

**VANCOUVER POLICE BOARD  
FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Sept 14, 2021- 2:06pm to 2:42pm**

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**Present:**

**Committee members:** Frank Chong (Chair), Faye Wightman, Rachel Roy (2:20pm)

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

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

**Minutes By:** Ali Huculak

**1. Adoption of Agenda for Sept 14, 2021**

The Committee adopted the agenda for Sept 14, 2021.

**2. Approval of Minutes June 9, 2021**

The Committee approved the Minutes of June 9, 2021.

**3. VPD Vacancy Report**

DCC Rai stated there are 20 (1.6%) sworn vacancies, and 29 (6.6%) civilian vacancies, some of civilian vacancies are in various stages of hiring.

DCC Rai spoke to a committee member's question stating at this time, recruiting externally has not been difficult, however the Vancouver Police Department (VPD) will see an impact next year with respect to the Surrey Police Service, and other police agency incentives making an impact on the VPD's recruitment numbers.

The report was received for information.

**4. VPD Q2 Overtime analysis**

Budget and Reporting Unit Manager Melissa Lee spoke to the overtime analysis report. The majority of the overages are associated to the ongoing protests/demonstrations in the City of Vancouver (CoV), as well as the lower mainland gang conflict, and staffing shortages. In comparison to this period last year, the VPD is consistent.

DCC Rai stated the VPD will forward the true overtime for Support Services to the Board for their review. DCC Rai clarified that the VPD at his time has not been reimbursed by the Province for employee's being off with COVID.

There was discussion with respect to what type of officers are used to police protests/demonstrations, as well as the need for public awareness with respect to what the driving factors are behind VPD overtime costs.

Report received for information.

**5. VPD Q2 Variance Report**

DCC Rai stated for the six-month period ending June 30, 2021, the VPD is over budget by 0.9% or \$1.3 million dollars, due to a higher spend on overtime and unfunded benefit rate increases and contractual services leading up to Q2.

The VPD is projecting to be \$7.67m over budget, \$3m of that is related to the unfunded benefit rate increases, however the VPD is hopeful to have the benefit rate increases reimbursed by the City.

The Provincial decision regarding the 2021 budget shortfall has not been determined at this time, December would be the earliest.

The Committee asked the VPD to quantify the cost associated with non-core policing responsibilities. DCC Rai noted they will provide a list.

Motion to put the Q2 Variance report forward to the Board for the Board's information.

MOVED/SECONDED

CARRIED

**6. 2022 Preliminary Budget Report**

DCC Rai spoke to the report noting the VPD's preliminary 2022 operating budget request is \$333.3m, which is an increase of 4.3% or \$13.8m from the 2021 budget, this equates to approximately 1.67% of the tax increase.

The increase includes funding to re-instate the 2021 budget shortfall of \$5.7m, and also includes fixed increases such as salaries, benefits for existing staff and funding E-COMM levy's and digital evidence management system that the Province is legislating. The preliminary budget does not include funding for year four of the VPD's operational review.

Motion to put the 2022 Preliminary Budget report forward to the Board for discussion during the In Camera portion at the next Police Board meeting, with supplementary information to the report being provided as an on table item.

Supplementary information: quantification around non-core police activities conducted by officers, and itemizing the budget by line item while focusing on the wording of the *Police Act*, the Board also needs a detailed account of cuts made with respect to vacancy savings.

MOVED/SECONDED

CARRIED

**7. Budget Process**

Chair of the Committee Mr. Frank Chong noted there are two meeting scheduled with Council, one on October 12<sup>th</sup> and again on November 8<sup>th</sup>.

**8. Board Office Q2 Budget Report**

The Executive Director spoke to the report, noting that due to evolving needs for police oversight, the Board office budget will be over for the year.

*VPD left at 3:28pm*

**9. Other Business**

There was discussion with respect to creating a non-core services list with respect to the budget.

The Executive Director clarified that the Board office has a communications consultant and the ED is hopeful to continue the work with her, to increase the Board's public profile. The Committee noted that the ED should use the external communications consultant as much as necessary.

*Meeting adjourned at 3:40pm*