



Ottawa Police Services Board
Finance and Audit Committee

Minutes 15

Tuesday, 20 July, 2021, 10:00 a.m.

Krista Ferraro, Executive Director

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

Other Panellists: Board Members: C. Meehan, D. Nirman, R King, R. Swaita

Service Members: Chief P. Sloly; Deputy Chief Steve Bell; Director John Steinbachs;
Acting Deputy Chief Jamie Dunlop; Corporate Financial Officer Cyril Rogers; Evaluation
and Research Coordinator Jennifer Ghadiali; Staff Sergeant John Mbakulo

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

That the Finance and Audit Committee confirm the Agenda of the 20 July 2021 meeting.

CARRIED

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

MINUTES 14 OF 8 APRIL 2021

That the Finance and Audit Committee confirm the Minutes from the 8 April 2021 meeting.

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

There was no business arising from the minutes.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. DISCUSSION ON 2022 BUDGET CONSULTATION PROCESS

Presentation

Prior to hearing from the delegations registered under this item, the Service provided an overview of the 2022 budget process timeline and their planned community consultation.

The Board then heard from the following public delegations:

1. CASSIE SLACK
2. LAURA SHANTZ
3. INEZ HILLEL
4. NORA OTTENHOF
5. FARNAZ FARHANG

Some of the points raised by the delegations were:

- The need for consultations to be held in a public forum and conducted as openly as possible.
- Concern regarding Ottawa Police Services Board meetings and accessibility issues.
- Criticism that the consultation plan is too vague.

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- Calls to freeze the 2022 budget at 2021 levels.
- Points that some provincially provided services, such as healthcare, are not offered inflationary budget increases.
- Apprehension towards HelpSeeker was expressed.
 - It was explained by the Service that HelpSeeker is just one tool that can be used, however the need to look beyond individual, siloed providers to build a diverse ecosystem of service delivery was highlighted.
- Criticism of the Board's decision to hire a consulting firm.
 - The Board responded, noting that the firms selected have expertise in areas that the Board does not, such as navigating the legal boundaries of the *Police Services Act*.

Following the delegations, Committee members and Board Members had the opportunity to raise their questions.

It was explained that the OPS and Board are facing the same pressures through the collective bargaining processes as they did last year. As much as the aim is to freeze the budget, the arbitration process will force a similar increase to that which other bargaining units have settled for.

The Service explained that they have a consultant tasked with exploring all budget reduction possibilities.

A question was raised regarding the initial consultations with City Councillors and what the key points discussed were. It was noted that the key issue raised repeatedly was traffic. The Service explained that traffic enforcement is an example of an issue for which most people would like additional policing, not a reduction. Enforcement, education and engineering are the three key pieces to creating safer roads.

The Service confirmed that social service providers will be and have already been included in the OPS' consultation process. It was noted that a list of providers included in their consultations could be released. It was further suggested that street involved individuals would provide necessary insights as well. The Service relies upon outreach workers to connect them with those such individuals in a way that would be respectful.

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It was further stated that should any tactics undertaken prove unsuccessful, the OPS will re-evaluate and try alternate solutions to achieve the desired outcomes of engagement.

The OPS' survey questionnaire will be translated into several languages in order to reach a wide range of communities. PACE will also be paramount in examining how open forum discussions might be achieved. The need to balance open discussions and transparency with marginalized individuals perhaps wanting to remain anonymous was noted as a potential challenge, however maximum transparency was said to be the focus.

A point was made that an increase in hate-based crimes have led many faith-based organizations to request greater police presence. There will be holistic stakeholder input to include all community voices. An increase in gun and gang related violence has also led affected communities to make similar requests. The Service said that whether more policing would reduce this could be debated, however not up for debate is whether the people living in those neighbourhoods want more policing.

A point of clarification was offered that in responding to hate crimes, legislation requires police involvement. Beyond a police response, prevention actions can be undertaken through education. Regarding gun violence, the OPS highlighted their community partnership with Crime Prevention Ottawa as a prevention tactic.

The Board requested that the Service provide a presentation to the Board regarding traffic issues and different engineering and enforcement issues having been raised by Council Members.

The pandemic's budgetary impacts over the past two years were noted, and the Service expressed hope that there will be a return to normalcy in the near future.

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

RECEIVED

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

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NEXT MEETING

To be determined

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:44 a.m.