



**BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS  
SPECIAL MEETING  
MINUTES  
January 31, 2022**

**REVISED**

**PRESENT:** Commissioner Lindell Smith, Chair  
Commissioner Carole McDougall, Vice Chair  
Commissioner Yemi Akindoju  
Commissioner Lisa Blackburn  
Commissioner Harry Critchley  
Commissioner Becky Kent  
Commissioner Anthony Thomas

**STAFF:** Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer  
Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance & Asset Management/Chief  
Financial Officer  
Martin Ward, Solicitor  
Chief Dan Kinsella, Halifax Regional Police  
Acting Chief Superintendent Darren Campbell, Halifax District Royal  
Canadian Mounted Police  
Iain MacLean, Municipal Clerk  
Andrea Lovasi-Wood, 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](http://halifax.ca).*

**Board of Police Commissioners Special Meeting Minutes  
January 31, 2022**

*The meeting was called to order at 4:08 p.m., and recessed at 5:50 p.m. Board of Police Commissioners reconvened at 5:55 p.m. Board of Police Commissioners recessed again at 6:48 and reconvened in at 7:02 p.m. Board of Police Commissioners moved into an In Camera (In Private) session at 8:20 p.m. and reconvened at 9:20 p.m. Board of Police Commissioners adjourned at 10:48 p.m.*

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m. The Chair acknowledged that the meeting took place in the traditional and ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq people, and that we are all treaty people.

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

Additions: None

Deletions: None

MOVED by Commissioner Blackburn, seconded by Commissioners McDougall,

**THAT the agenda be approved as presented.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**3. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS**

Commissioner Critchley declared a conflict of interest for Item 10.2.1 Commissioner Smith – Submission of the Board of Police Commissioners Subcommittee to Define Defunding Police Report; Defunding the Police: Defining the Way Forward for HRM from the January 17, 2022 meeting because they assisted in the authorship of the report.

Iain MacLean, Municipal Clerk, advised the Board of Police Commissioners that conflicts are normally declared at the meeting where the item is discussed.

Martin Ward, Solicitor, advised the Board of Police Commissioners that the conflict could be declared as the Subcommittee's report may be discussed during the meeting.

**4. PUBLIC INPUT AND FEEDBACK REGARDING HALIFAX REGIONAL POLICE 2022/23 PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET**

**Brian Carter, Fall River** spoke regarding the need for Halifax Regional Police's budget to include the all in costs per police officer and more detail regarding several expenses. Carter requested a time estimate for the adoption of the Subcommittee to Define Defunding Police recommendations as adoption may result in the reduction of the cost of policing. Carter responded to questions of clarification from the Board of Police Commissioners.

**Tari Ajadi, Halifax** requested that the Board of Police Commissioners fulfill their *Police Act* mandate to ensure the reflection of community needs in police priorities and objectives. Ajadi asked the Commission to approve the recommendations of Subcommittee to Define Defunding Police report and to refuse Halifax Regional Police's proposed budget request for additional sworn officers. Ajadi responded to questions of clarification from the Board of Police Commissioners.

**Martyn Williams, Clayton Park** spoke regarding Halifax Regional Police's budget request for additional traffic officers. Williams requested that several road safety measures be implemented first before increasing the number of traffic officers as these measures could minimize the need to hire additional personnel. Williams responded to questions of clarification from the Board of Police Commissioners.

**Ardath Wynnacht, Armdale-Spryfield** expressed their opposition to Halifax Regional Police's pro-arrest model and asked the Commission to support the introduction of civilian run crime prevention programs recommended by Subcommittee to Define Defunding Police and refuse Halifax Regional Police's proposed budget increase. Wynnacht responded to questions of clarification from the Board of Police Commissioners.

**Lisa Roberts, Halifax** spoke regarding their concerns about Halifax Regional Police's polygraph unit and the inappropriate use of the polygraph test results during job interviews as evidence for criminal charges. Roberts stated that the Halifax Regional Police's polygraph unit is not a justifiable budgetary expense.

**Jamie Livingston, District 8** stated their opposition to Halifax Regional Police's proposed budget increase as there was a lack of sufficient evidence provided to justify the request. Livingston stated that public safety can only be enhanced by following HRM's public safety strategy and adopting the Subcommittee to Define Defunding Police recommendations.

**Veronica Post, District 8** repeated opposition to Halifax Regional Police's proposed budget increase and expressed their disappointment in Halifax Regional Police actions against unhoused individuals and protestors on August 18, 2021.

**Val Johnson, Halifax** expressed their disillusionment with the use of criminalization, policing and incarceration as social tools because of the negative impacts on individuals and the larger community. Johnson repeated requests that the Commission adopt the Subcommittee to Define Defunding Police recommendations and to oppose Halifax Regional Police's proposed budget increase.

**Kate MacDonald, Cole Harbour** repeated opposition to Halifax Regional Police's proposed budget increase as it negates the Subcommittee to Define Defunding Police recommendations and will not reduce violent crime or reduce racism in the police. MacDonald responded to questions of clarification from the Board of Police Commissioners.

Martin Ward, Solicitor, responded to a question of clarification from Board of Police Commissioners.

**Claire Rillie, District 8 and representing Wellness Within** spoke regarding their opposition to Halifax Regional Police's budget requests for additional victim services unit personnel as evidence indicates that civilian led victim service units encourage higher rates of reporting as they are more responsive to victims of gender based and domestic violence. Rillie responded to questions of clarification from the Board of Police Commissioners.

**Gary Grant, Hammonds Plains** asked several questions about the Halifax Regional Police budget because of the lack of detail in the budget regarding expenses. Grant would like Halifax Regional Police budget report to include the officer cost per 100,000 population.

**Karen Gross, Halifax** repeated support of the Subcommittee to Define Defunding Police recommendations and opposition to Halifax Regional Police's proposed budget increase. Gross expressed concerns about the over policing of HRM and encouraged the de-tasking of the police.

**Nancy Hunter, Halifax** requested a moratorium on providing additional funding to Halifax Regional Police given the Subcommittee to Define Defunding Police's recommendations.

**Victoria Levack, Halifax** expressing their support of the previous speakers' concerns and their support for decreasing the funding of police because of the police's inability to empathize with unhoused persons and other marginalized communities. Levack repeated the request for a civilian victim services unit.

**Heather Spidell, District 13** repeated concerns about the lack of detail in Halifax Regional Police's budget requests especially regarding leaves of absence and overtime. Spidell requested the reallocation of budget funding to provide supports to police officers who respond to mental health calls and the creation of specialized mental health teams.

**Hannah Main, Dartmouth** expressed their dissatisfaction with Halifax Regional Police actions on August 18, 2021 and their failure to use de-escalation techniques. Main stated that Halifax Regional Police's requests for public money should include public accountability for Halifax Regional Police.

**Emma Norton, District 5** repeated opposition to Halifax Regional Police's proposed budget increase as a budget increase is counterproductive in the face of the current climate emergency. Norton also repeated support of the Subcommittee to Define Defunding Police recommendations.

**Carmel Farahbakhsh, District 7** expressed concerns about Halifax Regional Police requesting increased funding as a means to support survivors because survivor led social services are more responsive to the needs of the community. Farahbakhsh responded to questions of clarification from the Board of Police Commissioners.

**Colin May, Dartmouth** spoke regarding the violent crime severity index and how this index was not referenced by Halifax Regional Police in its' budget request. May stated that government funding should be focused on the communities with the highest crime rates.

**Lee-Anne Poole, Herring Cove** repeated support of the Subcommittee to Define Defunding Police recommendations and opposition to Halifax Regional Police's proposed budget increase.

**Tanisha Wilson, Halifax** repeated support of the Subcommittee to Define Defunding Police recommendations and opposition to Halifax Regional Police's proposed budget increase, indicating the budget lacks appropriate task allocation. Wilson requested that all future Board of Police Commissioners meetings include public input. Wilson responded to questions of clarification from the Board of Police Commissioners.

**Caitlin O'Neill, Halifax** repeated opposition to Halifax Regional Police's proposed budget increase and repeated requests for the funding of civilian led mental health crisis teams.

**Hannah Cameron, K'jipuktuk** repeated support of the Subcommittee to Define Defunding Police recommendations and opposition to Halifax Regional Police's proposed budget increase

**Eileen Roth, Halifax** repeated support of the Subcommittee to Define Defunding Police recommendations and opposition to Halifax Regional Police's proposed budget increase

## **5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS**

### **5.1 Halifax Regional Police 2022/23 Proposed Operating Budget – December 13, 2021 and January 17, 2022**

The following was before the Board of Police Commissioners:

- A staff recommendation report from Halifax Regional Police dated December 13, 2021
- Correspondence from Patrick Casey, Dan Peterson, Fred Banks, Katie Whitlock, Joanne Bealy, Avery Dakin
- A staff presentation Halifax Regional Police dated December 13, 2021
- A staff supplemental presentation from Halifax Regional Police dated January 17, 2022
- A staff presentation dated January 31, 2022

The following motion was on the floor:

MOVED by Commissioner Kent, seconded by Commissioner Thomas

**THAT the Board of Police Commissioners:**

1. **Approve the proposed Halifax Regional Police Operating Budget for 2022/2023 as presented at the December 13, 2021 meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners; and**

- 2. Recommend that Halifax Regional Council approve the proposed Halifax Regional Police Operating Budget for 2022/2023, as approved by the Board of Police Commissioners at their December 13, 2021 meeting.**

Chief Dan Kinsella, Halifax Regional Police gave a presentation on the key financial highlights of Halifax Regional Police proposed 2022-23 operating budget and responded to questions of clarification from the Board of Police Commissioners.

Martin Ward, Solicitor advised the Board of Police Commissioners regarding the Commission's responsibility to put forward a recommended Halifax Regional Police budget to Regional Council based upon the Commission's statutory obligations in the *Police Act*.

Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance & Asset Management/Chief Financial Officer, and Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer responded to questions of clarification from Board of Police Commissioners.

A request was made to move In Camera. As provided for in section 103 of Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, a motion was made to convene In Camera to discuss personnel and security matters.

MOVED by Commissioner Kent, seconded by Commissioner Critchley

**THAT Board of Police Commissioners convene to In Camera (In Private) to discuss personnel and security matters.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

MOVED by Commissioner Critchley, seconded by Commissioner Blackburn

**THAT the Board of Police Commissioners remove the Board of Police Commissioners budget as a line item from the Halifax Regional Police Budget and that the Board of Police Commissioners budget.**

The Board of Police Commissioners requested that the Board of Police Commissioners budget line item be moved via a journal entry from Halifax Regional Police to the Chief Administrative Officer's office during the 2022/23 fiscal year. The Commission will discuss the appropriate resourcing levels of the Commission at a future meeting.

As provided for in section 66 of Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, the motion was withdrawn with consent of Board of Police Commissioners.

MOVED by Commissioner Critchley, seconded by Commissioner Blackburn

**THAT the Board of Police Commissioners reject the portion of the proposed budget increase earmarked for new sworn officers, as proposed in the Halifax Regional Police Operating Budget for 2022/2023 as presented at the December 13, 2021 meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners.**

MOVED by Commissioner Blackburn, seconded by Commissioner McDougall

**THAT the meeting time be extended beyond 10:00 p.m.**

The Chair proposed that the positions marked for the hate crime unit investigations not be removed from the proposed budget. As provided for in section 53 (2) of Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, the amendment was accepted as friendly.

Motion to amend now read:

**THAT the Board of Police Commissioners reject the portion of the proposed budget increase earmarked for new sworn officers, not including the positions marked for a hate crime investigations unit, as proposed in the Halifax Regional Police Operating Budget for 2022/2023 as presented at the December 13, 2021 meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners.**

As provided for in section 93 of Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, the vote on the motion was done by recorded vote.

**MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND DEFEATED.** (3 in favour, 4 against)

In favour: Commissioners Smith, McDougall, Critchley

Against: Commissioners Akindoju, Blackburn, Kent, Thomas

The question was called on the main motion:

MOVED by Commissioner Kent, seconded by Commissioner Thomas

**THAT the Board of Police Commissioners:**

- 1. Approve the proposed Halifax Regional Police Operating Budget for 2022/2023, as set out and discussed in the accompanying report dated December 13, 2021 and supporting presentations; and**
- 2. Recommend that Halifax Regional Council approve the proposed Halifax Regional Police Operating Budget for 2022/2023, as approved by the Board of Police Commissioners at their January 31, 2022 meeting.**

As provided for in section 93 of Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, the vote on the motion was done by recorded vote.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.** (4 in favour, 3 against)

In favour: Commissioners Akindoju, Blackburn, Kent, Thomas

Against: Commissioners Smith, McDougall, Critchley

MOVED by Commissioner Critchley, seconded by Commissioner Akindoju

**THAT the Board of Police Commissioners recommend Halifax Regional Council increase the Board of Police Commissioners budget by \$100,000 to provide staffing for the Board of Police Commissioners, and that this request for a budget increase be added to the Budget Adjustment List.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

## **6. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 10:47 p.m.

Andrea Lovasi-Wood  
Legislative Assistant