



**AUDIT & FINANCE STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
November 18, 2015**

PRESENT: Councillor Linda Mosher, Vice-Chair
Councillor Barry Dalrymple
Councillor Gloria McCluskey
Councillor Reg Rankin
Councillor Steve Craig
Mayor Mike Savage

REGRETS: Councillor Bill Karsten, Chair

GUESTS: Deputy Mayor Matt Whitman
Councillor Lorelei Nicoll

STAFF: Ms. Amanda Whitewood, Chief Financial Officer
Mr. Richard Butts, Chief Administrative Officer
Mr. John Traves, Municipal Solicitor
Mr. Liam MacSween, 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 Audit & Finance Standing Committee are available online: <http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/SCfinance/151118afsc-agenda.php>

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. The Standing Committee moved into an In Camera (In Private) session at 11:04 a.m. and reconvened at 11:15 a.m. the Standing Committee adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Councillor Linda Mosher, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order in Council Chambers, 3rd Floor City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – NONE

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

Additions: None

Deletions:

Item No. 9.2.1 – Office of the Auditor General – Follow Up Review of Halifax Regional Municipality Overtime

MOVED by Councillor Craig, seconded by Councillor McCluskey

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

Two-third majority vote required.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

5. MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION – NONE

6. MOTIONS OF RESCISSION – NONE

7. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

8. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

9. REPORTS

9.1 STAFF

9.1.1 Second Quarter 2015/2016 Financial Report – NONE

The following was before the Audit & Finance Standing Committee:

- *A staff recommendation report dated October 31, 2015*

Mr. Louis de Montbrun, Manager of Financial Planning provided a presentation with respect to the Second Quarter Financial Report.

Councillor Mosher thanked Mr. de Montbrun for his presentation and requested questions of clarification from members of the Audit & Finance Standing Committee.

Councillor McCluskey requested further information with respect to Capital Cost Contributions collected for the Mount Hope Interchange.

Mr. Richard Butts, Chief Administrative Officer suggested that Councillor request a staff report respecting the outstanding Capital Cost Contributions for the Mount Hope Interchange.

MOVED by Councillor McCluskey, seconded by Mayor Savage

THAT the Audit & Finance Standing Committee forward the Second Quarter 2015/2016 Financial Report dated October 31, 23015 to Regional Council for their information.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Councillor McCluskey, seconded by Councillor Craig

THAT the Audit & Finance Standing Committee request a staff report pertaining to the outstanding the Capital Cost Contributions for the Mount Hope Interchange.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.1.2 Integrated Mobility Plan

The following was before the Audit & Finance Standing Committee:

- *A staff recommendation report dated November 10, 2015*

Mr. Bob Bjerke, Chief Planner provided an overview of the November 10, 2015 staff report.

Councillor Mosher thanked Mr. Bjerke for his comments and requested questions of clarification from members of the Audit & Finance Standing Committee.

Councillor Craig noted that the staff report does not have a project charter in relation to the Integrated Mobility Plan associated with it. He inquired as to when a project charter for the mobility plan can be anticipated.

Mr. Bjerke that staff does not have a business case put forward at the current time but will endeavor to bring one forward with respect to the Integrated Mobility Plan.

MOVED by Councillor Craig, seconded by Mayor Savage

THAT the Audit & Finance Standing Committee defer consideration of the November 10, 2015 staff report until such time that a project Charter can be included within the Integrated Mobility Plan.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.1.3 Expanded Scope of Planning & Development Studies - Land Use By-Law Simplification Phase I

The following was before the Audit & Finance Standing Committee:

- *A staff recommendation report dated September 17, 2015*

Mr. Carl Purvis, Planner provided a presentation with respect to the Expanded Scope of Planning & Development Studies – Land Use By-Law Simplification Phase I.

Councillor Mosher thanked Mr. Purvis for his presentation and requested questions of clarification from members of the Audit & Finance Standing Committee.

Councillor Craig commented that he would prefer to see detailed phasing included within the project plan for the By-law simplification project. He advised that staff should pay particular attention to timelines and goals with respect to By-law simplification and included within the overall plan.

MOVED by Councillor McCluskey, seconded by Councillor Dalrymple

THAT the Audit & Finance Standing Committee recommend that Regional Council approve a new multi-year Planning & Development strategic study, Land Use By-Law Simplification, Phase I – Background Studies, to be funded from the Strategic Studies Reserve, Q330, at a cost of \$120,000, as described in the Financial Implications section of the staff report dated September 17, 2015.

Deputy Mayor Whitman requested further information respecting the rationale for the use of consultants as opposed to HRM staff.

Mr. Purvis noted that the intended scope of the work is best suited to consultants as it is something that staff has not undertaken in the past. He advised that other municipalities and consultants have undertaken similar studies and noted that it would be beneficial to utilize that expertise.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.1.4 Budget Increase CP110002 – Cole Harbour Turf

The following was before the Audit & Finance Standing Committee:

- *A staff recommendation report dated November 4, 2015*

Mr. Brad Anguish, Director of Parks and Recreation provided an overview of the staff report.

Councillor Mosher thanked Mr. Anguish for his remarks and requested questions of clarification from members of the Audit & Finance Standing Committee.

MOVED by Councillor McCluskey, seconded by Mayor Savage

THAT the Audit and Finance Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council direct staff to include additional funding in the amount of \$1,600,000 for Project No. CP110002 – Cole Harbour Turf for consideration in the 2016/17 capital budget.

Councillor McCluskey expressed concern with respect to the discrepancy in the estimation to complete the artificial turf project in Cole Harbour. She advised that staff should have had a better sense of the costs associated with the construction of the turf.

Mayor Savage noted that he also shares the concern raised by Councillor McCluskey with respect to the project estimation. He noted his support for the project and requested further information regarding the discrepancy in the project estimation.

Mr. Anguish advised that the budget increase is due in part to the manner in which staff budgets for the project, using one Capital account as opposed to several for similar projects like that constructed at Charles P. Allen site in Bedford. He also noted other costs such as lot grading and water/sanitary services that were already included at the Bedford location which are not available at the Cole Harbour location.

In response to a comment from Councillor Craig, Mr. Anguish noted a typo on page two of the staff report in the financial implication section and advised that that project spending will occur in 2015/2016 if approved by the committee and Regional Council.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.1.5 2016 Municipal and School Board Election

The following was before the Audit & Finance Standing Committee:

- *A staff recommendation report dated November 4, 2015*

Ms. Cathy Mellett, Municipal Clerk provided an overview of staff report dated November 4, 2015.

MOVED by Councillor Craig, seconded by Councillor McCluskey

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

- 1. Authorize the withdrawal from Q313 Municipal Elections Reserve to fund municipal and school board election expenses incurred in A125 Elections. Withdrawal amounts not to exceed \$2,200,000.**
- 2. Refer the recommendations in regard to the conduct of the 2016 Municipal and School Board elections to Regional Council for their consideration:**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.2 OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL

9.2.1 Follow-Up Review of Halifax Regional Municipality Overtime©

This item was removed from the agenda during the approval of the Order of Business. Please see page 2.

9.3 INVESTMENT POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE – NONE

9.4 SPECIAL EVENTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE – NONE

9.5 GRANTS COMMITTEE – NONE

10. MOTIONS – NONE

11. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE)

11.1 Personnel Matter

This matter was dealt with In Camera. The following motion was ratified in public session:

MOVED by Mayor Savage, seconded by Councillor Rankin

THAT the Audit & Finance Standing Committee ratify and confirm the In Camera (In Private) motion with respect to the Personnel Matter.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

11.2 Citizen Nomination to Grant Committee

This matter was dealt with In Camera. The following motion was ratified in public session:

MOVED by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Dalrymple

THAT the Audit & Finance Standing Committee proceed to nominate one citizen to the Grant Committee as outlined in Attachment # 1 of the private and confidential staff report dated November 9, 2015.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

- 12. ADDED ITEMS**
- 13. NOTICES OF MOTION – NONE**
- 14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – December 16, 2015**
- 15. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

Liam MacSween
Legislative Assistant