

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES

April 14, 2003

PRESENT: Comm. Greg North, Chair
Comm. Jerry Blumenthal
Comm. Harry McInroy
Comm. James Perrin
Comm. Trevor Johnson
Comm. Eartha Monard

ALSO PRESENT: Acting Police Chief Beazley, HRP
Supt. Mike Burns, Training Officer, HRP
Inspector Vern Fraser (RCMP)
Ms. Lynne Le Boutillier, Legislative Assistant

ABSENT: Councillor Jim Smith (regrets)

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0.1 **SWEARING IN**

Commissioners Harry McInroy and Jerry Blumenthal were sworn in by Barry Allen.

0.2 **COMMENDATION**

A commendation was presented to Cst. Jeffrey Winters for the role he played in saving the lives of a mother and her son following a road accident which left their vehicle submerged.

0.3 **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR**

The Chair called for nominations for Vice-Chair. Comm. McInroy moved the nomination of Comm. Johnson for Vice-Chair. This nomination was seconded by Comm. Blumenthal. There being no further nominations, Comm. McInroy moved nominations cease. **Comm. Trevor Johnson was acclaimed Vice-Chair of the Board of Police Commissioners.**

1. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA, ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS**

Circulated at the meeting were the following:

C Information Item - Complaint of Mr. Victor Harris against HRP

Added to the agenda were the following:

- Item 7.1 - Letters of Appreciation for former Board Members (Comm. Johnson)
- Item 7.2 - Bullying Bylaw (Comm. Monard)
- Item 7.3 - NSAPB Invoice (Comm. Monard)
- Item 6.4 - Training Session - Winnipeg (Inspector Fraser)
- Item 6.5 - Tour of RCMP Regina Facilities

The agenda was adopted as amended.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOVED BY Comm. Monard and Comm. Perrin that the minutes of the March 10, 2003 meeting be adopted as circulated. MOTION PUT AND CARRIED.

3. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES/STATUS SHEET**

3.1 **POLICING STUDY**

Sgt. Bill Moore circulated to the Board the HRM Policing Review Information Flow Chart and List of Recommendations.

He updated the Board on the process to date. During this review he noted the following:

- C Final report of Perivale and Taylor presented August 2002. Any members without a copy of this report can obtain a copy through Sgt. Moore.
- C His secondment to act as Project Manager.
- C Board's involvement had been deferred pending the appointment of new Board members. He sought direction from the Board on how they wished to proceed.
- C Composition and activities of the HRM Police Study Steering Committee and Policing Study Project Coordination Group.
- C Process, i.e. internal review, discussion of recommendations by groups jointly, with resultant recommendations to be taken to the Steering Committee.
- C Reference was made to the training program referred to in point 10. Sgt. Moore noted that Wendy Feduc, Executive Director, CAPB had provided him with a document on training. Reference was also made to a CD from the CAPB which Raymond Cusson, Department of Justice has.

During the ensuing discussion, the following were discussed:

- C Need for the entire Board to be involved or a sub-committee, which would bring the recommendations to the Board for approval and forwarding on to the Steering Committee.
- C Development of a priority list.
- C Identification of what the Police Act requires in terms of the Boards' roles and responsibilities, when reviewing the report's recommendations.
- C The holding of a session facilitated by Sgt. Moore to discuss the recommendations and the impact on the Board. Mr. McLellan may participate.
- C Concern that the Board is being asked to address recommendations when they have not been through a training program.
- C The pros and cons of the Steering Committee bringing recommendations to the Board.
- C The importance of training Board members and how the review could fit into it.
- C New Board members need an opportunity to familiarize themselves with the operation of the HRP and RCMP.

MOVED by Comm. McInroy and seconded by Comm. Perrin that the Board hold a special session with Sgt. Moore focusing on the Policing Study.

Comm. Johnson proposed an amendment to the motion related to inviting RCMP and HRP representatives to discuss their operations with the Board over the course of several

lunch hour sessions to help increase the Board's knowledge and understanding of the police operations.

A/Chief Beazley advised that Inspector Fraser and he had discussed holding such an overview session with the Board. Comm. Johnson withdrew his proposed amendment. Sgt. Moore will discuss the best way to handle the two aspects with those involved and coordinate setting a meeting date(s) with the Board's Secretary.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. **NEW BUSINESS (HRP)**

4.1 **HRP PROFILE - BLACK CULTURAL CENTRE**

C Report from Acting Chief Beazley dated April 9, 2003 circulated at the meeting

In attendance for this item were Theresa Rath-Brien and Louie Coutinho, Director of Human Resources for HRM, who were introduced by the Acting Chief.

A/Chief Beazley reviewed the report with the Board. Essentially the HRP has been approached by the Black Cultural Centre of Nova Scotia as to whether they would like to set up a display similar to the RCMP's which recognizes black police officers. Mr. Coutinho commented on the benefits of the initiative in increasing recruitment and bridging the gap between the community and police services.

MOVED by Comm. Monard and seconded by Comm. McInroy that Halifax Regional Police work with the staff of the Black Cultural Centre for Nova Scotia to set up a display of the Black Officers of HRP. This display will cost approximately \$3,000, with funding to be provided by the Human Resources section of HRM. MOTION PUT AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

During discussion, the following points were made by members:

- C The CAPB Conference to be held this summer in Halifax. It would be desirable to have the display in place in time for tours associated with the Conference.
- C While the initiative is a good idea, concern was expressed that other minorities are being left out.

5. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES (RCMP)**

None.

6. **NEW BUSINESS (RCMP)**

6.1 **PRESENTATION ON ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES DOCUMENT**

- C Memorandum of Understanding between HRM, Board of Police Commissioners and RCMP (circulated at meeting)
- C Statement of Roles and Responsibilities between Town of Wolfville and RCMP and NS Department of Justice.

Darrell Harvey of the RCMP gave a presentation to the Board regarding Memorandums of Understanding and Statements of Roles and Responsibilities. During his presentation, he noted that the Memorandum of Understanding is not a legal document. It is intended to be a living document. It is intended that it be revisited annually. The similarities between the two forms were addressed and the impact the Policing Study may have on them in future.

6.2 **PRESENTATION OF HALIFAX DETACHMENT REVIEW**

Inspector Fraser noted that during the Business Planning process there had been requests for additional resources from both the Halifax Detachment and HRP. The CAO had requested information on what is being done with present resources. An internal review was conducted of the Halifax Detachment which is now complete. Inspector Fraser has referred it back to the review team for some clarification. He anticipates the final report being ready for the Board's May meeting. Copies will be provided to the Board and Acting Police Chief prior to the presentation.

6.3 **DISCUSSION ON HRM SCHEDULE OF FEES FOR SERVICES (VOLUNTEERS)**

Inspector Fraser noted that this subject was before the Board a couple of months ago. As of April 1, 2003 all fees charged for services have been made consistent with the HRP, except for those involving volunteer checks. Inspector Fraser sought approval of the Board to waive these fees for a further six months.

MOVED by Comm. McInroy and seconded by Comm. Monard that the fees associated with volunteers be waived for a further six months. MOTION PUT AND CARRIED.

6.4 **DISCUSSION - OFF ROAD VEHICLE IMPOUNDMENT PENALTY**

Inspector Fraser advised that concern was expressed by Councillor Colwell regarding provisions related to impoundment of off road vehicles. Inspector Fraser confirmed that

under the Provincial Act such vehicles can only be impounded for 24 hours. The By-law Committee has been asked to give consideration of the situation, i.e. the possibility of HRM levying a substantial impoundment fee.

6.5 **INVITATION TO BOARD MEMBERS TO TOUR REGINA'S FACILITIES**

Inspector Fraser, referring to the number of new members on the Board, noted that there is provision in the RCMP's budget to take Board members to Regina to tour their facilities and observe training. The members need only let him know and he will see the necessary arrangements are made. The tour would likely be this fall.

7. **ADDED ITEMS**

7.1 **LETTERS OF APPRECIATION**

Comm. Johnson advised that from a review of past Board minutes, it appears that there is a practice of sending letters of appreciation to former Board members. He felt consideration should be given to an additional gesture, perhaps in the form of a plaque. Reference was made by Comm. Monard to recognition given former Board members at the recent Dedication Dinner and Dance, including the presentation of a wallet with a retired police commissioner's badge. A/Chief Beazley will consider some other options.

7.2 **BULLYING BYLAWS**

Comm. Monard referred to the Bullying Hotline. She asked for a report on the number of calls received and whether it is making a difference. Reference was made to an associated bylaw. Mayor Kelly has expressed interest in its development. It is currently in the hands of the Bylaw Committee. Acting Chief Beazley will provide a report for the next meeting. He was not sure if any progress on the Bylaw will be made by the Bylaw Committee for the May meeting.

7.3 **NSAPB INVOICE**

Comm. Monard advised that the Nova Scotia Association of Police Boards had only received partial payment of the annual membership dues. The amount outstanding being \$700 not \$200. She left the invoice with the Acting Chief Beazley.

8. **STATISTICS**

8.1 **VICTIM SERVICES**

Acting Chief Beazley reviewed the statistics for February. He cautioned that the statistics with respect to Domestic Assaults needed explanation. The 32% increase does not indicate that such assaults have risen by that percentage. The figures reflect the number of contacts. One case can result in multiple contacts.

9. **NEXT MEETING**

The next regularly scheduled meeting is Monday, May 12, 2003.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

The regular portion of the meeting adjourned on motion of Comm. Blumenthal and Commissioner Johnson to go in camera.

Lynne Le Boutillier
Legislative Assistant