



Ottawa Police Services Board
Finance & Audit Committee
Minutes 12

Monday, 09 November 2020, 1:00 PM

Krista Ferraro, Executive Director

Via Zoom

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Committee Members: D. Deans, L.A Smallwood (Chair)

Other Panellists: Board Members C. Meehan, B. Johnson, R. King; D. Nirman, and R. Swaita; Chief P. Sloy; CAO J. Letourneau; Deputy Chief S. Bell; A/Deputy Chief J. McKenna; CFO C. Rogers

ELECTION OF CHAIR

Moved by D. Deans

That L. A. Smallwood serve as Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee.

CARRIED

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

That the Finance and Audit Committee confirm the Agenda of the 09 November 2020 meeting.

CARRIED

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

MINUTES 11 OF 15 SEPTEMBER 2020

That the Finance and Audit Committee confirm the Minutes from the 15 September 2020 meeting.

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

There was no business arising from the minutes.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. 2021 OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGETS: DELEGATIONS

Presentation

A presentation was made by Chief P. Soly, CAO J. Letourneau, and CFO C. Rogers.

The Committee then heard from the following public delegations:

1. ERIN LEIGH, OCTEVAW
2. ERICA IFILL, COALITION AGAINST MORE SURVEILLANCE
3. MAR KHORKHORDINA
4. JACK BELLEMARE
5. ROBIN BROWNE

6. EUAN WHEATON
- ~~7. MORELL ANDREWS (registered but did not attend)~~
8. EMMA RICHTER
- ~~9. CHRISTINE BURTON (registered but did not attend)~~
10. MATTEO CIMELLARO
11. LAURA SHANTZ
12. PAUL JORGENSON
13. ERIN ROTHSCHILD
- ~~14. MITCH JACKSON (registered but did not attend)~~
15. DAVID HENESSEY
16. NICK GROVER
- ~~17. MAYA BASUDDE (registered but did not attend)~~
- ~~18. NAGAD ABDILLAHI (registered but did not attend)~~
19. SOPHIA JACOB & NICHOLAS HARRISON, SOCIAL PLANNING
COUNCIL OF OTTAWA
20. ADAM GIBBARD
- ~~21. FRANCIS YEL, SOUTH SUDANESE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
OF CANADA (registered but did not attend)~~
22. TREVOR HACHÉ
23. GABRIELLE JACOBS
24. IFRAH YUSUF, JUSTICE FOR ABDIRAHMAN COALITION
25. MIRANDA GRAY
26. CASSIE SLACK
27. SAM HERSH, HORIZON OTTAWA
28. SOUHEIL BENSLIMANE
29. MWINYELE

30. KARIN FREEMAN
31. ETHAN SABOURIN
32. BROOKE SHAW
33. FARNAZ FARHANG
34. LISA MACLEOD
35. SAMANTHA MCALEESE
36. WILLIAM FELEPCHUK
37. MAE MASON
38. JUSTIN PICHE
39. BILLEH HAMUD
40. STACY DOUGLAS, SOMERSET WEST COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE
41. JESSICA SCALLEN
42. VANESSA ARNELE - statement read by Elke Dring

The following points of clarification were made during the delegations:

- Some delegates addressed incidents involving OPS officers and their facing of disciplinary actions. Board Chair D. Deans and FAC Committee Chair L.A. Smallwood both addressed these comments, stating that the Board is not currently mandated to handle these concerns, but that provincial appeals have been made to grant the Board greater oversight in such matters.
- Delegations were told that the Board will continue to listen and were promised that their words would not fall on deaf ears after a question was raised as to what kind of accountability the Board adheres to in holding public consultations.
- It was recognized by both the Board and Chief Sloyly that the police have long been tasked with handling calls that would be far better suited to other services.
- It was acknowledged that the sign of an effective police force is the very absence of crime and disorder, and not the visible evidence of police.

- It was clarified that, could the budget be broken down into a simple equation of “x” amount of money is invested, which leads to “x” amount of crime reduction, then budget results of the past years would appear to be quite poor. However, the police have been involved in far more than just crime prevention and that must be taken into consideration when analyzing the budget.
- A comment was made that police should not be involved at all in the Mental Health Strategy or its implementation. In response, a point was made that oftentimes mental health issues will present themselves in such a way that the police are still needed: a crime in progress, someone wielding a gun, etc. It was said that part of the challenge in getting this right is that the overall safety of the public must remain top of mind.

The following key points were raised by delegates:

- Multiple delegates pledged support for the five demands issued by the Justice for Abdirahman Abdi on 24 October 2020 and called for them to be implemented by the Board and the Service.
- Many called for the transferring of funds from the police budget to other social service providers. While some offered support for the Mental Health Strategy put forth by the OPS, others expressed concerns related to the implementation timeline and it being vague.
- Abolishment of the police service entirely was suggested by some.
- Multiple delegates called for the banning of dynamic entries, also known as no-knock warrants.
- The efficacy of the Neighborhood Resource Teams (NRTs) was questioned by multiple delegates, with references made to them being a rebrand of Direct Action Response Teams (DART) and Prevention and Intervention of Violence in Ottawa (PIVOT).
- While some delegates called for a freezing of the budget at 2020 levels, others called for a decrease to the budget.
- Numerous calls for transparency were made, related to policing as well as to consultations held by the OPSB.
- Many insisted that the proposed budget does not signify change, nor is it representative of a police service or board that is listening to the

public. Examples offered included further funding for weapons and salary increases.

- It was suggested that in putting together delegation lists, preferred pronouns could be included alongside names.
- Points were raised with respect to the accessibility of the meeting in terms of timing, technology, and language barriers.

CITY COUNCIL DELEGATIONS

1. COUNCILLOR KEITH EGLI
2. COUNCILLOR RILEY BROCKINGTON
3. COUNCILLOR SHAWN MENARD
4. COUNCILLOR MATHIEU FLEURY

The following points of clarification were made following the comments by the council delegates:

- A question was raised regarding why the hiring ratio of female to male officers isn't 50/50. Chief Sloly explained that the current rates of gendered hire do signify large change, but that they don't have set quotas. The OPS are seeing a large increase in female applicants, and their hiring reflects that.
- A question was raised regarding use of force training and mental health training for existing OPS officers. Chief Sloly said that training is conducted for existing officers at in-service sessions. He emphasized that more training is not necessarily better, but better training is better.
- A question was raised regarding COVID-19 budgetary pressures. It was explained that in collaboration with the City of Ottawa, the assumption is that grants from senior levels of government will come through. Because of this, there is a \$0 budgetary impact.
- A question related to background check timelines was raised. It was said that the online process should provide completed record checks within 24 hours. In instances where there are complications, such as if a person needs to be fingerprinted, the wait time might be longer.

- A question on red-light camera revenue was raised. It was said that the 2021 budget revenue representation demonstrates the third year of a three-year funding strategy.
- Clarification was made regarding the OPS fleet expenses. The \$4.5 million figure is the annual amount required to replace vehicles simply from a maintenance perspective. The \$6 million figure includes the additional amount required to pay for growth costs and retrofitting of vehicles. It was then explained that Ford and Dodge are the only two manufacturers with police-rated vehicles.
- \$600,000 of the budget is inflationary.
- The cost of the independent facilitator for the Community Equity Council is \$45,000, which is embedded in the Respect, Values and Inclusion budget on page 122 of the budget book.
- Compensation increases make up \$9 million of the budget.
- A request for supplemental information that breaks down the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Plan's funding across the organization was made. CAO Letourneau said he would have that information available at the 23 November Board Meeting.

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

RECEIVED

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

ADJOURNEMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:51pm.

NEXT MEETING

To be determined.