



**AUDIT AND FINANCE STANDING COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
January 17, 2024**

PRESENT: Councillor Paul Russell, Chair  
Deputy Mayor Cathy Deagle Gammon, Vice Chair  
Councillor David Hendsbee  
Councillor Iona Stoddard  
Councillor Shawn Cleary  
Councillor Pam Lovelace  
Mayor Mike Savage, Ex Officio

STAFF: Dave Harley, Director Accounting & Financial Reporting  
John Traves, K.C., CD, Executive Director of Legal & Legislative Services  
/Municipal Solicitor/Chief Governance Officer  
Dorothy Maponga, Legislative Assistant

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

*The agenda, reports, supporting documents, information items circulated, and video (if available) are online at [halifax.ca](http://halifax.ca).*

*The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m. The Standing Committee adjourned at 10:54 a.m.*

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. and acknowledged that the meeting took place in the traditional and ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq people, and that we are all treaty people.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 13, 2023**

MOVED by Councillor Russell, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee

**THAT the minutes of December 13, 2023 be approved as circulated.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

Additions: None

Deletions: None

MOVED by Councillor Russell, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee

**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 Presentation – None**

**11. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The Chair noted there were no registered speakers and called three times for any other members of the public wishing to speak; there were none.

**12. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – December 13, 2023**

**12.1 Mayor Savage - Provincial Financial Indicators Report 2021/22 – Halifax Regional Municipality**

Dave Harley, Director Accounting & Financial Reporting and Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance and Asset Management/ Chief Financial Officer responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee.

**13. REPORTS**

**13.1 AUDITOR GENERAL**

**13.1.1 Follow-up Review: 2021-22 Audits**

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Auditor General report dated January 17, 2024
- Presentation dated January 17, 2024

Andrew Atherton, Auditor General gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Russell, seconded by Councillor Lovelace

**THAT the Audit and Finance Standing Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to prepare a status update and action plan on the outstanding recommendations on the management of the fire inspection program and return to the Audit and Finance Standing Committee in three months.**

John Traves, K.C., CD, Executive Director of Legal & Legislative Services /Municipal Solicitor/Chief Governance Officer responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Chief Ken Stuebing, Matt Covey, District Chief, Fire Prevention & Public Education, Corey Beals, Deputy Fire Chief responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Russell, seconded by Councillor Lovelace

**THAT the Audit and Finance Standing Committee forward the Auditor General report to Halifax Regional Council as an information item.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**13.2 STAFF**

**13.2.1 Annual Investment Policy Review**

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Staff report January 15, 2024

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Russell

**THAT the Audit and Finance Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council adopt the amendments to the Investment Policy as set out in Attachment B of the staff report dated January 15, 2024.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**13.2.2 Investment Activities – Quarter ending September 30, 2023**

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Staff report dated December 4, 2023

MOVED by Councillor Russell, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee

**THAT the Audit and Finance Standing Committee forward the staff report dated December 4, 2023 to Halifax Regional Council as an information item.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**13.3 GRANTS COMMITTEE - NONE**

**13.4 MEMBERS OF STANDING COMMITTEE – NONE**

**14. MOTIONS - NONE**

**15. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE)**

**15.1 In Camera (In Private) Minutes – December 13, 2023**

This matter was dealt with in public.

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Mayor Savage

**THAT the In Camera (In Private) minutes of December 13, 2023 be approved as circulated.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**15.2 PERSONNEL MATTER - Private and Confidential Report**

This matter was dealt with in public as follows:

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Private and confidential staff report dated December 13, 2023

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Cleary

**THAT Audit and Finance Standing Committee:**

- 1. Adopt the recommendations as outlined in the private and confidential report dated December 13, 2023; and**
- 2. Direct that the private and confidential report dated December 13, 2023 be maintained private and confidential.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**16. ADDED ITEMS – NONE**

**17. NOTICES OF MOTION – NONE**

**18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – February 21, 2024**

**19. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 10:54 a.m.

Dorothy Maponga  
Legislative Assistant