



Ottawa Police Services Board
Finance & Audit Committee
Minutes 10

Thursday, 4 June 2020, 2:00 PM

Krista Ferraro, Executive Director

Via Zoom

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

Other Panellists: Board Member D. Nirman; Board Member R. Swaita; Chief P. Sloly;
CAO J. Letourneau

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

**That the Finance and Audit Committee confirm the Agenda of the 4
June 2020 meeting.**

CONFIRMED

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

MINUTES 9 OF 12 MAY 2020

**That the Finance and Audit Committee confirm the Minutes from the 12
May 2020 meeting.**

CONFIRMED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

There was no business arising from the minutes.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. FINANCIAL UPDATE #3: COVID-19

Presentation

The Committee received a presentation from OPS staff providing a financial update on the budget amid the pressures resulting from the pandemic.

It was noted that many of the previous budget assumptions pre-COVID-19 are at risk and the impacts on the 2020 and future year budgets are unknown. The Chief indicated he made a decision to put the accelerated hiring plan on hold as the OPS works through a series of scenarios. Currently 16 hires were delayed while the larger analysis of the hiring plan is completed. The original hiring plan included an increase of 70 from 30 for a total of 100 growth hires (e.g. does not include replacement hires for retirements and resignations which is approximately 50).

The full hiring plan (150) was broken down over the year to coincide with the Ontario Police College intake schedule. The first class of 48 was hired in April; 16 would have been hired in August (now delayed); and the remaining two classes would have represented the bulk of the growth hires.

While the OPS noted it had found \$14.2 million in savings, the sources of those savings were not necessarily sustainable year over year. Examples included the cancellation of Canada Day; calls for service being lower; courts being closed resulting in less court overtime, etc.

The Chief noted the public requests to cut the police budget were worthy of a public discussion. The OPS needs to demonstrate a higher return on investment. The conversation however needs to move out of the post-crisis, emotional state, and cannot be based on arbitrary numbers born out of the grief being experienced around the world.

In terms of the savings achieved for 2020, some will be expenses down the road as things return to normal. The OPS budget also includes funding from the City's tax stabilization fund of \$2.4 million which is not sustainable. The

OPS will continue to collaborate with the City.

A request was made to ensure that, should frontline services to the community be impacted as a result of budget pressures, that the Board be informed first.

The OPS is currently in a stabilization period of its COVID-19 response and is looking at the long-term implications on how it delivers policing post-pandemic. They are shifting to look at proactive, prevention, and partnership opportunities. The OPS is reviewing all budget lines to ensure cost-effective and socially responsible service delivery. Community policing will however never be compromised.

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

RECEIVED

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:58 pm.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, September 15, 2020, at 2:00 p.m.

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.