, and options for other capital outlays including the Potential Strategic Projects.

At 10:30 a.m. Councillor Walker joined the meeting.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.1.2 First Quarter 2017-18 Financial Report

The following was before the Audit and Finance Standing Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated September 6, 2017

Louis de Montbrun, Manager, Financial Reporting provided a staff presentation on the First Quarter 2017/18 Financial Report.

MOVED by Mayor Savage, seconded by Councillor Walker

THAT the Audit and Finance Standing Committee forward the First Quarter 2017/18 Financial Report to Regional Council for information.

Louis de Montbrun and Amanda Whitewood, CFO/Director of Finance and Asset Management responded to questions.

In response to concern expressed about the projected deficit in Fire and Emergency Services, Amanda Whitewood advised that Council's direction with regard to new standards has occurred, and the staging-in of those costs has been approved by Council and is set for the 2018/19 fiscal year. The Director added that this is a tremendous year of change for Fire Services with the new standards and new recruits coming on, and that Finance has been working closely to ensure the approvals are in place so they can follow the direction Council has set out.

During the Committee's discussion, it was suggested that when this item goes to Council, a presentation be provided so that Council is fully informed.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.2 INVESTMENT REPORTS

12.2.1 Investment Policy Advisory Committee Report – quarter ending March 31, 2017

The following was before the Audit and Finance Standing Committee:

- A recommendation report dated June 27, 2017 from the Co-Chairs of the Investment Policy Advisory Committee

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Deputy Mayor Craig

THAT the Audit and Finance Standing Committee forward the report to Halifax Regional Council as an information item.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.2.2 Staff Report – Investment Activities – Quarter ending March 31, 2017

The following was before the Audit and Finance Standing Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated June 28, 2017.

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Mayor Savage

THAT the Audit and Finance Standing Committee forward the report to Halifax Regional Council as an information item.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.3 AUDITOR GENERAL: NONE

12.4 STAFF:

12.4.1 CN Public Crossing Repairs

The following was before the Audit and Finance Standing Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated August 17, 2017

MOVED by Mayor Savage, seconded by Deputy Mayor Craig

THAT the Audit and Finance Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council approve an unbudgeted withdrawal in the amount of \$190,895, net HST included, from the General Contingency Fund, Q421 to fund Operating Account R715 6906 to reimburse CN for the rehabilitation of railway crossings at Ochterloney Street and Community Centre Lane, as outlined in the Financial Implications section in the August 17, 2017 staff report.

Bruce Zvaniga, Director of Transportation and Public Works responded to questions.

In response to a question, the Director clarified that the work is part of CN's rehabilitation to ensure that the crossings are safe, and the Municipality is legally obligated to contribute in the cost. The Director explained that the reason this matter is before the Committee today is because staff was not informed a year ago, in their budget planning, that CN intended to do the work. The Director added that normally CN communicates with staff on such matters and that this circumstance is very unusual. Staff have reinforced with CN the need for this information.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.5 GRANTS COMMITTEE: NONE

12.6 SPECIAL EVENTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE: NONE

12.7 COMMITTEE MEMBERS: NONE

13. MOTIONS - NONE

14. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE)

14.1 Minutes – June 21, 2017

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Mayor Savage

THAT the in camera (in private) minutes of June 21, 2017 be approved.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

15. ADDED ITEMS - NONE

16. NOTICES OF MOTION - NONE

17. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No one came forward to address the Standing Committee during Public Participation.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – October 18, 2017

Deputy Mayor Craig provided regrets for the October 18, 2017 meeting.

19. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:21 a.m.

Sheilagh Edmonds
Legislative Assistant