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January 4, 2018

Ms. Morin
Hamilton Police Services Board Administrator

Dear Ms. Morin

Re: Call for Madam Chair to reconsider 2018 Police Services Budget as approved on December 14, 2017, by the Hamilton Police Services Board

Madam Chair, as a private Citizen, I am appealing to you directly to reconsider the 2018 HPSB operating budget. Please put this request to the Board meeting on January 18, 2018.

On December 14, 2017, I had highlighted some critical financial areas where HPSB has the authority to reduce the police services share of taxable levy. Nevertheless, the chairman moved to approve the 2018 operational budget without bringing these issues to HPSB attention. Furthermore, another member of the board, with whom I had spent countless hours, had wanted to participate in setting up the HPSB current operating budget. It is my observation that the chairman may not understand or appreciate the significance of these issues.

Shortly after the December 14, 2017, HPSB meeting the Chairman was removed from his position as Chair. The question is therefore, did the chairman know about his pending termination and was this the reason that my concerns were not put before the board?

The divisiveness in the HPS board has been costing HPS a significant amount by inflating their share of the levy. The board members are there to establish policy; a goal which cannot be achieved amid discord. Why do I say it is costing millions of taxpayer dollars? I have reconciled the HPS 2018 budget and found many errors. I have brought them continuously to the attention of the HPS board. No action has been taken on them.

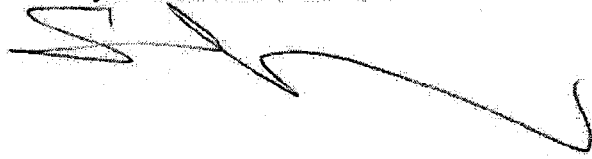
I would like to bring my concerns directly to the attention of the new Chairperson who has academic qualifications in finance. With that I hope the new Chair will take action to alleviate stress on our uniformed officers who are under continuous pressure. It is time the inflation of the HPS budget be evaluated and proper tools be provided for uniformed officers and detectives.

Some of my observations and recommendations are:

- a) You are losing millions of dollars in interest by not recording properly in accounting records, eg contingencies and vehicle purchases,
- b) Capital financing is recorded as a one-sided entry without payment being made but charges are recorded directly to City bank account as non-cash items. This is because police Chief and his senior command are not conversant with the entire Police Act including the **sections pertaining to budget estimates. In my view it appears they are misapplied.**
- c) Adding to (b) above, the Municipal Act overrides the Police Act as it applies to all financial operations including the activities of all committees of Council and boards which are under the control of and accountable to Council. Refer to Municipal Act 224. The General Manager of Finance and Corporate Services must play an important role. Refer to Municipal Act Part VII Sections 285, 286, and 287. **The General Manager of Finance and Corporate Services must communicate with City Council and all Boards to monitor and control financial operations and sign all cheques including those of Police Services.** In my view, such communication has never taken place. As a result, HPSB has continued to include Capital budgets in their regular current year financial operations. The result is that the HPS budget is inflated and the chief is **unable to hire the uniformed officers and detectives that Hamilton needs to fight against drugs, shootings, home invasions and so forth.**
- d) Contingency for Salary Increase/Collective Agreement has been posted in the salary and benefits accounts instead of in a contingency account. Had it been posted to a contingency account it would have earned a significant amount of interest.
- e) Forensic Building: We need the forensic building for various reasons such as the testing of various drugs, housing staff in a central location and so forth. It is a security issue that **Council cannot reject.** The method of financing is the issue. It must be understood that the capital budget request is separate from the regular current financial operational request. However, HPS surpluses were created by over burdening Hamilton taxpayers from current operating budgets.. These surpluses could have facilitated the hiring of more uniformed officers and detectives.
- f) Former Chief: Again, I raise the concern that the former Chief of Police walked away with a department issued computer and cell phone containing HPS information. This is unheard of from any other police services. The former chair stated publically that all HPSB members approved this arrangement although **one of the members was absent at the time** the retirement package was agreed upon. I am trying to support this by obtaining the recorded votes for the former chief's retirement package from Ms. Morin, HPSB Administrator.

Conclusion: I am appealing directly to you Madam Chair as a concerned private citizen to correct some of these problems I have identified. The 2017 books have not been closed. Please reconsider the above information. I will be willing to meet with Mr. Bowman, Mr. Anderson and Mr. Mason to help them reduce the inflated police services share of the levy.

Respectfully submitted by a concerned Citizen
shekar

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Shekar', written over the printed name 'shekar'.