



## BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS for the HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

### **MINUTES November 29, 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

**STAFF:**

Jerry Blackwood, Acting Chief Administrative Officer - Executive Director of  
Finance and Asset Management/Chief Financial Officer  
Martin Ward, Solicitor  
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](http://halifax.ca).*

*The meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m., and recessed at 5:58 p.m. The Board reconvened at 6:17 p.m. The Board adjourned at 6:48 p.m.*

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:01 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. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS – NONE**

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – NONE**

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

Additions: None

Deletions:

- Item 7.1 – Commissioner Critchley - Mental health and policing

MOVED by Commissioner Giles, seconded by Commissioner Smith

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

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES – NONE**

**6. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS – NONE**

**7. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE**

**8. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS**

**8.1 Correspondence**

Correspondence was received and circulated for item 10.1.2.

For a detailed list of correspondence received refer to the specific agenda item.

**8.2 Petitions – None**

**8.3 Presentation – None**

**9. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE**

**10. REPORTS**

**10.1 STAFF**

**10.1.1 Halifax Regional Municipality Fiscal Update – Presentation**

The following was before the Board:

- Staff presentation dated November 29, 2023

Dave Harley, Director, Accounting & Finance Reporting gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Board.

**10.1.2 Halifax Regional Police 2024/25 Proposed Operating Budget**

The following was before the Board:

- Extracts from the September 20, 2023 Board of Police Commissioners minutes, October 18, 2023 Board of Police Commissioners minutes, October 25, 2023 Board of Police Commissioners minutes, November 15, 2023 Board of Police Commissioners draft minutes and November 22, 2023 Board of Police Commissioners draft minutes
- Correspondence from M. Abbott, Rachel Loney, Marilyn McAvoy, Ames Mather, S. Robinson, Joanne Bealy, Collins Ellison, Gretchen Pohlkamp

MOVED by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Blackburn

**THAT the Board of Police Commissioners waive the rules of order section 83 (1) and (3) of Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, to permit Committee of the Whole speaking rules.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

MOVED by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Blackburn

**THAT, having ensured that the proposed Halifax Regional Police Operating Budget for 2024/25 as presented at the October 18, October 25, and November 15, 2023 meetings of the Board of Police Commissioners for the Halifax Regional Municipality is consistent with those matters referred to in subsection 55(3) of the Police Act, the Board of Police Commissioners moves the following recommendation; that Halifax Regional Council approve the proposed 2024/25 Halifax Regional Police Operating Budget of \$98,132,100, which includes a proposed increase in the composition as set out in the Proposed Service Enhancements identified in the 2024/25 Budget Information Package, set out in Attachment A of the staff report dated November 24, 2023, and as presented by Chief MacLean to the Board on November 15, 2023.**

Acting Chief Don MacLean, Halifax Regional Police (HRP) responded to questions of clarification from the Board regarding how the “cop to population” statistic was calculated annually for Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) by Statistics Canada and the issues that complicated an accurate reflection of police strength provided by HRP and Halifax District Royal Canadian Mounted Police for HRM.

Commissioner Kent stepped down from the Chair and Commissioner Critchley assumed the Chair.

MOVED by Commissioner Kent, seconded by Commissioner Critchley

**THAT the motion be amended to take two equivalent FTEs from the 12 Patrol Division Constables outlined in Halifax Regional Police’s Proposed Service Enhancements identified in the 2024/25 Budget Information Package in order to resource the development of the Strategic Plan recommended in the Police Transformation Study. These two equivalent FTEs would be seconded to Community Safety as service system managers for a minimum of 3 years, for the development of the strategic plan and subsequent implementation. Funding remains with Halifax Regional Police to pay for these positions.**

Andrea Lovasi-Wood, Legislative Assistant responded to a question of clarification from the Board on the process for considering amendments and the main motion.

Martin Ward, Solicitor responded to a question of clarification from the Board and noted that a vote on an amendment did not reflect a vote on the entire HRP budget request. Ward advised the Board to consider and vote on each category of HRP’s Proposed Service Enhancements separately.

Acting Chief MacLean clarified that the request for 12 Patrol Division Constables was to bolster front line support and were not solely dedicated to respond to mental health calls. MacLean updated the Board regarding talks with the Province regarding the *Involuntary Psychiatric Treatment Act*.

**MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED.**

The motion as amended now read:

MOVED by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Blackburn

**THAT, having ensured that the proposed Halifax Regional Police Operating Budget for 2024/25 as presented at the October 18, October 25, and November 15, 2023 meetings of the Board of Police Commissioners for the Halifax Regional Municipality is consistent with those matters referred to in subsection 55(3) of the Police Act, the Board of Police Commissioners moves the following recommendation; that Halifax Regional Council approve the proposed 2024/25 Halifax Regional Police Operating Budget of \$98,132,100, which includes a proposed increase in the composition as set out in the Proposed Service Enhancements identified in the 2024/25 Budget Information Package, set out in Attachment A of the staff report dated November 24, 2023, and as presented by Chief MacLean to the Board on November 15, 2023; with two equivalent FTEs taken from the 12 Patrol Division Constables outlined in Halifax Regional Police's Proposed Service Enhancements identified in the 2024/25 Budget Information Package in order to resource the development of the Strategic Plan recommended in the Police Transformation Study. These two equivalent FTEs would be seconded to Community Safety as service system managers for a minimum of 3 years, for the development of the strategic plan and subsequent implementation. Funding remains with Halifax Regional Police to pay for these positions.**

Commissioner Kent resumed the Chair.

Commissioner Smith proposed that the list of the Proposed Service Enhancements be included. As provided for in section 53 (2) of Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, the amendment was accepted as friendly.

The motion as amended now read:

MOVED by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Blackburn

**THAT, having ensured that the proposed Halifax Regional Police Operating Budget for 2024/25 as presented at the October 18, October 25, and November 15, 2023 meetings of the Board of Police Commissioners for the Halifax Regional Municipality is consistent with those matters referred to in subsection 55(3) of the Police Act, the Board of Police Commissioners moves the following recommendation; that Halifax Regional Council approve the proposed 2024/25 Halifax Regional Police Operating Budget of \$98,132,100, which includes a proposed increase in the composition as set out in the Proposed Service Enhancements identified in the 2024/25 Budget Information Package, set out in Attachment A of the staff report dated November 24, 2023, and as presented by Chief MacLean to the Board on November 15, 2023, more specifically:**

- 1. Police Science Programs (PSP); 1 Sergeant, 1 Constable**
- 2. Background and Security Clearance Unit: (BaSCU): 2 Civilian Investigators**
- 3. Employee and Family Assistant Program (EFAP): 1 Coordinator**
- 4. Hate Crime Unit (HCU): 1 Constable**
- 5. Community Response Officer (CRO): 6 Constables**
- 6. Patrol Division: 12 Constables:**
  - a. 10 FTEs for Patrol Division, and**

- b. **2 FTEs seconded to Community Safety as service system managers for a minimum of 3 years, for the development of the strategic plan and subsequent implementation recommended in the Police Transformation Study. Funding remains with Halifax Regional Police to pay for these positions.**

As provided for in section 90 of Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, the motion was separated for voting purposes.

MOVED by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Critchley

**THAT, having ensured that the proposed Halifax Regional Police Operating Budget for 2024/25 as presented at the October 18, October 25, and November 15, 2023 meetings of the Board of Police Commissioners for the Halifax Regional Municipality is consistent with those matters referred to in subsection 55(3) of the Police Act, the Board of Police Commissioners moves the following recommendation; that Halifax Regional Council approve the proposed 2024/25 Halifax Regional Police Operating Budget of \$98,132,100, which includes a proposed increase in the composition as set out in the Proposed Service Enhancements identified in the 2024/25 Budget Information Package, set out in Attachment A of the staff report dated November 24, 2023, and as presented by Chief MacLean to the Board on November 15, 2023, more specifically:**

- 1. Police Science Programs (PSP); 1 Sergeant, 1 Constable**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

MOVED by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Blackburn

**THAT, having ensured that the proposed Halifax Regional Police Operating Budget for 2024/25 as presented at the October 18, October 25, and November 15, 2023 meetings of the Board of Police Commissioners for the Halifax Regional Municipality is consistent with those matters referred to in subsection 55(3) of the Police Act, the Board of Police Commissioners moves the following recommendation; that Halifax Regional Council approve the proposed 2024/25 Halifax Regional Police Operating Budget of \$98,132,100, which includes a proposed increase in the composition as set out in the Proposed Service Enhancements identified in the 2024/25 Budget Information Package, set out in Attachment A of the staff report dated November 24, 2023, and as presented by Chief MacLean to the Board on November 15, 2023, more specifically:**

- 2. Background and Security Clearance Unit: (BaSCU): 2 Civilian Investigators**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

MOVED by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Akindoju

**THAT, having ensured that the proposed Halifax Regional Police Operating Budget for 2024/25 as presented at the October 18, October 25, and November 15, 2023 meetings of the Board of Police Commissioners for the Halifax Regional Municipality is consistent with those matters referred to in subsection 55(3) of the Police Act, the Board of Police Commissioners moves the following recommendation; that Halifax Regional Council approve the proposed 2024/25 Halifax Regional Police Operating Budget of \$98,132,100, which includes a proposed increase in the composition as set out in the Proposed Service Enhancements identified in the 2024/25 Budget Information Package, set out in Attachment A of the staff report dated November 24, 2023, and as presented by Chief MacLean to the Board on November 15, 2023, more specifically:**

- 3. Employee and Family Assistant Program (EFAP): 1 Coordinator**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

MOVED by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Blackburn

**THAT, having ensured that the proposed Halifax Regional Police Operating Budget for 2024/25 as presented at the October 18, October 25, and November 15, 2023 meetings of the Board of Police Commissioners for the Halifax Regional Municipality is consistent with those matters referred to in subsection 55(3) of the Police Act, the Board of Police Commissioners moves the following recommendation; that Halifax Regional Council approve the proposed 2024/25 Halifax Regional Police Operating Budget of \$98,132,100, which includes a proposed increase in the composition as set out in the Proposed Service Enhancements identified in the 2024/25 Budget Information Package, set out in Attachment A of the staff report dated November 24, 2023, and as presented by Chief MacLean to the Board on November 15, 2023, more specifically:**

- 4. Hate Crime Unit (HCU): 1 Constable**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

MOVED by Commissioner Giles, seconded by Commissioner Smith

**THAT, having ensured that the proposed Halifax Regional Police Operating Budget for 2024/25 as presented at the October 18, October 25, and November 15, 2023 meetings of the Board of Police Commissioners for the Halifax Regional Municipality is consistent with those matters referred to in subsection 55(3) of the Police Act, the Board of Police Commissioners moves the following recommendation; that Halifax Regional Council approve the proposed 2024/25 Halifax Regional Police Operating Budget of \$98,132,100, which includes a proposed increase in the composition as set out in the Proposed Service Enhancements identified in the 2024/25 Budget Information Package, set out in Attachment A of the staff report dated November 24, 2023, and as presented by Chief MacLean to the Board on November 15, 2023, more specifically:**

- 5. Community Response Officer (CRO): 6 Constables**

MOVED by Commissioner Giles, seconded by Commissioner Blackburn

**THAT the motion be amended to reduce the number of Community Response Officer (CRO) from 6 to 4 Constables.**

**MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED.**

The motion as amended now read:

MOVED by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Blackburn

**THAT, having ensured that the proposed Halifax Regional Police Operating Budget for 2024/25 as presented at the October 18, October 25, and November 15, 2023 meetings of the Board of Police Commissioners for the Halifax Regional Municipality is consistent with those matters referred to in subsection 55(3) of the Police Act, the Board of Police Commissioners moves the following recommendation; that Halifax Regional Council approve the proposed 2024/25 Halifax Regional Police Operating Budget of \$98,132,100, which includes a proposed increase in the composition as set out in the Proposed Service Enhancements identified in the 2024/25 Budget Information Package, set out in Attachment A of the staff report dated November 24, 2023, and as presented by Chief MacLean to the Board on November 15, 2023, more specifically:**

- 5. Community Response Officer (CRO): 4 Constables**

**MOTION AS AMENDED PUT AND PASSED.**

MOVED by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Blackburn

**THAT, having ensured that the proposed Halifax Regional Police Operating Budget for 2024/25 as presented at the October 18, October 25, and November 15, 2023 meetings of the Board of Police Commissioners for the Halifax Regional Municipality is consistent with those matters referred to in subsection 55(3) of the Police Act, the Board of Police Commissioners moves the following recommendation; that Halifax Regional Council approve the proposed 2024/25 Halifax Regional Police Operating Budget of \$98,132,100, which includes a proposed increase in the composition as set out in the Proposed Service Enhancements identified in the 2024/25 Budget Information Package, set out in Attachment A of the staff report dated November 24, 2023, and as presented by Chief MacLean to the Board on November 15, 2023, more specifically:**

- 6. Patrol Division: 12 Constables:**
  - a. 10 FTEs for Patrol Division, and**
  - b. 2 FTEs seconded to Community Safety as service system managers for a minimum of 3 years, for the development of the strategic plan and subsequent implementation recommended in the Police Transformation Study. Funding remains with Halifax Regional Police to pay for these positions.**

As provided for in section 90 of Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, the motion was separated for voting purposes.

MOVED by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Blackburn

**THAT, having ensured that the proposed Halifax Regional Police Operating Budget for 2024/25 as presented at the October 18, October 25, and November 15, 2023 meetings of the Board of Police Commissioners for the Halifax Regional Municipality is consistent with those matters referred to in subsection 55(3) of the Police Act, the Board of Police Commissioners moves the following recommendation; that Halifax Regional Council approve the proposed 2024/25 Halifax Regional Police Operating Budget of \$98,132,100, which includes a proposed increase in the composition as set out in the Proposed Service Enhancements identified in the 2024/25 Budget Information Package, set out in Attachment A of the staff report dated November 24, 2023, and as presented by Chief MacLean to the Board on November 15, 2023, more specifically:**

- 6. Patrol Division: 12 Constables:**
  - a. 10 FTEs for Patrol Division,**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

MOVED by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Critchley

**THAT, having ensured that the proposed Halifax Regional Police Operating Budget for 2024/25 as presented at the October 18, October 25, and November 15, 2023 meetings of the Board of Police Commissioners for the Halifax Regional Municipality is consistent with those matters referred to in subsection 55(3) of the Police Act, the Board of Police Commissioners moves the following recommendation; that Halifax Regional Council approve the proposed 2024/25 Halifax Regional Police Operating Budget of \$98,132,100, which includes a proposed increase in the composition as set out in the Proposed Service Enhancements identified in the 2024/25 Budget Information Package, set out in Attachment A of the staff report dated November 24, 2023, and as presented by Chief MacLean to the Board on November 15, 2023, more specifically:**

- 6. Patrol Division: 12 Constables:**

- b. **2 FTEs seconded to Community Safety as service system managers for a minimum of 3 years, for the development of the strategic plan and subsequent implementation recommended in the Police Transformation Study. Funding remains with Halifax Regional Police to pay for these positions.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

The question was called on the main motion:

MOVED by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Blackburn

**THAT, having ensured that the proposed Halifax Regional Police Operating Budget for 2024/25 as presented at the October 18, October 25, and November 15, 2023 meetings of the Board of Police Commissioners for the Halifax Regional Municipality is consistent with those matters referred to in subsection 55(3) of the Police Act, the Board of Police Commissioners moves the following recommendation; that Halifax Regional Council approve the proposed 2024/25 Halifax Regional Police Operating Budget of \$98,011,400, which includes a proposed increase in the composition as set out in the Proposed Service Enhancements identified in the 2024/25 Budget Information Package, set out in Attachment A of the staff report dated November 24, 2023, and as presented by Chief MacLean to the Board on November 15, 2023, as amended by the Board of Police Commissioners on November 29, 2023, the Proposed Service Enhancements are as follows:**

1. **Police Science Program (PSP): 1 Sergeant, 1 Constable;**
2. **Background and Security Clearance Unit: (BaSCU): 2 Civilian Investigators;**
3. **Employee and Family Assistance Program (EFAP): 1 Coordinator;**
4. **Hate Crime Unit (HCU): 1 Constable;**
5. **Community Response Office (CRO): 4 Constables;**
6. **Patrol Division: 12 Constables, made up of**
  - a. **10 FTEs for Patrol Division; and**
  - b. **2 FTEs seconded to Community Safety as service system managers for a minimum of 3 years, for the development of the strategic plan and subsequent implementation recommended in the Police Transformation Study. Funding remains with Halifax Regional Police to pay for these positions.**

**MOTION AS AMENDED PUT AND PASSED.**

**10.1.3 Royal Canadian Mounted Police 2024/25 Funding Request - Presentation**

The following was before the Board:

- Royal Canadian Mounted Police presentation dated November 29, 2023

Chief Superintendent Jeffrey Christie, Officer in Charge, Halifax District Royal Canadian Mounted Police gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Board.

MOVED by Commissioner Blackburn, seconded by Commissioner Thomas



**THAT the Board of Police Commissioners for the Halifax Regional Municipality recommend that Halifax Regional Council approve the Halifax District Royal Canadian Mounted Police resource request for seven additional police officer Full time Equivalents (FTEs) which includes the following positions:**

- 1. 1 Assistant Detachment Commander (Superintendent);**
- 2. 2 Intimate Partner Violence Investigators; and**
- 3. 4 General Duty Investigators (Constable)**

**in the 2024-2025 fiscal year.**

As provided for in section 90 of Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, the motion was separated for voting purposes.

MOVED by Commissioner Blackburn, seconded by Commissioner Smith

**THAT the Board of Police Commissioners for the Halifax Regional Municipality recommend that Halifax Regional Council approve the Halifax District Royal Canadian Mounted Police resource request for seven additional police officer Full time Equivalents (FTEs) which includes the following positions:**

- 1. 1 Assistant Detachment Commander (Superintendent);**

**in the 2024-2025 fiscal year.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

MOVED by Commissioner Blackburn, seconded by Commissioner Smith

**THAT the Board of Police Commissioners for the Halifax Regional Municipality recommend that Halifax Regional Council approve the Halifax District Royal Canadian Mounted Police resource request for seven additional police officer Full time Equivalents (FTEs) which includes the following positions:**

- 2. 2 Intimate Partner Violence Investigators;**

**in the 2024-2025 fiscal year.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

MOVED by Commissioner Blackburn, seconded by Commissioner Thomas

**THAT the Board of Police Commissioners for the Halifax Regional Municipality recommend that Halifax Regional Council approve the Halifax District Royal Canadian Mounted Police resource request for seven additional police officer Full time Equivalents (FTEs) which includes the following positions:**

- 3. 4 General Duty Investigators (Constable)**

**in the 2024-2025 fiscal year.**

**MOTION PUT AND DEFEATED.**

**10.2 COMMISSIONER UPDATES – NONE**

**11. ADDED ITEMS – NONE**

**12. ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION – NONE**

**13. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE) – NONE**

**14. NOTICE OF MOTION – NONE**

**15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – December 13, 2023**

**16. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

Andrea Lovasi-Wood  
Legislative Assistant