



**BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES
January 23, 2023**

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

REGRETS: Commissioner Anthony Thomas

STAFF: Cathie O'Toole, Chief Administrative Officer
Josh Bates, Policy Advisor, Board of Police Commissioners, Government Relations & External Affairs
Martin Ward, 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 4:34 p.m., the Board adjourned at 6:09 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:34 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: None

Deletions: None

MOVED by Commissioner Blackburn, seconded by Commissioner Giles

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS – NONE

4. Virtual Public Consultation on Halifax Regional Police 2023/2024 Proposed Operating Budget

The following was before the Board:

- Correspondence from Kimberley Dares, Zoe Adkisson, Linda Al-Jokhadar, Megan Boudreau, Dan Bray, Bria MacDonald, Jonah Brown, Aries Casteel, Josh Chevalier, Mairi Christie, Hannah Crouse, Sumaya El-falah, Oli Fast, Tobias Hayes, Frank Heimpel, Kit Holden-Ada, Max Kerr, Keltie MacDonald, Kaela MacLellan, Niamh MacMaster, Sansom Marchand, Meaghan Christie, Chris Mendonca, Hope Moon, Catherine Murray, Emily Thompson, Wren Tian-Morris, Amber Tucker, Ariane Tye, Elizabeth van Rossum, Emma Walker, Lindsay Yakamovich, Fern Kaufman, Caitlin O'Neill, Jacob Burke, Oscar Campbell, Brent Cosgrove, Claire Drummond, Rebecca Hartery, Simon Landry, Courtney Morrison, Ezra Rosenthal, Sadie Russell, Ky Greyson, Victoria Judd, Kaitlyn MacPhee, Jordan Roberts, Al Shapiro, Noah Wolfe, Lou Campbell, Steve Graham, Lily Lynch, Melissa Hartery, Isabel Tees, Kirsten Bruce, Rachel Loney, Kathleen Dorian, Megan Reid

Naveen Rai, Schmidtville spoke in opposition to Halifax Regional Police's proposed budget increase and recommended that Halifax Regional Police could become more cost effective and efficient if it outsourced many of its services and programs and worked towards sharing some services with Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Kylee Nunn, Halifax spoke in favour of defunding the police with funds redistributed to a variety of civilian run wellness services as proposed by the Subcommittee to Define Defunding Police. Nunn spoke regarding the need for trauma and crisis intervention training for police officers.

Brian Carter, Fall River requested that the duplication of services end between Halifax Regional Police and Halifax District Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Carter spoke in favour of a national policing force because it would benefit Halifax Regional Municipality's urban and rural areas. Carter responded to questions of clarification from the Board.

Hue Martin, Nova Scotia Director of the National Police Federation spoke in favour of the Halifax District Royal Canadian Mounted Police resource request for additional officers because it would increase front line policing in Halifax Regional Municipality's urban and rural areas.

Steve Graham, District 7 spoke about the need for more supporting documents in the Halifax Regional Police and Halifax District Royal Canadian Mounted Police budget requests. Graham commented on the disparity of police officers and resources between Halifax Regional Municipality's urban and rural areas.

Hil Hamilton, District 7 spoke about the need for greater transparency in the budget request process. Hamilton stressed evidence and accountability measurements be provided to determine the adequacy of Halifax Regional Police's services and resources before budget funding was approved.

Dan McNaughton, Fall River spoke about Halifax District Royal Canadian Mounted Police resources and the adequacy of policing provided to Halifax Regional Municipality's rural areas given recent population growth. McNaughton requested resource parity for Halifax District Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Halifax Regional Police.

Carmel Farahbakhsh, District 7 spoke in opposition to Halifax Regional Police's proposed budget increase because Halifax Regional Municipality's youth support the funding of alternative social and public services to prevent crime, not police.

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

Paul Schwartzentruber, Halifax asked that information be provided about Halifax Regional Police's general budget to give context to the budget increase request. Schwartzentruber supported implementation of the Subcommittee to Define Defunding Police recommendations.

Amanda Rekunyk, Lakeside spoke in opposition to Halifax Regional Police's proposed budget increase and stated that Halifax Regional Municipality's rural areas did not need more police but more municipal and social services. Rekunyk expressed the need for police accountability in their relationships with black, indigenous and racialized communities.

Kate Macdonald on behalf of Kordeena Clayton, Cole Harbour spoke in opposition to the Halifax Regional Police proposed budget increase because the increase did not benefit African Nova Scotian and other racialized communities and requested that the Subcommittee to Define Defunding Police recommendations be implemented.

Monika Landry, District 7 spoke in opposition to Halifax Regional Police's proposed budget increase and supported implementation of the Subcommittee to Define Defunding Police recommendations because the current health care crisis showed the need to detask crisis intervention for the police.

Emerson Roach, Halifax spoke in opposition to Halifax Regional Police's proposed budget increase and proposed these funds go to social and community-based programs. Roach expressed concern about the lack of accountability for police violence and racial profiling.

Calendula Sack, Halifax spoke in opposition to Halifax Regional Police's proposed budget increase as the funds would be better used to provide mental health services and affordable housing in the community. Sack stated that the Halifax Regional Police did not provide evidence that increased services over the past year justify their request for additional funding.

Veronica Post, Halifax requested that all future meetings include virtual participation. Post spoke in opposition to the Halifax Regional Police proposed budget increase and supported funding social and community services.

Chief Dan Kinsella, Halifax Regional Police and Chief Superintendent Jeffrey Christie, Officer in Charge, Halifax District Royal Canadian Police responded to comments from the public. Kinsella responded to questions of clarification from the Board.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:09 p.m.

Andrea Lovasi-Wood
Legislative Assistant