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**From:** Dianne Millar [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 6, 2024 1:05 PM

**To:** Ward 2 <ward2@hamilton.ca>; Stevenson, Kirsten  
<Kirsten.Stevenson@hamilton.ca>; Ward 13 <ward13@hamilton.ca>

**Subject:** Re: Police Service Budget Comments

I would like to offer my comments on the 2024 police services budget presented to City Council on Dec 14:

There are 9 civilian and 13 special constable positions being added in 2024 based on the Strategic Plan. While it looks like the effect of these positions isn't large in the overall budget, the cost of them is minimized by assuming Sept 2024 start dates. This then "entrenches" the full cost of these positions in the 2025 budget. Sneaky, right?


It appears the Police Board did something similar in 2023. We are on the hook in this 2024 budget, for decisions made about staffing in the 2023 budget: Appendix A (2024 Operating Budget Analysis) shows an increase of \$2,538,289 for the "2023 Program Changes Annualized" cost of THIRTY-ONE Sworn and Civilian positions and another \$898,802 increase this coming year for another THIRTEEN positions decided on last year and called "2023 Approved Backfills".

So it appears that there were forty-four positions added in 2023 that are now affecting this year's budget to the tune of an additional \$3.5 million. And the PSB is recommending staffing increases. This is crazy - it feels like the HPS Board is holding a gun to taxpayers' heads by filling positions late in the year so that they automatically become accepted into the next year's budget. I think these forty-four positions should be reviewed and possibly some eliminated.

At the very least, I think there should be a hiring freeze at HPS for 2024. Our social services need the money more.

Additionally, there is another \$3.5M being allocated to "Roof Replacement" and "Parking lot replacement" in the 2024 Capital Budget Analysis. Those amounts also sound excessive and in my opinion, could be put to better use on homeless facilities like year-round washrooms and tiny homes.

Dianne Millar  
[REDACTED]



P.S. Thank you, Hasnain K for forwarding me the links below. The Analysis documents contained within them were far more useful that the full proposed budget that has been published elsewhere. I plan to send the above email as a letter to the editor at the Spectator as well.

On Friday, February 2, 2024 at 11:47:47 a.m. EST, Ward 2 <[ward2@hamilton.ca](mailto:ward2@hamilton.ca)> wrote:

Hi Dianne,

Here is the link to the agenda pf the Police Service Board. The budget is item 9.3:

<https://pub-hpsb.escribemeetings.com/Meeting.aspx?Id=76610981-5928-4e72-aa43-2f0928770e6f&Agenda=Agenda&lang=English&Item=17&Tab=attachments>

I am also the council meeting where the Chief presenting the police budget. That is item 6.3:

<https://pub-hamilton.escribemeetings.com/Meeting.aspx?Id=d5986edd-a9dd-4382-915b-b52a60677da5&Agenda=Merged&lang=English&Item=15&Tab=attachments>

Thank you,

Hasnain Khan (He/Him)