



**Ottawa Police Services Board  
Finance and Audit Committee  
Minutes**

**Meeting #:** 19  
**Date:** February 15, 2023  
**Time:** 10:00 am  
**Location:** Electronic Participation

**Present:** S. Valiquet, Councillor C. Curry

**Others:** Councillor M.Carr; S.Fakirani; E. Stubbs, Chief; S. Bell, Deputy Chief; P. Burnett, Acting Deputy Chief; T. Ferguson, Acting Deputy Chief; J, Steinbachs, Executive Director; K. Ferraro, Board Executive Director; R. Ben Guedria, Board Assistant

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Election of Committee Chair

Member C. Curry nominated Chair S. Valiquet to serve as Committee Chair of the Finance and Audit committee.

**That Finance and Audit Committee confirm S. Valiquet as Committee Chair.**

**Carried**

1. Confirmation of Agenda

**That the Finance and Audit Committee confirm the agenda of the 15 February 2023 meeting.**

**Carried**

2. Confirmation of Minutes

2.1 Minutes #18 of 10 November 2022

**That the Finance and Audit Committee confirm Minutes #18 of the 10 November 2022 meeting.**

**Carried**

3. Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were filed.

4. Items of Business

4.1 2023 Draft Operating and Capital Budgets: Delegations

Presentation

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OPS staff made a presentation concerning the 2023 Draft Operating and Capital Budgets for the Service.

The Committee then heard from the following registered public delegations:

- 1) Robin Browne
- 2) Farnaz Farhang
- 3) Bailey Gauthier
- 4) Ade Olumide
- 5) Moksha Singh-Sharpe
- 6) Meral Aduli
- 7) Erin O'Neil
- 8) Sam Hersh

Following the public delegations, the Committee heard from the following Council delegation:

## 1) Councillor Riley Brockington

Topics raised by the public delegations included requests to freeze the budget and reallocate funding to social services and alternatives to police; advocacy on changing provincial legislation to allow suspension without pay; the limitation periods surrounding disciplinary hearings; and the importance of business planning in guiding the annual budget.

It was noted that the Board had previously done advocacy on the topic of suspension without pay, as did the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police, which the OPS is a member of.

Topics raised by the Council delegation included the need for more opportunities for Councillors and the public to provide input and feedback to the OPS on policing priorities in various neighbourhoods and corresponding performance measures, particularly through the Neighbourhood Resource Teams (NRTs).

A question was raised around the possibility of the Board needing additional funding to fulfill its mandate in 2023. It was noted that while the budget allocations will be set for the year once the budget is approved, the Service can find funding solutions to address any in-year pressures that may arise. The next budget cycle for 2024 can be used to address any base budget increases needed in the future.

A comment was made that the City of Ottawa was undertaking an efficiency review process. The Service noted that if they were approached to participate, they would. The OPS had previously embarked on a number of efficiency exercises looking at back office supports, fleet, and a line-by-line review of departmental budgets. Currently, the Service is looking at opportunities for civilianization and outsourcing.

It was clarified that while the police budget is increasing from last year, the percentage of the police budget within the City's overall budget has decreased over the years.

Other points raised in response to questions included:

- The Service's growth needs to keep pace with population growth and this has not taken place in previous years. Additional resources are needed for priorities such as cyber-crime, hate crime, road safety and violence against women. Further, in order for officers to

do proactive work, they need to have time free from calls for service.

- The OPS needs to be able to keep up with IT advancements and is currently working on a multi-year modernization plan.
- Any risks around not meeting the annual budget will be reported to the Board through the quarterly financial updates it receives.
- There has not been much traction in terms of amendments to the *Highway Traffic Act* that would allow resources other than police officers to direct traffic in certain circumstances however the Service can review the types of traffic control that fall outside of the legislation.
- Despite modernization efforts around hybrid and remote working, the Service still requires facilities that are appropriately located geographically so members can retrieve equipment and vehicles. The location of the South Facility is in keeping with population growth projections that indicate future growth will be highest in that part of the city.
- The efficiency projection in the 2023 budget is as a result of a line-by-line review and reduction in professional services accounts across various departments.
- The growth of 25 FTEs is part of the budget increase however the Service is reinvesting funding from efficiencies for an additional 4 FTEs.
- The provincial funding for the Service has not decreased for 2023 and in fact, the Service will be looking for opportunities to increase provincial funding.
- The funding for the Safer Workplace Office is under the budget for the Chief of Police, as it reports directly to the Chief.
- The Service cannot generate revenue for profit, only for cost recovery.
- More effort/urgency is needed by police, the City, and partners to develop an alternative response to police in Ottawa. In Toronto, where they have seen success with such a model, the funding comes from their city council and not an emergency service provider. The Service is supportive of another service delivery model but there needs to be a proper structure and model in place.

In the interim, the Service is looking to hire a mental health worker to work within its dispatch unit.

- Members of the OPS must have the psychological supports they need to assist them in doing their jobs.

**That the Finance and Audit Committee receive the presentation and delegations for information and consideration.**

**Received**

5. Other Business

There was no other business.

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:17 pm.

7. Next Meeting

To be determined.

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Original signed by K. Ferraro,  
Executive Director

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Original signed by Suzanne  
Valiquet, Chair