



**AUDIT AND FINANCE STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
February 21, 2018**

PRESENT: Councillor, Russell Walker, Vice Chair
Councillor Lorelei Nicoll
Councillor Stephen D. Adams
Councillor Steve Craig

REGRETS: Councillor Bill Karsten, Chair
Councillor Matt Whitman

STAFF: John Traves, Municipal Solicitor
Jerry Blackwood, Acting Director of Finance & FICT/CFO
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 10:02 a.m. and adjourned at 11:13 a.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 22, 2018

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Craig

THAT the minutes of January 22, 2018 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

MOVED by Councillor Adams, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

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 submitted in regard to item 12.4.3.

10.2 Petitions - None

10.3 Presentations

10.3.1 Halifax Hospice

Dr. Rob Horton and Jim Mills, representing The Campaign for Hospice Halifax provided a presentation on the ten-bed hospice residence on Francklyn Street, Halifax, which is currently under construction. The purpose of the presentation was to request a capital grant from the Municipality of \$1 million payable in two annual payments of \$500,000 in April 2019 and April 2020.

Councillor Craig indicated support for the project, but expressed concern in using taxpayer dollars towards it, and suggested that the matter be dealt with at a future Committee of the Whole.

Councillor Nicoll expressed concern about any role the Municipality would have in this request, advising that, although it is framed as community-focussed, it is venturing into the area of health care. Councillor Nicoll advised that she would also be supportive of bringing the request to a Committee of the Whole meeting.

10.3.2 YMCA of Greater Halifax/Dartmouth

Brian Posavad and Robert Richardson, representing YMCA of Greater Halifax/Dartmouth provided a presentation on the John W. Lindsay YMCA which is under construction at the corner of South Park/Sackville Streets, Halifax and their request of the Municipality for \$1.5 million in funding to support the completion of the project.

Councillor Craig expressed support for the work the YMCA carries out in the community. The Councillor also pointed out that, as recreation is an area of responsibility that falls under municipal jurisdiction, HRM has expended a lot of funds in this regard. The Councillor indicated support for having this matter in front of Council for full discussion.

11. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

12. REPORTS

12.1 STAFF

12.1.1 Third Quarter 2017/18 Financial Report

The following was before the Audit and Finance Standing Committee:

- A staff recommendation/information report dated February 6, 2018

Louis de Montbrun, Manager, Financial Reporting provided an overview of the third quarter 2017/18 financial report and responded to questions.

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Adams

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

Councillor Adams questioned the decrease in parking revenue of \$2.4 million and, in response, Penny Henneberry, Manager, Buildings and Compliance explained that the \$2.4 million did not materialize because the Province has not yet given approval to increase the fees.

Councillor Adams expressed concern that staff would budget for something that was contingent upon getting approval from the Province.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.2 INVESTMENT REPORTS: NONE

12.3 AUDITOR GENERAL: NONE

12.4 STAFF

12.4.1 Funding Transfer for Parking Enforcement Vehicle Purchase

The following was before the Audit and Finance Standing Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated February 5, 2018.

MOVED by Councillor Adams, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

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

- 1. Approve the transfer of 2017/18 operating funds in the amount of \$100,000 from operating budget A315 – Ticket Office (Planning and Development) to Q531 – Vehicle Fleet and Equipment Reserve; and,**
- 2. Approve the withdrawal of \$100,000 from Q531 – Vehicle Fleet and Equipment Reserve to fund capital project CE020002 – Fleet Expansion, as presented in the 2018/19 proposed capital budget, and as outlined in the Financial Implications section of the February 5, 2018 staff report.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.4.2 Industrial Lot Re-Purchase – Lot 1258A Cutler Avenue, Burnside - McArthur Carrick Properties Limited

The following was before the Audit and Finance Standing Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated December 11, 2017.

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Craig

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

- 1. Approve an increase of \$1,801,228.21 to the Capital Budget CQ000011 – Lot Inventory Re-Purchase with funding in the amount of \$1,609,152.48 from Q616, Opportunity Reserve – Business/Industrial Park Reserve, with no net increase to the Capital Budget; and funding in the amount of \$192,075.73 from M500-5508;**
- 2. Authorize the re-purchase of property identified in Table 1 of the December 11, 2017 staff report in accordance with the approved Buy-Back Agreement;**
- 3. Authorize the Mayor and Municipal Clerk to enter into an Agreement of Purchase and Sale with McArthur Carrick Properties Limited for the Property as per the terms and conditions outlined in the December 11, 2017 staff report; and**
- 4. Approve the minimum unit re-selling price as provided in Table 1 of the December 11, 2017 staff report.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.4.3 Request for Funding: Community Museums – Fiscal Year 2017-18

The following was before the Audit and Finance Standing Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated January 12, 2018.
- Correspondence was submitted from Gordon Hammond, on behalf of the HRM Community Museums Ad Hoc Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Adams, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

That the Audit & Finance Standing Committee recommend to Regional Council that:

- 1. Interim funding of \$55,000, be allocated for heritage organizations in fiscal year 2017-18 with funding from operating as outlined in the Financial Implications section of the January 12, 2018 staff report; and**
- 2. the distribution of these funds be in accordance with Option 1 as described in Attachment 1 of the January 12, 2018 staff report.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.5 GRANTS COMMITTEE:

12.5.1 Community Grants Program: Request for Extension of Grant Reporting Deadline – Sheet Harbour & Area Ground Search and Rescue

The following was before the Audit and Finance Standing Committee:

- A recommendation report dated February 5, 2018 submitted from the Chair of the Grants Committee; attached was a staff recommendation report dated October 20, 2017.

MOVED by Councillor Craig, seconded by Councillor Adams

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

- 1. Require Sheet Harbour & Area Ground Search and Rescue return the funds awarded in 2013 under the Community Grants Program, and in 2015 under the Volunteer Search and Rescue Grants Program in the total amount of \$38,125.00 to be deposited to the General Contingency Reserve, Q421; and**
- 2. Provide a grant to the Sheet Harbour & Area Ground Search & Rescue Society equivalent to the amount granted under the Community Grants Program and the Volunteer Search and Rescue Grants Program in the amount of \$38,125.00 for the site preparation and construction of a garage, as a withdrawal from the General Contingency Reserve Q421 subject to the following conditions:**
 - (i) Confirmation of land ownership by Sheet Harbour & Area Ground Search and Rescue, or an executed long-term lease agreement of 20 years between Sheet Harbour & Area Ground Search and Rescue and the land owner;**
 - (ii) Provision of revised construction estimates and a construction start-date; and**
 - (iii) Confirmation of the society's cash contribution to the capital project, including the interest paid on the previous funding issued by HRM.**
- 3. Consider a request from Sheet Harbour and Area Ground Search and Rescue for deductions associated with land acquisition costs such as migration, legal fees, survey up to amount of \$16,500.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.6 SPECIAL EVENTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE: NONE

12.7 COMMITTEE MEMBERS: NONE

13. MOTIONS - NONE

14. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE)

14.1 Property Matter

14.1.1 Award – RFP 17-379 Leased Accommodations – St. Andrews Community Centre

MOVED by Councillor Adams, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

- 1. Award the Request for Proposal 17-379, for leased accommodations, to the Landlord, Rank Incorporated c/o Page Realty Management ("Rank"), for the two-year lease term as outlined in the Private & Confidential report dated January 25, 2018;**
- 2. Authorize the Mayor and Municipal Clerk to enter into and execute on behalf of the Municipality, a Lease Agreement between Rank, as Landlord, and the Halifax Regional Municipality, as Tenant, for the premises located at 7071 Bayers Road, Halifax. The proposed terms and conditions of the Lease Agreement are outlined in Table 1 of this report; and**
- 3. Do not release the January 25, 2018 Private and Confidential staff report until the transaction has been completed**

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 – March 21, 2018

19. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:13 a.m.

Sheilagh Edmonds
Legislative Assistant