



**BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
January 9, 2020**

PRESENT: Commissioner Natalie Borden, Chair
Commissioner Carole McDougall, Vice-Chair
Commissioner Tony Mancini
Commissioner Lindell Smith
Commissioner Lisa Blackburn
Commissioner Tony Mancini

REGRETS: Commissioner Carlos Beals
Commissioner Anthony Thomas

STAFF: Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer
Chief Dan Kinsella, HRP
Chief Superintendent Janis Gray, Halifax District Detachment, RCMP
Inspector Erin Pepper, Halifax District Detachment, RCMP
Amy Siciliano, HRM Public Safety Advisor
Katherine Salsman, Solicitor
Craig Horton, Financial Coordinator, HRP
Robyn Dean, 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 1:31 p.m. and adjourned at 3:13 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m. in Halifax Hall, 2nd Floor City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

2. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS

MOVED by Commissioner McDougall, seconded by Commissioner Blackburn

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS – NONE

4. BUDGET REVIEW – HRP & RCMP

The following was before the Board:

- A staff report from HRP entitled “Proposed Halifax Regional Police 2020/21 Operating Budget Situation (Summary)”
- A staff report from HRP entitled “Operating Budget Work Paper (2019/20 to 2020/21 Budget Comparison)”
- A staff report from HRP entitled “Proposed 2020/21 Recommended Operating Budget”
- A staff presentation from the RCMP entitled “Halifax District Budget Review (Update)”
- A staff report from the RCMP entitled “Halifax District Budget Overview”
- A staff report from the RCMP entitled “Halifax District Funding Request”

Chief Dan Kinsella introduced Craig Horton, Financial Coordinator, HRP, who led the discussion on the HRP budget review. Horton highlighted a few changes that had occurred since the Board’s last meeting on December 16, 2019. Specifically, Horton explained the increase in the estimated budget pressures (which increases HRP’s budget request but decreases the HRM budget) and the reduction of funds allocated to service enhancements which in turn decreases HRP’s budget request.

The Board expressed some concern that HRP was not making adequate budget reductions as requested for each Business Unit in the Halifax Regional Municipality. Horton explained that most of the money reducing the budget is garnered by the large number of secondments (totaling ~\$697,000), which are captured under the Cost Recoveries section of the report entitled “Proposed Halifax Regional Police 2020/21 Operating Budget Situation (Summary)”. Horton also explained that the cost recovery of \$697,000 helps to offset the additional eight (8) new positions that are being requested by HRP, which is estimated to cost \$669,300.

Jane Fraser, Chief Financial Officer, stated that each Business Unit is given a target budget which they are expected to balance. From there, the process follows that each Business Unit reports to the Budget Committee and Halifax Regional Council by speaking to their challenges in balancing that target and presenting their list of overages. Fraser noted that HRP’s target budget was set at \$89,436,600 and that based on their proposed budget request for 2020/21 (\$90,287,800), they are requesting an additional \$851,200. Despite speculation that the proposed HRP budget would be rejected by the Budget Committee and Halifax Regional Council, the Board supported HRP’s request for the additional \$851,200. Fraser stated that if the Board approved the recommendation, HRP will prepare a business plan recommendation for approval at the Budget Committee meeting on February 5, 2020.

In closing the discussion on the 2020/21 HRP budget request, Chief Kinsella emphasized the need for the proposed eight (8) positions. Chief Kinsella noted that without these eight (8) positions, staff are overworked and resources are constantly being shifted to manage the workload. Additionally, Chief Kinsella noted that in the absence of the requested positions, HRP is forced to turn to overtime to fill the gap. The Chair expressed that HRM should be moving away from overtime as a way of filling the gap and stated that the better equipped the force is, the better service it will provide to the people. It was also noted that although there appears to be no significant decrease to the proposed 2020/21 HRP budget, there will be a recovery of some costs associated with cannabis legalization (i.e., a share of tax revenues), an estimate of which is currently being tracked by both HRP and HRM.

MOVED by Commissioner McDougall, seconded by Commissioner Smith

THAT the Board of Police Commissioners:

- 1. Approve the proposed Halifax Regional Police Operating Budget for 2020/2021 as presented at the January 9, 2020 meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners; and**
- 2. Recommend that Halifax Regional Council approve the proposed Halifax Regional Police Operating Budget for 2020/2021, as approved by the Board of Police Commissioners at their January 9, 2020 meeting.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Chief Superintendent Janis Gray provided a brief explanation of the Halifax District RCMP budget. Specifically, Gray stated that under the Provincial Police Service Agreement with the Department of Justice (DOJ), the overall cost of RCMP policing in the HRM is 26.2 million. Of that cost, the Officer in Charge of the Halifax District RCMP has direct control over 3.6 million for discretionary spending (i.e.: overtime, fuel, equipment, kit, and clothing, etc.).

Gray went on to outline the proposed 2020/21 budget request being made by the Halifax District RCMP. Specifically, it was stated that the current resource request is for one (1) Staff Sergeant position to assist with administrative duties. Chief Superintendent Gray argued that although this request will translate to a budget increase, it is a more efficient way of managing the workload. Currently, the Halifax District RCMP is short-staffed and they are required to use overtime and shifting resources to fill the gaps. Furthermore, Chief Superintendent Gray stated that complaint investigations are being farmed out to front-line Officers to meet deadlines. It was also noted that there is no one to complete the duties of the Inspector in Inspector Pepper's absence.

The Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) stated that although the Board can support the resource request, they do not have the authority to approve the Halifax District RCMP budget. Furthermore, the CAO noted that HRM does not have a direct contract with the RCMP. Instead, HRM's contract (the Provincial Police Service Agreement) is with the province of Nova Scotia and the Department of Justice (DOJ). The CAO stated that there is a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the federal, provincial, and municipal government that outlines the process meant to be followed in requesting additional resources for the RCMP. Katherine Salsman, Solicitor, added that this MOU specifies that the process would have needed to be completed before December 1, 2019. There was some discussion about the possibility of waiving the deadline, however both the CAO and the Solicitor advised against the idea. Furthermore, the CAO stated if the Board wishes to support a motion to do with the additional ask of the RCMP budget, it would then need to go up to the provincial and federal government, and these budget discussions have not yet taken place at that level.

The Board agreed that the most appropriate course of action would be to defer the discussion on the RCMP budget until such time that the CAO is able to meet with the provincial government and other relevant stakeholders.

MOVED by Commissioner Mancini, seconded by Commissioner Blackburn

THAT the Board of Police Commissioners defer the discussion on the RCMP budget request until the Board of Police Commissioners can obtain more information on how budget requests were handled in the past in light of the Memorandum of Understanding and to allow the Chief Administrative Officer to initiate discussions between the Department of Justice and the relevant stakeholders.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- January 20, 2020
- February 10, 2020

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:13 p.m.

Robyn Dean
Legislative Assistant