
Halifax Regional Council
May 7, 2002

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: 
David P. McKinnon, Chief of Police

DATE: April 18, 2002

SUBJECT: Ports Policing Contract

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

In early 1996, Transport Canada announced the disbandment of the Ports Canada Police. The Halifax Port Corporation and the Nova Scotia Department of Justice conducted an extensive policing review which determined the need for a “dedicated” police presence on the Halifax Waterfront. After reviewing policing options, the Port Authority determined that a policing arrangement with the Halifax Regional Police would be the most viable. As a result, on December 31, 1997 Halifax Regional Police entered into an agreement ratified by Halifax Regional Municipality Council to police the Halifax Waterfront on a cost recovery basis.

An original agreement was entered into with an annual cost of \$721,000 per year, plus an additional \$130,000 for start-up costs. The original three year agreement expired April 1, 2001. The agreement was further extended for one year while the Port conducted a second review of its policing requirements. The agreement was extended on the basis of an annual cost of \$738,404.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

The second review again confirmed the need for a dedicated policing presence at the Port, and once again the Halifax Regional Police policing arrangement was seen as the desired option. The current arrangement for the Port consists of a supervisor and eight constables responsible for the security of persons and property on the waterfront and a constable responsible for criminal intelligence. This is a 24 hour, 365 days per year operation.

The Halifax Port Corporation policing arrangement has proven to be a mutual benefit to both Halifax Regional Municipality and the Port Corporation. Halifax Regional Municipality has

been able to enhance its policing capabilities and expertise. The Port Corporation has been provided with a very cost effective policing model to meet its needs.

In hindsight, since September 11, 2001, the decision of the Port of Halifax to provide a dedicated policing presence on the Port has proven to be extremely prudent, and has reflected favorably on both the Port Authority and Halifax Regional Municipality.

As a result, the Port Authority has agreed to an extension of the policing agreement with Halifax Regional Police for a further three years commencing April 1, 2002. The terms of the extension are noted below. The current agreement is simply being extended on the basis of the following financial arrangements:

April 1, 2002 - April 1, 2005 Port Policing Operating Costs			
	2002	2003	2004
Total Annual Costs	\$740,404	\$742,082	\$759,564

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget implications. The current arrangement was under consideration when the Halifax Regional Police budget was formulated. If an agreement had not been reached it would have required that the Halifax Regional Police layoff a minimum of eight officers.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES/BUSINESS PLAN

This report complies with the Municipality’s Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Capital and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Capital and Operating Reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments.

<p>Additional copies of this report, and information on its status, can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.</p> <p>Report Prepared by: Superintendent Chris McNeil 490-5272</p>
