

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MINUTES May 10, 2004

PRESENT: Commissioner Greg North, Chair
Commissioner Ernestine Gouthro
Commissioner James Perrin
Commissioner Trevor Johnson
Commissioner Harry McInroy
Commissioner Jerry Blumenthal

**ABSENT WITH
REGRETS:** Commissioner Jim Smith

STAFF: Supt. Vern Fraser, RCMP
Deputy Chief Burbridge, HRP
Deputy Chief McNeil, HRP
Ms. Sherryl Murphy, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

Additions:

- 6.1 Reintroduction of Status Sheet
- 6.2 Schedule of Reports to Board
- 6.3 Canadian Association of Police Boards Conference in Vancouver

Information Item 2 was moved up to be dealt with on the regular agenda.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED by Commissioner Blumenthal, seconded by Commissioner Perrin that the minutes of the April 19, 2004 meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners, with amendments, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4.1 Fee Structure - Volunteer Records Checks

- An Information Report dated April 28, 2004 prepared for Frank A. Beazley, Chief of Police was before the Board for consideration.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the possibility of not charging volunteers for record checks. Members comments included the following suggestions for options to the present process:

- volunteer organizations that can demonstrate that paying a fee would be a hardship be exempted from paying such fee
- senior volunteers not be charged for a record check
- institute an increased fee for employee checks to offset the cost of volunteer checks
- approach be made to the Department of Justice that since HRP and RCMP do employee checks, the Department of Justice assume responsibility for volunteer checks

Deputy Chief Burbridge noted that exemptions based on age might be considered

discriminatory. Additionally, a significant number of the record checks undertaken are for students who are equally deserving based on economics. Finally, the cost of providing record checks to volunteers is in the order of \$20,000 and represents a significant expenditure.

MOVED by Commissioner McInroy, seconded by Commissioner Blumenthal that the existing policy relative to Criminal Record Checks remain in place. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5. REPORTS

5.1 Correspondence to Department of Justice - Training re Handling of Domestic Violence

- Correspondence dated May 3, 2004 from Deputy Chief Burbridge to the Department of Justice was distributed to members of the Board.

Deputy Chief Burbridge noted that the intent of this letter is to clarify if, in fact, the training on handling of Domestic Violence calls is mandatory.

Deputy Chief Burbridge went on to advise that a contact will be made with the Department of Justice and/or the Department of Health relative to Officers being required to wait for as much as 5.5 hours at the hospital when escorting persons having a mental illness or those having attempted suicide. Local hospitals do not have the necessary security personnel or hold rooms available on a timely basis.

Deputy Chief Burbridge referred to Information Item #3 pointing out that Chief Frank Beazley has been awarded the Officer of the Order of Merit and was attending the investiture ceremony today.

MOVED by Commissioner McInroy, seconded by Commissioner Perrin that a letter be forwarded by the Chair on behalf of the Board acknowledging, with pride, Chief Beazley's receiving the Officer of the Order of Merit award. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. ADDED ITEMS

6.1 Reintroduction of Status Sheet

Commissioner Johnson referred to the status sheet used previously by the Board and requested that it be re-instated.

Sherryll Murphy, Legislative Assistant will review the status sheet and minutes, and provide an updated status sheet for the next meeting. Status sheet items are to be listed on the agenda.

6.2 Schedule of Reports to Board

Commissioner Johnson referred to the Schedule of Report to be brought to the Board which was previously circulated and requested this schedule be re-circulated.

6.3 Canadian Association of Police Boards Conference in Vancouver

Deputy Chief Burbridge advised that monies for one member of the Board to attend the Conference had been budgeted. Once a decision has been made as to who would be attending, the Department can assist with the arrangements in that regard.

Following a brief discussion, it was **MOVED by Commissioner Blumenthal, seconded by Commissioner McInroy that the Chair or his designate attend conference.**

The Chair indicated that he would check his schedule and determine his availability.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners will be held on June 14, 2004.

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:18 p.m.

Sherryll Murphy
Legislative Assistant