

OTTAWA POLICE SERVICES BOARD
FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING

REGULAR MINUTES 8

21 April 2020, 1:00 p.m.

This meeting was held through electronic participation using Zoom.

Committee Members: C. Meehan, L.A Smallwood (Committee Chair), J. Watson

Other Panelists: Board Member D. Nirman, Chief P. Sloy, Deputy Chief S. Bell, Deputy Chief J. McKenna, CAO J. Letourneau.

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

That the Finance and Audit Committee confirm the Agenda of the 21 April 2020 meeting.

CARRIED

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

MINUTES 7 OF 2 DECEMBER 2019

That the Finance and Audit Committee confirm the Minutes from the 2 December 2019 meeting.

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

There was no business arising from the minutes.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. FINANCIAL UPDATE: COVID-19
Presentation

The Committee received a presentation from OPS staff and the following

points were made:

- With respect to the request from Volunteer Ottawa to waive some of the fees for police record checks, it was suggested that Volunteer Ottawa work with its partner organizations to review existing requirements for checks. Given that the Board is already looking for ways to address a growing budget deficit, it cannot entertain this request which would add further budget pressure.
- The OPS sets aside an annual budget of \$1.5M for legal indemnity. This budget is currently in good shape however the courts are closed. There may be in-year savings as a result of court closures however we could later experience pent-up demand and budget pressure in future years.
- In terms of saving costs by delaying the replacement of OPS fleet by a year (as was previously done in 2017), it was not recommended to take this approach as the previous delay resulted in increased maintenance costs due to the aging fleet.
- The OPS previously targeted 100 growth hires, and 50 hires to replace retirements and resignations. The hires were to be completed in three classes of 48. The first class of 48 has been hired; they have not yet gone through police college as the college is closed. The OPS is currently exploring ways to homeschool the new hires and certify them. They are already on the payroll.
- The City has set up a meeting with the OPS to discuss the budget challenges it is facing as a result of the pandemic.
- The Chief will be reviewing alternatives for revenue generation.
- The OPS is currently experiencing a good turnout in terms of staff attendance and there is no need to revisit the 42 patrol car minimum at this time.
- There is an opportunity at bargaining to review the collective agreement and revisit parts, such as the shift schedule.
- While there was an initial spike in overtime at the start of the pandemic, it has since come down, particularly in the Communications Centre where it is traditionally high.

In terms of keeping the Board/Committee updated on the financial status of the OPS as a result of the ongoing pandemic, it was suggested that updates could be monthly at the FAC.

That the Finance and Audit Committee receive this presentation for discussion.

RECEIVED

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. EMAIL FROM MARIE EVELINE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, VOLUNTEER OTTAWA

RE: Fee for Police Background Checks during COVID-19

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:47 pm.

NEXT MEETING

To be determined.

Note: Please note that any written or verbal submissions (including your name but excluding personal contact information) will form part of the public record and be made available to City Council and the public.