



Ottawa Police Services Board

Minutes

Meeting #: 74 #2 Special Meeting Release of Auditor General's report
Date: February 9, 2023
Time: 2:00 pm
Location: Electronic Participation

Present: Chair: Suzanne Valiquet, Mayor Mark Sutcliffe, Councillor Cathy Curry, Councillor Marty Carr, Salim Fakirani, Peter Henschel

Absent: Michael Doucet

1. Notices and meeting information for participants and members of the public
2. Confirmation of Agenda

That the Ottawa Police Services Board confirm the agenda of the 09 February 2023 meeting.

Carried

3. Declarations of Interest
No Declarations of Interest were filed.
4. Items of Business

4.1 Audit of the Ottawa Police Service's Response to the Convoy Protest – Role of the Ottawa Police Services Board

Presentation

The Auditor General made a presentation and took questions from the Board.

When asked about the balance between the Board's role as a governance Board versus operational involvement, especially in cases of major events, the Auditor General (AG) clarified that the Board is responsible for establishing the mission, objectives, and priorities. The Board should always be provided with information so it can measure whether the established objectives are being met.

Woody McKaig, legal counsel working with the AG, referenced the Morden Report and noted the Board must gather enough information to fulfill its obligation to provide adequate and effective policing. Although there is a lack of clarity around what constitutes 'adequate and effective', the Board's policy should spell out what information it needs. The Board can ask questions about operational matters but is limited in terms of seeking sensitive operational info on a day-to-day basis. The Board needs to work with the Chief to ensure it has enough information about what is going on and what resources are needed.

A concern was raised that there is no mention in the report about the difference between the Police Board and City Council. The AG noted this was addressed in the report focused on the role of the City.

Other points raised in response to questions included:

- A meeting over email can exist when four or more members are copied (quorum) and the contents of the email can be seen as advancing Board business or making decisions that should occur at a public or in-camera meeting.
- The importance of updating the Board's Major Events Policy and all other policies and practices to ensure they continue to evolve. A suggestion was made to consider having a standing item on the Board's agendas for major events as a way of institutionalizing regular updates. Board members can also raise events if they become aware of something.

- The cost of adding staff resources to the Board. It was noted the Board needs to determine what resources it needs and should speak to the Executive Director to determine what skillsets need to be brought on board.
- For the recommendations related to training, the Board does not need to start from scratch; it can reach out to other Boards.
- In terms of the role of the Board Solicitor, the AG is not suggesting the Solicitor cannot play a role. The AG noted however there are some disadvantages, as highlighted in the Morden Report, and sometimes a conflict is only noticed once it has occurred.

The Chair noted the Board agreed with all eleven recommendations and had developed a detailed action plan to address each one.

That the Ottawa Police Services Board receive this report for information.

Received

4.2 Audit of Ottawa Police Service's Response to the Convoy Protest – Collaboration with the City of Ottawa

Presentation

The Auditor General (AG) made a presentation and took questions from the Board.

On the topic of the limited scope of the audit, the AG advised she did not want to waste taxpayer dollars by duplicating work being undertaken by the Public Order Emergency Commission (POEC). The AG noted she would review the results of POEC to see what questions, if any, are left unanswered. If there are big questions remaining, the AG is committed to working to address those.

The AG noted there were improvements at the end of the protest in terms of communication and coordination however given that protests are not usually of this magnitude, when another group at the OPS took over, they weren't used to engaging with the City.

The Chief stated that these recommendations are very easy to accept, and to ensure success, the OPS will involve stakeholders and partners.

The OPS is open to learning and making improvements and is fully cooperating with all reviews. It was noted that communication, collaboration, and information sharing are key themes in the report.

That the Ottawa Police Services Board receive this report for information.

Received

5. Other Business

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:17 pm.

DRAFT