

**VANCOUVER POLICE BOARD  
FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**Meeting Minutes**

**October 20, 2020 - 2:00pm to 3:26pm**

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**Present:**

**Committee members:** Frank Chong (Chair), Barj Dhahan, Merrilee Robson, Rachel Roy (Joined at 2:21pm)

**VPD:** DCC Rai, Sr. Dir. Nancy Eng, Melissa Lee, Kimberly Jang

**Board Office:** Stephanie Johanssen, Executive Director

**Minutes By:** Ali Huculak

**1. Adoption of Agenda for October 20, 2020**

The Committee adopted the agenda for October 20, 2020.

**2. Minutes**

The Committee approved the Minutes of June 5, 2020 with one amendment, changing the word *Superintendent* to *Staff Sergeant* on the first page of the minutes.

**3. VPD budget process and budget strategy discussion**

DCC Rai briefed the committee, and referred to the summary of the process provided by the Finance team. The City has a defined budget development process, which the VPD follows in the development of its annual operating and capital budget.

Committee member Mr. Dhahan stated that it was comprehensive report and gave everyone a good understanding of the process itself.

The report was received for information.

**4. 2021 – Fees – other – VPD Services Report**

DCC Rai spoke to the report stating the VPD provides services for a fee, which are subject to an annual detailed review to ensure full cost recovery.

There had been an update to this annual report in that it now incorporates a column showing the proposed dollar difference, in addition to the percentage difference. After Committee discussion it was determined that the public version of the report will show the percentages to two decimal spaces for those less than 1%.

Motion to recommend the proposed fees for Board approval.

MOVED/SECONDED

CARRIED

**5. 2021 – Fees – Police and Traffic Authority Charge out Rate Report**

DCC Rai spoke to the report stating the VPD is not a profit generating entity, and any fees charged are solely for cost recovery purposes.

DCC Rai stated events are not happening as frequently as they typically would due to COVID-19. There was a question around comparing the VPD’s fees to other major cities in Canada. DCC Rai stated that the VPD has never done a comparison with major cities across Canada because their wage settlements and environment differ to ours, however the Finance team would look to create a comparison between Vancouver and other major Cities for the public report.

DCC Rai clarified that the cost of protests are absorbed directly by the VPD, as opposed to a special event such as Rogers Arena concerts, filming and sporting events that require police and traffic authority (TA) personnel assistance.

Motion to recommend the proposed fees for Board approval.

MOVED/SECONDED

CARRIED

**6. 2021 VPD Preliminary Operating Budget**

DCC Rai provided a brief overview and stated the VPD preliminary 2021 operating budget requirement is \$330,811,943, which is an increase of 4.8% or \$15,198,740 from the restated 2020 budget. The City Council imposed reduction of 1% is equivalent to \$3.1 million dollars, which is related to the forced holding of vacancies through attrition which would equal approximately 34 positions, and take the VPD back to 2009 numbers.

DCC Rai stated he would have someone determine what the overtime costs are projected to be to make up for the 34 vacancies while considering other variables as well and provide this information to the Committee.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. The VPD is an essential, core service and should not be subject to the same blanket cuts as other non-essential departments of the City.

Senior Director Eng stated the City has considered those departments who have been affected by COVID-19, recognizing that there were more vacancies in certain departments that had to close for a portion of time and are just now re-opening. The City has reduced those department’s budget more than the VPD. Workload was considered when deciding between the 1% and 2% vacancy reduction piece that was allocated.

DCC Rai spoke to the Chair's comments stating the meetings going forward will lay out the data in a very metric centered approach, for the short and long term.

Sr. Dir. Eng explained where Community Policing Centers are funded through the VPD, and noted that right now the City is in support of \$200,000 of the \$350,000 additional CPC budget.

DCC Rai provided an update on the Surrey Police force and the VPD's projection of vacancies within the Department, noting that the risk has not changed.

Motion to recommend the report to the Board for information and discussion.

MOVED/SECONDED

CARRIED

**7. 2021 VPD Preliminary Capital Budget**

DCC Rai stated the VPD's annual capital budget request is approximately \$9,894,964 and will be submitted by various City departments on behalf of the VPD. The VPD continues to work closely with the City departments to prioritize projects for the upcoming year. For any emerging capital items not included in the capital budget, the City has a capital budget adjustment process to allow for these requests.

Melissa Lee stated in terms of the VPD's capital budget priorities, while the City did take an overall hit due to COVID-19, VPD's cost categories have not been impacted dramatically, specifically for fleet, technology and real estate.

Motion to put forward the report to the Board for information.

MOVED/SECONDED

CARRIED

**8. VPD Q2 and Q3 Variance Report**

Ms. Lee spoke to this report and stated at the end of June 2020, the VPD was over budget by approximately \$2.2 million, but by the end of September 2020, the VPD was approximately \$100,000 under budget. This is mainly to do with higher spend on overtime, protests, and timing of purchases for uniforms and equipment and outfitting the VPD staff and members with PPE related to the pandemic.

Motion to put forward to the Board for information.

MOVED/SECONDED

CARRIED

**9. VPD Q3 Comprehensive Overtime Analysis**

Melissa Lee spoke to this and stated at the end of September for the nine month period, the VPD was approximately \$2.5million over budget related to overtime. There is a \$200,000 savings related to the entertainment district overtime due to the Pandemic, with respect to nightclubs, restaurants etc. being closed. Ms. Lee stated the big driver for this year's overtime is fundamentally due to the events (protests) that were happening this year, as well as costs associated to COVID.

DCC Rai spoke to a question stating there are very strict protocols in place with respect to overtime. DCC Rai stated officers are accountable under the Police Act, and there have been very few issues over the decade. DCC Rai briefed the Committee on the approval process for overtime.

The Finance team is going to provide the committee a response with respect to quantifying the overtime related to deployment in relation to people not returning at night to the Granville hotel/shelter.

Motion to receive report for information

MOVED/SECONDED

CARRIED

**10. VPD Vacancy Report**

Melissa Lee spoke to the vacancy report and noted that as of October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020 the VPD had 30 sworn and 37 civilian vacancies. The majority of the sworn vacancies are as a result of the Pandemic and the temporary closure of the Justice Institute of BC (JIBC). Ms. Lee stated the VPD hired 48 recruits of the 75 planned hires for the year and to help further reduce the vacancies, the VPD is scheduled to hire 14 sworn exempts in the upcoming months.

Motion to receive report for information.

**11. Other Business**

There was discussion regarding getting community support with respect to the VPD's budget ask.

*VPD Staff left and the Committee Moved to In-Camera 3:12pm*

**12. Board Office Q3 Variance Report**

The Executive Director Stephanie Johanssen spoke to this report stating this report comes forward to the Finance committee quarterly, for information. This report provides a quick view of where the Board Office budget is going. Ms. Johanssen stated the Board Office is historically under budget, however in the last two years the Board Office is over budget due to the external street checks review and legal expenses incurred.

Ms. Johanssen explained that any expenditure over \$4000 needs to be approved by either the Vice-Chair, Finance Committee Chair, or the Chair. Ms. Johanssen stated the full Board gets a breakdown of the legal expenses in the Legal Expenses Report that comes forward to the Board twice per year. Ms. Johanssen noted she will provide the breakdown of legal expenses as requested by a Committee member.

**13. Other Business**

There was no other business.

*The meeting adjourned at 3:26pm*