

Memorandum

Date: January 15, 2018

To: Mike Zegarac, General Manager, Finance and Corporate Services
Corporate Services

From: Charles Brown, Director of Audit Services
City Manager's Office - Audit Services

Subject: **Issues Identified by Shekar Chandrashekar**

I have reviewed two items referred to me by yourself pursuant to the letter tabled by Shekar Chandrashekar at AF&A Committee. My review comments are based on information I have received from the relevant departments responding to my enquiries and analysis. I did not conduct an audit of this information.

Municipal Contributions to Police Services

The letter states that "KPMG of Hamilton arbitrarily reduced the municipal contribution to police services operations by over \$1.5 million without explaining the basis for the change in their note two of the Statement of Operations [December 31, 2015]".

The budgeted municipal contribution to the Hamilton Police Service for the year ended December 31, 2015 was \$149,091,955. The municipal contribution as it appears on audited financial statements for the same period was \$147,287,587. I was advised by finance staff and it was confirmed with the external auditor that the reduction was necessary to ensure the financial statements conform to PSAB requirements (Public Sector Accounting Board). Essentially what this means is that the definitions of what constitutes a revenue or expense item are different in PSAB and therefore do not precisely match what are considered revenues or expense items in the budget format approved by Council. This is a reality faced by all municipalities.

The individual explanations I've been given for each line item adjustment in note 2 are consistent with changes that would be necessary under PSAB. Thus, the rationale for a reduction in amount, i.e. to meet PSAB requirements, appears to be valid. The financial statements of HPS, in order to receive an unqualified opinion from external auditors must be conformed to PSAB accounting principles.

On the issue of whether the disclosure made in note 2 provides adequate explanation of the adjustments to the original number, the situation is more problematic. While the adjusting entries themselves appear to be appropriate and consistent with requirements to meet PSAB standards, the disclosure format and explanations of individual adjustments are lacking. A general reference is made to PSAB in note 1 but there is no articulation of how it is being applied to each element in note 2.

In the financial statements of the following year, December 31, 2016, the disclosure was much improved. With Hamilton City Council approval (FCS17073, August 2017) to eliminate the Police Services annual audit of their Schedule of Operations, separate PSAB reporting for HPS will no longer be required. However, should separate statements be produced and audited in the future, you may wish to consider opening discussions with HPS and the auditors about adding individual explanations of the required PSAB changes, perhaps with footnoting, to further enhance and improve transparency and avoid confusion.

Pan-Am Games

The key issue presented in the letter by Mr. Chandrashekar is that the claim submitted to, and received by the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services in the amount of \$2.7 million "is significantly higher than the actual expenditures recorded in their actual available funds report obtained through FOI."

I have examined the available funds reports for the relevant years and concur with the observation made by Mr. Chandrashekar that the recorded "Pan Am Dept. ID" expenses in those reports fall short of the amount claimed.

After making enquiries to HPS about the discrepancy between the amount of the claim and the accumulated Pan AM Dept. ID expenses I received the explanation that the Pan Am cost centre expenses only covered those related to staff assigned full-time to the planning phase of the games and away from their regular duties. Expenditures for front line officers intermittently assigned to Pan Am security were expensed to their home departments due to the cost and administrative burden of transferring them temporarily to another Dept. ID. Accordingly, a significant portion of eligible costs were not captured by the Pan Am Dept. ID account.

In reviewing the matter with HPS staff I learned that the claim was substantiated by individual invoices sent monthly to MCSCS with all supporting documentation. This documentation was made available to PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), the auditors who attested to the accuracy of the claim in accordance with the Cost Contribution Agreement with the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services. The financial statement of eligible expenditures, which accounted for the full amount of claim, received PwC's unqualified audit opinion that it was prepared in accordance with the Cost Contribution Agreement. An unqualified audit opinion rendered by an independent third party is the highest form of assurance available and the auditors must adhere to rigorous standards, including adequate testing, to render such an opinion.

Given all the above, I have no reason to doubt the validity of the claim submitted and paid to HPS for eligible Pan Am expenditures.

For your additional information, you may recall that there were media reports linking the claim to the fact that HPS had a surplus, and by implication the claim was overstated. I discussed this with HPS and the primary reason for a surplus appears to be that there were operational requirements for Pan Am security that HPS was obligated to fulfil which couldn't have been met simply by making use of off duty personnel. So, a command decision was made to cancel leave for the sworn contingent of HPS.

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As a result of the cancellation of annual leave, HPS incurred substantially less overtime and costs related to calling in off duty personnel that ultimately saved \$1.2M.

I trust you will find this information satisfactory.



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cc: Brian McMullen
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