

To: Regional Chair Redman and Regional Councillors

Looking at the budget calendar, I have some concerns about the ability of Regional Council to have an opportunity to review and discuss the Police Services budget and any opportunity for change before the February 22, 2023 budget day. I appreciate that we have the authority to extend the timetable if we desired, but I am also hoping that an extension will not be necessary given the importance of establishing the 2023 Regional budget as soon as possible.

We are receiving a presentation of the Police Services budget on Wednesday February 1. We have committee on February 7. In order for a Notice of Motion to be considered on February 7, it must be received by the clerk by 9:00 am on Wednesday February 1. The alternative is to bring forward a Notice of Motion that would require 2/3's support of Council to be heard.

We will be presented with a budget that has been approved by the WRPS Board. In years prior to 2018, the Chief and finance director for the WRPS would come to council to provide a preliminary budget and Waterloo Region council would provide some guidance on the type of budget increase we would like to see. That was not done this year and it is hoped that, in accordance with Councillor James' Notice of Motion, this process would be reconsidered for future years.

However, that being said, we can reject this approved budget and send it back to the WRPS Board for reconsideration. One significant issue though is timing. In prior years, the presentation would have been much sooner and guidance would have been provided with sufficient time for the WRPS Board to review and then come back with a budget for consideration of the Region of Waterloo council, considering the prior guidance that was provided.

Now we are faced with a presentation on February 1 and a final vote on February 22. However, we have committee on Wednesday February 7. It would seem to me that the only chance for Regional Council to ask for reconsideration by WRPS Board either happens at the February 1 meeting, or the Committee meeting on February 7. This would give the WRPS Board time to put together a revised budget in time for the final budget day on February 22. It would make things difficult to ask for a reconsideration by the WRPS Board on February 22, when we are hoping to finalize our budget that day. Unless of course Regional council decides to extend the date to finalize the budget. Again, as I indicated above, I am hoping that we can finalize the budget on February 22, and this Notice of Motion is brought respecting that timetable.

As a result of what I perceive to be a timing dilemma, I have thoroughly reviewed the Police Board meetings on November 9, 2022, December 14, 2022 and January 18, 2023, along with the agenda packages. I have also reviewed the agenda package for our meeting on February 1, 2023. I look forward to hearing from Chief Crowell and his presentation on February 1. However, given the timing concerns that I have outlined above, on behalf of Councillor James and myself, I am submitting this Notice of Motion to the Clerk in accordance with our policy and procedures. I recognize that this is prior to the presentation from Chief Crowell, but as I have indicated, I have reviewed the 3 prior presentations that have been made by Chief Crowell to the Waterloo Region Police Services Board, along with related documentation.

NOTICE OF MOTION

Whereas the safety of our community is the most important priority for elected officials;

And whereas the provision of safety in the community comes in many forms and from many groups;

And whereas the Waterloo Region Police Services performs a very prominent and important role in ensuring safety in our community;

And whereas the Region of Waterloo has recognized the importance of upstream services in preventing crime through ongoing financial support for services that enhance food security, housing security, drug addiction services, mental health services, immigration and refugee services, to name a few of the many services currently supported by the Regional Municipality of Waterloo;

And whereas it is acknowledged that the population of the Region of Waterloo continues to grow, and with this growth brings the need to adequately support a police service that is capable of providing for safety in our community;

And whereas the Region of Waterloo approved the hiring of 35 FTEs for 2022;

And whereas the Waterloo Region Police Services Board (WRPSB) is seeking a further increase of 19 FTEs for 2023, representing a 7.2% budgetary rate increase for 2023, or a monetary increase of \$18,299,610.00;

And whereas it is recognized that in order to ensure safety in our community, the Regional Municipality of Waterloo must find a balance to ensure that we have a sufficiently funded and staffed Waterloo Region Police Services and continuing support for upstream services;

Be it resolved that the budget as presented by the Waterloo Region Police Services Board be rejected by Regional Council and be sent back to the Waterloo Region Police Services Board for review;

And be it further resolved that the Waterloo Region Police Services Board return with a budget that provides for an expansion no greater than 8 FTEs as provided in the WRPSB Budget presentation of November 9, 2022, representing a 1% growth which is consistent with Region of Waterloo population growth for the last two years, with a start date of April 1, 2023;

And be it further resolved that the Regional Municipality of Waterloo will consider the funds, that represent the difference between the WRPSB request for a 7.2% budgetary increase and the amended, WRPS budget rate increase, and the Regional Municipality of Waterloo will direct all or some portion of the funds to upstream services.

Moved: Rob Deutschmann

Seconded: Colleen James