

AUDIT AND FINANCE STANDING COMMITTEE  
MINUTES

July 17, 2013

PRESENT: Councillors: Bill Karsten, Chair  
Russell Walker, Vice Chair  
Mayor Mike Savage  
Gloria McCluskey  
Tim Outhit  
Barry Dalrymple  
Linda Mosher  
Lorelei Nicoll

REGRETS: Councillor Adams

GUEST COUNCILLORS: Deputy Mayor Reg Rankin  
Councillor Steve Craig  
Councillor Matt Whitman

STAFF: Mr. Greg Keefe, Director of Finance and Information,  
Communications & Technology/CFO  
Mr. Martin Ward, Acting Director, Legal Services  
Mr. Matt Godwin, Legislative Assistant

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. in Halifax Council Chambers, Halifax City Hall.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 19, 2013**

**MOVED by Councillor McCluskey, seconded by Councillor Walker that the minutes of June 19, 2013 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 Councillor Dalrymple that the agenda, as presented, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES – NONE**

**5. MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION – NONE**

**6. MOTIONS OF RECISION – NONE**

**7. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE**

**8. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS – NONE**

**9. REPORTS**

**9.1 STAFF**

**9.1.1 Kearney Lake Road Bike Lanes – Halifax Water Cost-Sharing Agreement**

The staff report, dated July 17, 2013 was before the committee.

**MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor McCluskey that the Audit & Finance Standing Committee recommend to Halifax Regional Council to:**

- 1. approve the substitution of a paved shoulder bike lane on Kearney Lake Road in the 2013/14 Project Budget for Active Transportation, Project No. CTU00420 - Active Transportation Plan Implementation, at a cost of \$217,030 (including net HST), using funding from CN Crossing Near Olivet Street, according to the Financial Implications section of this report; and**
- 2. authorize the Mayor and Clerk to enter into an agreement with Halifax Water to extend their project contract for Kearney Lake Road Transmission**

**Main Replacement, to allow for the creation of a shoulder bike lane.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**9.1.2 Storm water Right-Of-Way Costs**

The staff report, dated July 11, 2013 was before the committee.

Councillor Walker asked if staff have spoken to Halifax Water yet and asked if there was a way to bill the residents differently, such as on the water bill, with Mr. Keefe, CFO, responding that he has connected with Halifax Water. He noted that Council will have an opportunity in the fall to discuss the tax structure.

Councillor Walker asked if the charge is going to be captured in the general tax rate, with Mr. Keefe responding that the General Tax Rate has already been set and it's not advisable to revisit right now. There are some things HRM does not charge Halifax Water for at the moment, which it could.

Councillor Dalrymple echoed Councillor Walker's concerns. He will support the report this year, but HRM needs to speak with Halifax Water and determine which bill residents will receive for these expenses going forward. There needs to be consistency to avoid confusion.

Councillor McCluskey asked if this decision affects only streets, with Mr. Keefe responding it does.

Deputy Mayor Rankin noted that HRM already committed to the taxpayer that rural areas would not be charged through Halifax Water and charging customers on a provincial road is double-billing.

Councillor Whitman noted most of his residents are on wells and do not currently receive a bill from Halifax Water and asked if they will now receive one, with Mr. Keefe responding that new customers are not on the Halifax Water system and HRM distributes the bill because it retains this information. The charges to have to put through HRM.

Councillor Whitman iterated his concern that his residents have about being input into Halifax Water's system.

Councillor McCluskey asked how Halifax Water will measure the amount of water running off onto the street, with Mr. Keefe responding the report notes that aerial analyses have not revealed a large difference between permeable and impermeable. There will be a fixed cost for most lots and a flow charge for larger lots.

Councillor Walker asked if Halifax Water knows which roads are provincial and which are not, as many are the responsibility of the Province.

Councillor Nicoll asked when the broader discussion on HRM's relationship with Halifax Water will take place, with Mr. Keefe indicating a Committee of the Whole will be convened in the fall.

**MOVED by Councillor McCluskey, seconded by Councillor Dalrymple that the Audit and Finance Standing Committee recommend to Regional Council to:**

- 1. Use uncommitted surplus from fiscal 2012-13 to fund the 2013-14 cost of the stormwater right-of-way system, and**
- 2. Direct Staff to return with a report on funding stormwater right-of-way system costs in the context of a broader discussion on tax structure issues.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**9.1.3 Metro Transit Ferry Recapitalization and Sole Source Award – Voith Schneider Propellers - Voith Turbo GmbH & Co.**

**MOVED by Councillor McCluskey, seconded by Councillor Nicoll that the Audit & Finance Committee recommend to Regional Council that it:**

- 1. approve the implementation of the recapitalization effort recommended in the Council-Approved Metro Transit Five-Year Strategic Operations Plan and further in the Strategic Ferry Operations Plan, commencing with the Dartmouth III; and**
- 2. in accordance with the Sole Source Policy (Administrative Order 35, Section 8(11A) sub-sections (a) and (b) attached), award the Sole Source purchase of two Voith Schneider propeller units for a new Metro Transit ferry, for a total cost \$1,148,506.93(Net HST included) to Voith Turbo GmbH & Co., with funding from Project No. CMX01123 – New Conventional Ferry, as outlined in the Financial Implications section of this report.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**9.2 MEMBERS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE**

**9.3 OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL**

**9.4 SUB-COMITTEES**

**9.4.1 Grants Committee**

**9.4.2 Investment Policy Advisory Committee**

**9.4.3 Special Events Advisory Committee**

**10. MOTIONS – NONE**

**11. ADDED ITEMS – NONE**

**13. IN CAMERA – NONE**

**14. NEXT MEETING DATE – August 21, 2013**

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:24 a.m.

Matt Godwin  
Legislative Assistant