

# Strategic Planning and Budget Committee Minutes



February 1, 2023

1:00 p.m.

Council Chambers/Electronic

Members Present: K. Redman, D. Craig, R. Deutschmann, J. Erb, S. Foxtan, M. Harris, C. Huinink, C. James, J. Liggett, D. McCabe, J. Nowak, N. Salonen, S. Shantz, B. Vrbanovic, K. Williams, P. Wolf

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## 1. Call to Order

Chair M. Harris called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

## 2. Land Acknowledgement

Chair M. Harris provided a land acknowledgement.

## 3. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest under the “Municipal Conflict of Interest Act”

There were no declarations of interest.

## 4. Motion to go into Closed Session

Moved by B. Vrbanovic

Seconded by J. Nowak

That a closed meeting of the Strategic Planning and Budget Committee be held on February 1, at 1:05 p.m. in accordance with Section 239 of the “Municipal Act, 2001”, for the purposes of considering the following subject matters:

(a) advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege related to legislation

**Carried**

**5. Motion to Reconvene into Open Session**

Moved by D. Craig

Seconded by S. Foxtan

That the Committee reconvene into Open Session.

**Carried**

**6. Communications**

**6.1 Memorandum from Jeff Schelling, Regional Solicitor and Director of Legal Services**

Jeff Schelling, Regional Solicitor, provided an overview of the memo, outlining legal considerations regarding the Police and Region of Waterloo in terms of budget, which stem from the Police Services Act.

The memo was received for information.

**7. Presentations**

**7.1 Waterloo Police Services 2023 Operating and Capital Budget**

Chief Mark Crowell, Kirsten Hand, Director of Finance, and Dr. Karin Schnarr, Vice-Chair, Waterloo Regional Police Services Board provided a presentation on the Waterloo Police Services 2023 Operating and Capital Budget.

Dr. K. Schnarr provided an overview of the Waterloo Region Police Services Board and introduced Chief Crowell.

Chief Crowell provided an explanation of the needs of the Waterloo Regional Police Service (WRPS) including an overview of calls for service, crime indexes and statistics, and examples of the depth and complexity of criminal activity within the Region, including organized crime, road safety, and homicide. Chief Crowell also provided an overview of WRPS staffing and the commitment to the membership regarding health and wellness, equity, diversity and inclusion, respect in the workplace, and professionalism, to ensure a healthy and viable workplace.

K. Hand provided a financial overview, including a 2023 budget forecast and budget drivers, such as life cycle replacement of equipment and fuel prices.

A copy of the presentation is attached to the minutes.

In response to the Committee, Chief Crowell explained that officers engage in a variety of mental health related training, such as de-escalation, public safety, and on a recurring basis, mental health experts come to provide supplementary expertise, in addition to mental health training being interwoven in all training. Chief Crowell also provided an overview of mental health supports available to the membership.

Chief Crowell stated that the WRPS will provide the Committee with data regarding the impact of the mental health crisis on the budget, including a break down of how many of the calls and dispatches are related to mental health, and how many calls could or are being diverted through civilianization. Chief Crowell expressed an interest in exploring other programs and determining the suitability and viability for the Region. He also noted that he will confidentially provide the Committee with a copy of the KPMG report referenced in the presentation.

In response to the Committee, Chief Crowell confirmed that the WRPS will provide the Committee with additional information regarding community partnership analytics, and that it may be a bit difficult since the community is interwoven with the work of the WRPS. He also confirmed that the WRPS will follow up with the Committee regarding data on dollars per capita in comparison to other services.

In response to the Committee, Chief Crowell noted that the recommendations are based on the highest needs and risks.

Responding to questions from the Committee, Chief Crowell shared that a challenge that the WRPS faces is finding the right balance of urban and rural deployment, so that no one in this Region feels disadvantaged from a service and safety standpoint, which requires constant feedback and learning.

Chief Crowell gave thanks to the Committee and shared the need to have regular points of dialogue with Council, in order to have a shared understanding of priorities and considerations moving forward.

J. Liggett joined the meeting at 1:23 pm.

**7.2 Preliminary 2023-2032 Capital Budget - Presentation from Regional Staff**

This item was deferred until the February 8, 2023 Strategic Planning and Budget Committee meeting.

**8. Other Business**

None.

**9. Adjourn**

Moved by K. Williams

Seconded by C. James

That the meeting adjourn at 5:00 p.m.

**Carried**

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Regional Clerk

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Regional Chair