



**EXECUTIVE STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
May 16, 2016**

PRESENT: Mayor Mike Savage, Chair
Deputy Mayor Matt Whitman, Vice Chair
Councillor Jennifer Watts
Councillor Russell Walker
Councillor Steve Craig
Councillor Linda Mosher
Councillor Bill Karsten

OTHERS PRESENT: Councillor Steve Adams

STAFF: Mr. John Traves, Acting Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. Karen Brown, Senior Solicitor
Mr. Kevin Arjoon, Municipal Clerk
Ms. Phoebe Rai, Legislative Assistant

The following does not represent a verbatim record of the proceedings of this meeting.

The agenda, supporting documents, and information items circulated to the Executive Standing Committee are available online: <http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/SCadmin/index.php>

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m. and adjourned at 10:51 a.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 11, 2016

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Deputy Mayor Whitman

THAT the minutes of April 11, 2016 be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Deputy Mayor Whitman

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 Presentations

10.3.1 Michael Karanicolas and Paul Conrod of Right to Know Coalition of Nova Scotia re: Transparency in the Halifax Regional Municipality

The following was before the Executive Standing Committee:

- A memorandum from the Procurement Manager dated March 7, 2016 re: Response to Study Regarding Transparency in HRM
- A copy of the report issued by Right to Know Coalition of Nova Scotia entitled “Transparency in HRM: Room for Improvement”

Mr. Michael Karanicolas and Mr. Paul Conrod delivered a presentation to the Standing Committee regarding Transparency in the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM). Key highlights include:

- Benefits of robust transparency systems include improving governance, combating waste and corruption, improving citizen engagement and promoting commercial development.
- The business community are among the most active consumers of public information.
- Although the municipality is already exceeding the minimum legal requirements regarding sharing information related to contracts and tenders above \$25,000, The Right to Know Coalition of Nova Scotia (RTK) recommends that HRM provide this data to the public more proactively, in user-friendly formats, and share details through an annual report.

- RTK recommends that statistics regarding in camera (in private) meetings be regularly released to the public and that these meetings be recorded so that they may be made available once the matter is no longer sensitive.
- HRM should reach out to stakeholders to consider ways to improve the procurement process.

Councillor Mosher joined the meeting at 10:16 a.m.

Mayor Savage thanked the presenters for their information. He noted that the municipality is working to collect and release statistics including the number and duration of in camera (in private) meetings.

A brief discussion ensued. Responding to a question regarding whether there would be a review of Administrative Order 35, the Halifax Regional Municipality Procurement Administrative Order, Mr. John Traves, Chief Administrative Officer indicated that the review has already been initiated. Mr. Traves advised that the matter will be brought before Council to seek input and direction.

11. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

12. REPORTS

12.1 STAFF

12.1.1 Battle of the Atlantic Place – Update

The following was before the Executive Standing Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated April 14, 2016

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Karsten

THAT the Executive Standing Committee recommend that Regional Council request the Mayor to write a letter in support of the Battle of the Atlantic Society's application for federal funding.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.2 MEMBERS OF STANDING COMMITTEE – NONE

13. MOTIONS – NONE

14. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE)

14.1 In Camera (In Private) Minutes – April 11, 2016

This matter was dealt with in public session.

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Karsten

THAT the In Camera (In Private) minutes of April 11, 2016 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

15. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

16. NOTICES OF MOTION – NONE

17. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public participation held and closed, no speakers present.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Monday, June 13, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.

19. ADJOURNMENT

The Standing Committee adjourned at 10:51 a.m.

Phoebe Rai
Legislative Assistant