

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
September 11, 2006

PRESENT: Ms. Terry Roane, Chair
Commissioner Ernestine Gouthro
Commissioner William White
Commissioner James Perrin
Commissioner Linda Mosher

REGRETS: Commissioner Gloria McCluskey
Commissioner Brad Johns

STAFF: Chief Frank Beazley, HRP
Supt. Gordon Barnett, RCMP
Ms. Julia Horncastle, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

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

SWEARING IN OF NEW MEMBER

Ms. Terry Roane was sworn in as a member of the Board.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY 10, 2006

MOVED by Commissioner Perrin, seconded by Commissioner White, that the minutes of July 10, 2006 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

Additions

- 5.1 Information Report - Integrated Traffic Report - Lower Sackville
- 5.2 HRP Town Hall Meeting Schedule

MOVED by Commissioner Gouthro, seconded by Commissioner Perrin, that the Order of Business, as amended, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. REPORTS

4.1 Commissioner Johns - Incident on Seawood Avenue - July 26, 2006

This item was deferred to the October meeting as Commissioner Johns was not in attendance.

4.2 Commissioner Mosher - Graffiti

Commissioner Mosher stated this item was brought forward in 2005 and a presentation was requested from Gary Martin, Manager, Community Response Team. The presentation was given in November. She stated the reason she had brought the item to the Board in the first place was that she perceived there to be a lack of coordination between the community response and policing in general working together on the graffiti issue and having a joint strategy. The reason she wanted to come to the Board was so

that an action plan could be developed. Subsequent to the presentation, she had met with the CAO and Mayor and the CAO had given direction to the community response team to come up with an integrated strategy. Subsequent to that, she met with Mr. Whittemore, CAO's office, and provided him with information and had indicated to him that the Board had a motion that the matter should come back to the Board first. The Commissioner noted that the issue came to Council in the first week of August and it did not address many of the issues she had brought forward in her meeting with Mr. Whittemore and it did not come to the Board first. The Commissioner stated staff was told it should come back to the Board but there was no acknowledgement of that.

The Commissioner stated she has concerns as to why it did not come back to the Board, what was the disconnect. She stated she will be bringing the matter forward at Council and will be pursuing the By-Law under the Dangerous and Unsightly Premises Act. She stated the report that came to Council was effective in some ways but it did not look at the fact that no matter what HRM or the Water Commission does, there is graffiti everywhere and there is evidence that it is a crime and there are associated crimes.

The Commissioner stated graffiti is not a trivial thing and the Municipality has to be more aggressive and treat it like a crime. She stated graffiti is treated like a crime in the UK and that is what she wants to see here. She stated there is a need for camera surveillance and a By-Law to be put in place as well as action taken. She stated staff are not provided with the money and tools they require to address the matter. She stated at Council she will be asking police put money in next year's budget for surveillance cameras and for the implementation of a By-Law.

Chief Beazley advised Supt. Moore has been made the lead in developing the By-Law. He noted the work plan that went to Council was vetted through Community Response, RCMP, Mr. Labrecque and himself.

Chief Beazley advised that with regard to the video surveillance issue, Mr. Labrecque's staff will be assigned full time to deal with graffiti and will be issued cameras thus becoming the eyes and ears for the police and will call in occurrences to the police for response.

Supt. Barnett advised the RCMP has worked closely with HRP and the Community Response team on graffiti and will continue to do so.

Commissioner Mosher stated there has to be a "no tolerance" position taken on this issue.

5. ADDED ITEMS

5.1 Information Report - Integrated Traffic Report - Lower Sackville

An information report dated July 20, 2006, was circulated to members of the Board for information.

5.2 Town Hall Meetings

Chief Beazley and Supt. Barnett provided a list of times and locations of the Town Hall meetings for information.

6. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for October 16, 2006.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned into the In Camera session at 1:15 p.m.

Julia Horncastle
Legislative Assistant