



**BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING
May 11, 2020**

PRESENT: Commissioner Natalie Borden, Chair
Commissioner Carole McDougall, Vice Chair
Commissioner Carlos Beals
Commissioner Tony Mancini
Commissioner Lindell Smith
Commissioner Lisa Blackburn
Commissioner Anthony Thomas

STAFF: Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer
Chief Dan Kinsella, HRP
Chief Superintendent Janis Gray, Halifax Detachment RCMP
Jane Fraser, Chief Financial Officer
Martin Ward, Solicitor
Krista Vining, Legislative Assistant
Robyn Dean, Legislative Assistant

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

The agenda, reports, supporting documents, and information items circulated are online at halifax.ca.

The meeting was called to order at 12:34 p.m. and adjourned at 2:27 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:34 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

MOVED by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Beals

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS – NONE

4. REVISED HALIFAX REGIONAL POLICE 2020/21 BUDGET

The following was before the Board:

- A staff presentation from Halifax Regional Police entitled: 2020-21 HRP Budget Review

Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer explained the impact and financial pressures COVID-19 has had on the Municipality and having a budget deficiency of \$85.4 million. Halifax Regional Police has been tasked with reducing their 2020-21 budget by \$5.4 million. Dubé highlighted working with the Province on a variety of measure and creating a budget that was resilient and sustainable.

Jane Fraser, Chief Financial Officer spoke about the impact on cash flow and loss of revenue from property tax deferral. In the short term, the Municipality could borrow from the provincial government's new loan program, through the Nova Scotia Finance Corporation, to off-set operating pressures, and is response to pay it back over three (3) years. Fraser explained that of the \$85.4 million budget gap, \$44 million was lost revenue, half of which from lost transit fares, and the remainder from deed transfer tax, reduced interest revenues, recreation fees, and fines.

Chief Dan Kinsella presented a revised 2020/2021 Halifax Regional Police Operating Budget and Business Plan. Considering the significant financial constraints due to COVID-19, HRP was provided a target to reduce their 2020-21 budget by \$5,514,000. HRP has identified compensation reductions of \$4,033,000 related to current vacancies and projected reductions in court time and overtime, and non-compensation reductions of \$1,481,000 related to contract and external services, equipment, and reduced fees and services. Chief Kinsella responded to questions on the reductions.

In response to a question raised, Fraser confirmed that the Municipality had not received any information or been provided with a reduced budget from the RCMP.

MOVED by Commissioner Mancini, seconded by Commissioner Blackburn

THAT the Board of Police Commissioners instruct the Police Chief to consult with the Halifax Regional Police Association and report back to the Board of Police Commissioners before presenting the Board's recommendation to Halifax Regional Council.

Solicitor Martin Ward clarified that the motion was out of order as it was inconsistent with the statutory process. They proposed that the motion be withdrawn, and the Board could defer consideration of the revised budget and accompany a recommendation that the Police Chief consult with the Halifax Regional Police Association. The Commission could also recommend the revised 2020-21 HRP Operating budget to Halifax Regional Council.

The **motion was withdrawn**, and the following motion was put forward:

MOVED by Commissioner Mancini, seconded by Commissioner Blackburn

THAT the Board of Police Commissioners:

- 1. Defer consideration of the revised 2020/2021 Halifax Regional Police Operating budget and;**
- 2. Recommend that the Police Chief consult with the Halifax Regional Police Association and report back to the Board of Police Commissioners prior to the Board's recommendation to Halifax Regional Council.**

It was noted that the revised 2020/2021 HRP Operating budget needed to be made to Halifax Regional Council no later than May 19, 2020.

MOTION TO DEFER PUT AND PASSED.

The Chair asked the Board to forward any questions they had for Chief Kinsella to them by end of day May 12, 2020. It was noted that the Clerk's Office would poll members and schedule a special meeting in time to make a recommendation to Halifax Regional Council.

5. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – June 15, 2020

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:27 p.m.

Krista Vining
Legislative Assistant