

OTTAWA POLICE SERVICES BOARD
FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES 4

17 November 2016, 12:00 p.m.
Colonel By Room, 2nd floor, Ottawa City Hall

Committee Members: E. El-Chantiry (Chair); J. Durrell, L.A. Smallwood

Present: Chair E. El-Chantiry, J. Durrell, L.A. Smallwood

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

That the Finance and Audit Committee confirm the Agenda of the 17 November 2016 meeting.

CARRIED

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

That the Finance and Audit Committee confirm the Minutes from the 12 October 2016 meeting.

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. 2017 OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGETS: DELEGATIONS

Presentation

The purpose of the meeting was to provide an opportunity for members of City Council and the public to ask questions about the 2017 Ottawa Police Service (OPS) budget.

Chief of Police C. Bordeleau made introductory comments about the principles and context impacting the 2017 budget. He highlighted that any costs associated with special events happening in 2017 for Canada's 150th anniversary are over and above regular costs and will have to be recovered from other sources of revenue. These costs are estimated to be \$1.5 million.

Director General D. Frazer went through a short presentation (available online) that covered: the 2017 operating budget numbers; the forecast for 2018-2020; and the 2017 capital budget.

Chief Bordeleau and Director General Frazer then responded to questions from City Councillors Brockington and Deans, and members of the Committee. There were no delegations from the public. Topics discussed included the following:

- Concern was expressed about the inherent risk of not identifying money in the budget to cover the expected \$1.5 million in costs related to 150th anniversary events in 2017, and instead hoping to recover those costs from external sources. It was suggested that if organizations or other levels of government sponsor events the onus should be on them to cover the policing costs. Chief Bordeleau stated they will be trying to recover as much as possible from other agencies.
- The first group of 25 new officers will be assigned to priority areas and where there are currently workload and capacity pressures. Resources will also be directed to the number one community safety concern - traffic - although all officers have a responsibility to carry out traffic enforcement.
- The Chief advised that to assess effectiveness in addressing priorities so Board can be assured there are adequate resources assigned to priorities, the Board receives a semi-annual progress report on the three-year Business Plan priorities and an annual report. In addition he noted the investments being made in new technology will allow for stronger analysis and assessment.
- Councillor Brockington asked for assurances that when the new deployment model takes effect, neighbourhoods in his ward like Carlington will receive at least the same level of service as it currently does. He noted the increase in violent crimes in his ward. Chief Bordeleau confirmed that when there are significant crimes in communities the police will continue to work with those communities.
- Concern was expressed about the reduction in the 2017 overtime budget when the 2016 overtime budget is overspent. Chief Bordeleau responded there were a lot of unexpected pressures this year (eg. the number of homicides) that may not be as significant in 2017. He also expected the investment in new technology to result in overtime savings through more robust tracking and controls. Also, the 25 new officers and the new deployment model should reduce overtime on the frontline.
- Board Member Smallwood noted 81% of the OPS budget goes towards compensation, leaving only 19% to find efficiencies. 25 new officers are being hired this year and next and we are paying for them through finding

efficiencies. He did not see how we can keep doing this and believed a crunch was coming. He believed it would be helpful to look at tasks currently being performed by highly trained police officers that could be outsourced at a lower cost, for example: monitoring crime scenes, construction sites, front desk services.

Chief Bordeleau responded the OPS is constantly looking for those opportunities and mentioned some examples. He said if the Province changes the legislation around the requirement to have police officers at construction sites, that duty could be performed by City by-law or private security. He would like to look at options for monitoring crime scenes but it is a huge project. He advised that once the Service Initiative is completed there will be a permanent 'continuous improvement unit' to continue looking for opportunities.

- Board Vice Chair Durrell agreed with previous speakers that the budget contains risk because we are hindered by legislation, have to work within the City's budget framework, and can't control the things that are driving up costs. On the whole though, he felt the Service has done a great job.
- Chair El-Chantiry said the OPP has civilians doing data entry instead of officers. He suggested the OPS look at that model. Director General Frazer said that could be looked at as part of the IM/IT Roadmap work.

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

RECEIVED

NEXT MEETING

To be determined.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.