



**BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
January 16, 2023**

PRESENT: Commissioner Becky Kent, Chair
Commissioner Harry Critchley, Vice Chair
Commissioner Lindell Smith
Commissioner Lisa Blackburn
Commissioner Gavin Giles

REGRETS: Commissioner Yemi Akindoju
Commissioner Anthony Thomas

STAFF: Cathie O'Toole, Chief Administrative Officer
Josh Bates, Policy Advisor, Board of Police Commissioners, Government
Relations & External Affairs
John Traves, Municipal Solicitor
Iain MacLean, Municipal Clerk
Krista Vining, Acting Deputy 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.

The meeting was called to order at 4:31 p.m. the Board moved into an In Camera (In Private) session at 4:34 p.m. and reconvened at 4:48 p.m. the Board adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:31 p.m. and 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:

- IN CAMERA Item 6.1 PERSONNEL MATTER - *Private and Confidential*

Deletions: None

As provided for in section 37 (1) of Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, the Chair requested that Item 6.1 PERSONNEL MATTER be considered prior to item 4.

MOVED by Commissioner Blackburn, seconded by Commissioner Smith

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS – NONE

4. BRIEF FINANCIAL REVIEW ON HALIFAX DISTRICT ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE RESOURCE REQUEST

The following was before the Board:

- Staff presentation dated January 16, 2023

Michael O'Flynn, Management and Administration Services Officer and Chief Superintendent Jeffrey Christie, Officer in Charge, Halifax District Royal Canadian Mounted Police (Halifax District RCMP) gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Board.

5. HALIFAX REGIONAL POLICE 2023/2024 PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET:

The following was before the Board:

- Staff report dated January 4, 2023
- Revised staff report dated January 10, 2023
- Staff presentation dated December 14, 2022
- Staff presentation dated January 16, 2023
- Correspondence from Amanda Gaul, Madison Geldart, Hannah Cameron, Anna Sparrow, Rach Derrah, Neil Balan, Joše Stow, Jordan Torrealba, Claire Mitchell, Sophie Belliveau, Elizabeth Babych, Nicholle Savoie, Hil Hamilton, Amanda Baiocco, Taylor Carchedi, Kelsey Green, Mica Kahn, Alex Hosein, Tyler Colbourne, Regan Simon, Maria Clancy, Nicole Goodick, James Hoskins, Stevey Hunter, Kristyn Green, Rachele Manett, Campbell McClintock, Brady Patterson, Veronica Post, Emerson Roach, Amanda Shore, Joanne Hussey, Collins Ellison

Chief Dan Kinsella, Halifax Regional Police gave a presentation.

The Chair called for anyone wishing to speak on the matter.

Kate Macdonald, Cole Harbour spoke about the need for the additional funds requested by Halifax Regional Police to be spent on health care and housing. Macdonald also stated that the money spent on innovative policing be redirected to community programs.

Lou Campbell, Halifax spoke about the need for future in-person public consultation meetings to include a virtual option for residents to participate. Campbell expressed opposition to Halifax Regional Police's proposed budget increase as the money should be spent on crime prevention programs and alternative solutions to policing.

Kaley Kennedy, Dartmouth spoke in opposition to Halifax Regional Police's proposed budget increase and repeated the request to spend money on crime prevention initiatives. Kennedy called upon the Board and Halifax Regional Municipality to work towards implementing the Subcommittee to Define Defunding Police recommendations to detask the police.

Rafael MacDonald, Sackville spoke in opposition to Halifax Regional Police's proposed budget increase and encouraged police to learn to do more with less like many community groups. MacDonald expressed concern that the Board would rubber stamp Halifax Regional Police's budget request.

Caitlin O'Neill, Halifax spoke about the need for in-person meeting to include a virtual participation option to allow equitable access for all residents and repeated opposition to Halifax Regional Police's proposed budget increase as Halifax has one of the highest cop to public ratio in the country. O'Neill expressed opposition to police providing security to grocery stores.

Katie Clarke, Halifax spoke about the lack of a virtual option to participate at the meeting, their opposition to the use of extra-duty police officers in grocery stores and their opposition to Halifax Regional Police's proposed budget increase. Clarke called upon Halifax Regional Police to provide more evidence that increased funding would result in reduced crime and greater public safety.

Madison Geldart, East Preston spoke in opposition to Halifax Regional Police's proposed budget increase as extra funds should be used to fund university psychology programs to provide more mental health professionals to service the community. Geldart repeated opposition to police working at grocery stores.

Joanne Hussey and Keesha Ryan, Dalhousie Legal Aid Service spoke about the Board's responsibility to ensure community needs and expectations are reflected in police strategies and programs. Hussey and Ryan stated that the community needed programs to address systemic issues of poverty, mental health, addictions and trauma not increased police funding.

Colin May, Dartmouth spoke about the need for increased social services and stated that Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) should ask the province to redirect the funds provided to HRM for policing to social programs.

Simon Landry, Bedford spoke in opposition to Halifax Regional Police's proposed budget increase and requested that the Subcommittee to Define Defunding Police recommendations be implemented.

Victoria Levack, District 7 spoke about their concerns that many community members did not feel safe with police. Levack repeated concerns about the lack of a virtual option to participate at the meeting, voiced opposition to Halifax Regional Police's proposed budget increase and requested that the Subcommittee to Define Defunding Police recommendations be implemented.

Nancy Hunter, District 11 spoke about the increased cost of living and expressed their opposition to a police budget increase. Hunter stated the need for police accountability and encouraged the Board to use rigor to get more detail about Halifax Regional Police's proposed budget request.

Morula Vail, Halifax spoke in opposition to Halifax Regional Police's proposed budget increase and stated that police be defunded as these funds should be spent on alternative social programs to address crime and increase public safety.

Willa Oaks, Halifax spoke about over policing and questioned Halifax Regional Police salary levels. Oaks repeated opposition to Halifax Regional Police's budget increase as those funds should be spent on social programs, concerns about the meeting's lack of a virtual option to participate and opposition to police working at grocery stores.

Jenn Kang, Dartmouth spoke in opposition to Halifax Regional Police's proposed budget increase and that the funds should be spent on social programs and on training police to use less force. Kang repeated concerns about the lack of a virtual option to participate at the meeting.

Sean MacGillivray, Cole Harbour spoke in opposition to Halifax Regional Police's proposed budget increase and noted surprise about Halifax Regional Police's resource shortage. MacGillivray repeated support for implementation of the Subcommittee to Define Defunding Police recommendations. MacGillivray encouraged the Board to listen to the public consultation.

Abi Hodson, Halifax spoke in opposition to Halifax Regional Police's proposed budget increase as it would cause more harm to the community and not increase public safety. Hodson repeated concerns about the lack of a virtual option to participate at the meeting and support of the implementation of the Subcommittee to Define Defunding Police recommendations.

Ifo Ikede, Halifax spoke in opposition to Halifax Regional Police's proposed budget increase because they were concerned that police were not bias-free and did not reduce crime. Ikede requested that the same level of funding provided to police be provided to social programs.

Collins Ellison, District 8 spoke in opposition to Halifax Regional Police's proposed budget increase because of the police's inability to address the unhoused and recommended that funds spent on police be spent on housing and social assistance to reduce crime and incarceration rates.

John Wimberly, Halifax spoke about their concerns in the community as biased policing exists and repeated the request that this money be spent on housing and social programs than on policing.

The Chair clarified that questions were not to be asked of the Board during public consultation, as the purpose of public consultation was to receive public input and the Board could ask questions of clarification.

Richard Knowles, Halifax spoke about traffic calming measures in Halifax Regional Municipality and concerns that Halifax Regional Police appear to minimally enforce traffic violations. Knowles asked for more details regarding Halifax Regional Police's budget.

As set out in section 34 of Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, a motion was required to extend the time of the meeting.

MOVED by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Giles

THAT Board of Police Commissioners extend the time of the meeting past 7:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Debbie Phinner, Halifax spoke in support of the police and the need for police to have a better job description and training because too much was expected of police. Phinner suggested that more health and mental health professionals were needed.

Hannah Wood, Halifax spoke in opposition to Halifax Regional Police's proposed budget increase because Halifax Regional Police need to provide evidence of how increased funding would result in increased crime enforcement and crime solving.

Kayleigh MacDonald, Halifax spoke in opposition to Halifax Regional Police's proposed budget increase and indicated that no one at the meeting expressed support for the increase.

Mila McKay, Halifax spoke about a Halifax Regional Police officer wearing a thin blue line patch during August 18, 2021 evictions of unhoused people and the lack of community trust in Halifax Regional Police.

Paniz Khosroshahy, District 8 spoke about the need for Halifax Regional Police to provide clarity about the new hate crime officer position and repeated requests for greater transparency regarding budget requests and called upon the Board not to ignore clear public opposition to the budget request.

Dave Wilson, St. Margaret's Bay spoke in support of Halifax Regional Police's proposed budget increase.

Jeff Warnica, District 9 expressed concerns about Halifax District Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) budget request given the organization's level of federal funding and the shared services between Halifax Regional Police and RCMP. Warnica spoke in opposition to Halifax Regional Police's proposed budget increase.

MOVED by Commissioner Critchley, seconded by Commissioner Smith

THAT Item 5 Halifax Regional Police 2023/2024 Proposed Operating Budget the Board of Police Commissioners be deferred to a future meeting of the Board, that this meeting be held virtually and that the meeting include virtual public consultation for people who could not attend the Board's January 16, 2023 in-person meeting.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

6. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE)

MOVED by Commissioner Blackburn, seconded by Commissioner Smith

THAT the Board of Police Commissioners convene to In Camera (In Private) to discuss Item 6.1 PERSONNEL MATTER.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

6.1 PERSONNEL MATTER - Private and Confidential

This matter was dealt with In Camera (In Private) and ratified in public as follows:

MOVED by Commissioner Blackburn, seconded by Commissioners Smith

THAT the Board of Police Commissioners adopt the direction provided In Camera (In Private).

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Andrea Lovasi-Wood
Legislative Assistant