

EXECUTIVE STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES

September 23, 2013

PRESENT:

Mayor Mike Savage, Chair
Deputy Mayor Reg Rankin
Councillors Linda Mosher, Vice Chair
Councillor Russell Walker
Councillor Matt Whitman
Councillor Bill Karsten
Councillor Steve Craig

STAFF:

Mr. Martin Ward, A/Director Legal Services
Ms. Cathy Mellett, Municipal Clerk
Ms. Sherryl Murphy, Deputy Clerk
Mr. Liam MacSween, Legislative Assistant
Mr. Chris Bryant, Senior Advisor, Government Relations &
External Affairs

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	CALL TO ORDER.....	3
2.	APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 22, 2013.....	3
3.	APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS.....	3
4.	BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES – NONE.....	3
5.	CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE.....	3
6.	CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS	3
6.1	Letter Dated July 2, 2013 from James S. Cowan, Stewart McKelvey re: HRM Nominations to Halifax International Airport	3
7.	REPORTS.....	3
7.1	Update – Governance Project	3
8.	COMMITTEE MEMBERS – None	4
9.	ADDED ITEMS - None	4
10.	IN CAMERA.....	4
10.1	Personnel Matter	4
11.	NEXT MEETING.....	5
12.	ADJOURNMENT	5

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by at 10:03 a.m. by Mayor Savage in Council Chambers, Halifax City Hall.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 22, 2013

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Deputy Mayor Rankin that the minutes of July 22, 2013 be approved as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Whitman that the agenda be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES – NONE

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

6.1 Letter Dated July 2, 2013 from James S. Cowan, Stewart McKelvey re: HRM Nominations to Halifax International Airport

The Mayor advised that Council had submitted a number of names for the HRM appointments to the Board based on the HIAA bylaws. The Halifax International Airport Authority (HIIA) chose one of the nine candidates.

Councillor Mosher asked that a request be made to the Authority to provide further detail regarding the competencies they were seeking.

Councillor Rankin requested that information be sought from HIIA regarding the status of the other candidates and had they been advised they were not selected. The Clerk's office advised that candidates had been notified.

Mayor Savage indicated that he would have a conversation with the Chair of the Airport Board in this regard.

7. REPORTS

7.1 Update – Governance Project

A document entitled 'Project Plan (Draft) Governance Review 2013-14 dated September 13, 2013 was before the Committee.

Mr. Chris Bryant, Senior Advisor Government Relations and External Affairs addressed the Committee noting that work has begun, however, staff have prepared the project plan for Committee review and comment. Mr. Bryant reviewed the draft project plan.

In response to a question by Councillor Walker regarding a review of the Charter and Municipal Government Act, the CAO noted that this project was being undertaken by a separate group. Mr. Bryant indicated that if there was an information/concern overlap in the proposed discussions with Council under the Governance review, the information will be communicated to the other group.

A discussion ensued with the following input being provided by members:

- Committee of the Whole should be included under scope
- Review include a process to respond to tie votes at Community Council
- Discussion has been held around scheduling of Council meetings which aligns with number 1. Philosophy of the Project Background section on page 4
- Communication between the Standing Committees is a concern. Not all members of Council aware of what is happening at Standing Committees and often the matter has reached a point where no real input can be provided

MOVED by Councillor Craig, seconded by Councillor Karsten that the Executive Committee endorse the project plan as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Mr. Bryant indicated that he would provide an update at the next meeting of the Committee.

8. COMMITTEE MEMBERS – None

9. ADDED ITEMS - None

10. IN CAMERA

10.1 Personnel Matter

MOVED by Councillor Karsten, seconded by Councillor Mosher that:

- 1. The Executive Standing Committee recommend that Regional Council amend the Terms of Reference of the Audit and Finance Standing Committee to allow a sub-committee to oversee the contract of the Auditor General.**
- 2. The sub-committee be comprised of the Mayor, the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Audit and Finance Standing Committee which shall report as required to the Audit and Finance Standing Committee who in turn will report to Regional Council.**

Councillor Rankin expressed concern that this matter was before the Committee without background. He asked the origin of the matter and the deficiency to which the sub-committee was intended to respond. He noted that the Auditor General function is an important function of Council and asked why it should be relegated to a sub-committee.

Councillor Walker noted that there is no mechanism in place at the present time which sets out who undertakes a performance review of the Auditor General. Councillor Walker indicated that the proposed sub-committee is an effort to comply with the requirement of the contract with the Audit General and put in the appropriate review procedures.

Following a further brief discussion, it was **MOVED by Councillor Karsten, seconded by Councillor Craig that the Executive Standing Committee convene to in camera session to consider confidential details of this matter. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

The Executive Standing Committee reconvened in public session at 11:15 a.m.

Councillor Karsten called for the question on the motion and the **MOTION WAS PUT AND PASSED.**

11. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Executive Standing Committee will be held on October 28, 2013 beginning at 10:00 a.m. in the Council Chamber, City Hall.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Cathy Mellett
Municipal Clerk