

Public

Meeting: **May 18, 2021**

Agenda Item: **Summary of the Finance Committee Meeting–
April 20, 2021**



Background

Present:

Ms. Patrice Barnes, Chair
Ms. Bobbie Drew, Member
Ms. Karen Fisher, Member
Mr. Kevin Ashe
Mr. John Henry
Chief Rollauer
Deputy Chief Bertrim
Deputy Chief Maiorano
CAO Stan MacLellan
Mr. Giles leRiche, Director of Business Services
Ms. Teresa Fetter, Manager of Financial Services
Bill Clancy, Executive Director

Summary of Meeting

1. Election of Chair

The following motion was put forward by Ms. Bobbie Drew and seconded by Ms. Fisher:

“That Ms. Patrice Barnes be elected Chair of the Committee for 2021.”

The motion carried.

2. Action Plan to Enhance Trust and Confidence in the DRPS

Ms. Fetter delivered a presentation on the DRPS budget outlook for 2022. The presentation covered the following:

- 10-year staffing and population growth compared to other jurisdictions
- Comparative cost of policing per capita
- Budget 2021 recap
- 2022 budget base impacts, risks and opportunities
- Board and Service priorities

Committee members provided the following comments and questions:

- What are the police expectations regarding the casino in Pickering? It was noted that no revenue has been received from the casino in Ajax since its inception.
 - Chief Rollauer indicated that he expects the presence of the casino to lead to an increase in the calls for service and additional pressures on staffing, recognizing it will be a very large operation compared to the Ajax casino, and following comparative analysis with Windsor, Niagara, and Toronto.

- The DRPS budget is based on the number of authorized strength positions; however, the Service normally operates below full strength. Where is the surplus funding for these positions being directed?
 - The Service responded that in recent years there have been shortfalls in other areas of the budget, and no increases have been made in these areas although the Service has asked that the budget provide the funding needed. Legal and professional services, as well as costs for retirees, have in recent years been higher than the budgeted amounts. The Service noted that it aims to operate at full strength, and this has occurred in the recent past, but HR has not been able to keep up with replacing the number of departures and the total funding would have caused the Service to be in a deficit position if it were operating at full strength. Chief Rollauer noted that in 7 of the last 11 years the established budget has been below the Service's base budget.
 - It was agreed that there should be as much transparency as possible in the budget and that it should present a realistic outlook.

- Does the Service anticipate long term changes to the deployment of members given what has been learned during the pandemic, for greater efficiency and cost savings?
 - It would be expected that remote work may be more possible and practical in the future though many calls will always require a police physical presence. The Service will be studying opportunities to deliver more services virtually and alternative deployment models that continue to meet the policing needs of the community.

- Sustainability continues to be a concern with respect to future costs of policing. While it would be ideal to establish reserves for retiree and capital costs, it will be a challenge to secure this funding in the budget.

- It was suggested that the costs of the body-worn cameras should be presented separately from the rest of the DRPS budget given this was request from Regional Council.

- Board priorities are those stated within the Strategic Plan 2020. The Service also identified the following as priorities:
 - Achieve full strength and meet Service recruitment goals
 - Address underfunded accounts
 - New buildings and infrastructure maintenance
 - Possible adoption of electric vehicles
 - Address changing trends in crime, such as cybercrime and fraud
 - Partnerships such as Mobile Crisis Response Teams

Approved by:

Patrice Barnes
Chair
Finance Committee