



**BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
December 10, 2018**

PRESENT: Commissioner Steve Craig, Chair
Commissioner Carole McDougall, Vice-Chair
Commissioner Lindell Smith
Commissioner Tony Mancini
Commissioner Carlos Beals
Commissioner Natalie Borden

REGRETS: Commissioner Anthony Thomas

STAFF: Chief Jean-Michel Blais, Halifax Regional Police
Chief Superintendent Lee Bergerman, Halifax District Detachment, RCMP
Deputy Chief Robin McNeil, Halifax Regional Police
Inspector Robert Doyle, Halifax District Detachment, RCMP
Jane Fraser, Chief Financial Officer
Craig Horton, HRP Financial Coordinator
Duncan Read, Solicitor, HRM Legal Services
David Perusse, Legislative Assistant

The following does not represent a verbatim record of the proceedings of this meeting.

*The agenda, supporting documents, and information items circulated to the Board are available online:
www.halifax.ca*

The meeting was called to order at 12:32 p.m. and adjourned at 2:08 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Steve Craig, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:32 p.m. in Halifax Hall, 2nd Floor City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

2. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS

MOVED by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Mancini

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS - NONE

4. Review of Halifax Regional Police 2019/2020 Operating Budget

The following was before the Board:

- Draft proposed 2019/20 & 2020/2021 HRP Operating Budget Situation (Summary)

The Chair provided opening remarks regarding the HRP and HRM budget process.

Jane Fraser, Chief Financial Officer, provided the Board with opening remarks and an update on the overall HRM budget approval process. They noted that Regional Council has provided direction for staff to provide proposed 2019/2020 budgets consistent with a 2.9%, 2.1%, and 1.9% tax rate increase. The Municipality is looking to have a final budget approved in April of 2019, which includes the budget for policing services within the HRM.

Responding to questions from members of the Board, Fraser noted that the tax rate increases reflect the direction that was given to all HRM business units in preparing their 2019/2020 budgets, not just the HRP.

Chief Jean-Michel Blais, HRP, Deputy Chief Robin McNeil, HRP, and Craig Horton, HRP Financial Coordinator, provided the Board with an overview of the draft proposed 2019/20 & 2020/2021 HRP Operating Budget Situation (Summary). The draft proposal indicated a proposed 2019/2020 net budget of \$90,209,500, representing a 4.607% net budget change from 2018/2019. Staff explained that the 4.607% change is reflective of a 2.9% tax increase, as per the direction of Council.

The Chief walked members through each of the items listed under "Estimated Budget Pressures," and "Revenue/Cost Recovery Increases/Cost Savings/Efficiencies/Transfers/Contributions from Reserves," explaining the breakdown of each.

Responding to questions from members of the Board, Chief Blais, Deputy Chief McNeil, and Horton noted that the HRP will be entering the next fiscal year with a full compliment of HRP staff. With regards to secondments and their impact on the budget, staff noted that typically, the salary and benefits of seconded HRP officers are reimbursed by the organization with which they are placed, resulting in the secondment itself generally being cost neutral to the HRP. However, while the HRP officer is absent, their positions are backfilled with junior officers/staff, often resulting in net savings.

Speaking to the Cadet Training Program for new HRP officers, staff noted that it is a fee based program, and the resulting revenue will largely offsets the cost of providing the program.

Commissioner Borden requested that the Board receive an overview and briefing on the Halifax Regional Police Foundation and its role for a future meeting.

The Chair noted that staff are responsible for providing the Board and Council with options and breakdowns of how the budget could be adjusted to accommodate the three (3) budget scenarios, including what budget items could be cut, and what additional revenue/cost recoveries could be realized. The Chair requested that HRP staff work on providing this information to the Board at their next regular meeting on December 17, 2018.

Commissioner Borden further noted that the risks associated with any cuts or service reductions should also be set out in the budget documents for discussion.

The Chief indicated that HRP staff will revise the budget documents and return to the Board at the next regular meeting with the requested information.

The Chair thanked Chief Blais, Deputy Chief McNeil, and Horton for the presentation and overview.

5. Overview of RCMP, Halifax District Detachment Budget & Expenditures for 2019/2020

The following was before the Board:

- Document titled "Halifax District Budget Overview HRM Board of Police Commissioners Meeting December 10, 2018"

Chief Superintendent Lee Bergerman, Halifax District Detachment, RCMP, and Inspector Robert Doyle, Halifax District Detachment, RCMP, provided the Board with an overview of the Halifax District RCMP year by year budget analysis for 2012-2019. For the benefit of new members, Inspector Doyle outlined the difference between the HRP and RCMP, Halifax District Detachment, in terms of how they are funded, as well as the differences in their budget approval process. Inspector Doyle noted that the RCMP, Halifax District Detachment budget allocation is approximately \$26 Million.

Speaking to the budget review documents, Inspector Doyle noted that overtime expenditures have been a constant pressure. However, with the implementation of the additional officers approved during the last budget process, they anticipate that they will come in close to their allocated budget for the current year.

Responding to questions from members of the Board, Inspector Doyle noted that the impact of the six (6) additional officers has been a reduction in the amount of overtime, and that other resources, such as Community Policing Officers, have not had to be reallocated to meet operational demands.

Commissioner Mancini requested the RCMP, Halifax District Detachment staff provide the Board with information on the role of Community Policing Officers at a future meeting.

The Chair requested that RCMP, Halifax District Detachment staff provide the Board with further information outlining the impact of the additional officer program for their regular meeting on December 17, 2018.

The Chair thanked Chief Superintendent Bergerman and Inspector Doyle for the presentation and overview.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- December 13, 2018 (Special Meeting)
- December 17, 2018 (Regular Meeting)

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:08 p.m.

David Perusse
Legislative Assistant