

AUDIT & FINANCE STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES

April 20, 2011

PRESENT: Councillors Gloria McCluskey, Chair
Russell Walker, Vice-Chair
Barry Dalrymple
Bill Karsten
Linda Mosher
Sue Uteck

REGRETS: Councillors: Steve Adams
Tim Outhit

STAFF: Mr. Mike Labrecque, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Mr. Bruce Fisher, Acting Director, Finance
Mr. Louis de Montbrun, Manager, Accounting Operations, Finance
Mr. Andrew Whittemore, Manager, Community Development
Mr. Paul Forrest, Coordinator, Civic Events
Ms. Chris Newson, Legislative Assistant

OFFICE OF THE
AUDITOR GENERAL: Mr. Larry Munroe, Auditor General
Ms. Pauline Boudreau, Coordinator

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1. CALL TO ORDER

Councillor Gloria McCluskey, Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m. in Halifax Hall, 2nd Floor City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 16, 2011

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Karsten that the minutes of March 16, 2011, as presented, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Addition: 11.1 Personnel Matter: Citizen Appointment to Board/Committee

Deletion: Item 7.2 to be deferred pending release of the Auditor General's report.

Move: Items 7.1 and 9.6.1 to be dealt with together
Item 9.3.1 to be dealt with first on the agenda

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

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - NONE

5. MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION – NONE

6. MOTIONS OF RESCISSION – NONE

The Committee agreed to deal with Item 9.3.1 at this time.

9.3.1 Grants, Donations and Contributions

Mr. Larry Munroe, Auditor General, provided a verbal status update in regard to the Grants, Donations and Contributions report. He explained that the report was currently being reviewed by Mr. Richard Butts, Chief Administrative Officer, and should be available to the Committee shortly.

Mr. Munroe clarified that the Auditor General's Office may release their reports when and how they determine is appropriate as the Auditor General's office, as outlined in the HRM Charter, reports to the public. The reports have been brought to the Committee out of courtesy, not requirement. He explained that management is provided an opportunity to review the report in regard to the accuracy of the data.

In response to a question by Councillor Karsten in regard to the rationale/process surrounding when an Auditor General's report would be released to the public, Mr. Munroe advised that the process is on the Auditor General's website. He offered to revisit that information to ensure the process is well defined.

In response to discussion surrounding the issue of the report being available prior to the 2011/12 budget discussions as some of the recommendations may include cost savings for the upcoming budget year, it was **MOVED by Councillor Karsten, seconded by Councillor Mosher that the Audit and Finance Standing Committee agree to have the Auditor General's report on Grants, Donations and Contributions released to all of Council as soon as it is available in order for the report to be part of the budget negotiations.**

Mr. Louis de Montbrun, Manager, Accounting Operations, advised that it would be helpful to have the management responses to the Auditor General's report prior to further discussion as management's comments would include how they plan to address the recommendations put forward by the Auditor General.

Without a vote being taken on the motion on the floor, it was **MOVED by Councillor Uteck, seconded by Councillor Dalrymple that the motion be amended to hold release of the Auditor General's report pending review of the report by the newly appointed Chief Administrative Officer. MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED.**

The motion now reads as follows:

MOVED by Councillor Karsten, seconded by Councillor Mosher that the Audit and Finance Standing Committee agree to have the Auditor General's report on Grants, Donations and Contributions released to all of Council following review of the report by the newly appointed Chief Administrative Officer in order for the report to be part of the budget negotiations.

Mr. Bruce Fisher, Acting Director, Finance, explained that the budget, in regard to grants, could be re-allocated at any time throughout the year by Regional Council.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

The Committee agreed to deal with Items 7.1 and 9.6.1 together at this time.

7.1 Proposed Civic Events Working Group

A Memorandum dated January 18, 2010 was before the Committee.

Mr. Andrew Whitemore, Manager, Community Development, presented an overview of the Proposed Civic Events Working Group as outlined in the Memorandum dated January 18, 2010. He also provided a brief verbal overview of the HRM Events Strategy and Service Delivery reports as outlined under Item 9.6.1.

Following questions and brief discussion by the Committee, it was **MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Dalrymple that the staff presentation and any further discussion on the Proposed Civic Events Working Group and HRM Events Strategy/Service Delivery be deferred pending release of the Auditor General's report on Grants, Donations and Contributions. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

The Committee agreed to deal with Item 9.6.1 together with Item 7.1 at this time.

9.6.1 Administrative Standing Committee – Proposed HRM Event Strategy

This item was deferred under Item 7.1. pending release of the Auditor General's report on Grants, Donations and Contributions.

7.2 Revised Special Events Granting Framework

This item was deleted from the agenda during the approval of the agenda. See page 3.

8. CORRESPONDENCE - NONE

9. REPORTS

9.1 STAFF

9.1.1 Investment Activities – Quarter Ending December 31, 2010

A copy of the April 11, 2011 staff Information Report was before the Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Karsten, seconded by Councillor Dalrymple that the Audit and Finance Standing Committee accept the report and forward it to Regional Council. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.2 MEMBERS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE – NONE

9.3 OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL

9.3.1 Grants, Donations and Contributions

This item was dealt with earlier in the meeting. See page 3.

9.4 SUB-COMMITTEES

9.4.1 Grants Committee – NONE

9.4.2 Investment Policy Advisory Committee

(i) Investment Policy Advisory Committee – Quarter Ending December 31, 2010

A copy of the Investment Policy Advisory Committee Information Report was before the Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Karsten, seconded by Councillor Dalrymple that the Audit and Finance Standing Committee accept the report and forward it to Regional Council. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.4.3 Special Events Advisory Committee – NONE

9.5 MATTERS REFERRED FROM REGIONAL COUNCIL

9.5.1 Community Facility Master Plan – Funding Strategies

The Legislative Assistant explained that staff have advised that they plan to bring this matter forward to future meetings of the Standing Committee prior to the 2011/12 budget discussions.

9.6 MATTERS REFERRED FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

9.6.1 Administrative Standing Committee – Proposed HRM Event Strategy

This item was dealt with earlier in the meeting. See page 5.

10. MOTIONS - NONE

11. ADDED ITEMS

11.1 Personnel Matter: Citizen Appointment to Board/Committee

This matter was dealt with at an earlier In Camera meeting and was now before the Committee for ratification.

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Dalrymple that the Audit and Finance Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council approve the appointment to the Grants Committee to fill an existing vacancy. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12. NOTICES OF MOTION – NONE

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:04 p.m.

Chris Newson
Legislative Assistant

Information Items – NONE