

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSION

MINUTES

July 21, 2008

PRESENT:

Commissioner Gloria McCluskey
Commissioner Krista Snow
Commissioner Russell Walker
Commissioner James Perrin
Commissioner Kenneth Hill
Commissioner Beverley Peters
Commissioner Doug MacDonald

STAFF:

Ms. Barbara Coleman, Legislative Assistant
Darrell Beaton, RCMP, Acting Superintendent
Chief Frank Beazley
Deputy Chief Chris MacNeil
Deputy Chief Tony Burbridge

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:31 p.m. in the Meisner Room, at Halifax Regional Police Department, 1975 Gottingen Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

2. PRESENTATIONS

Chief Beazley presented two citizens with Certificates of Merit while two police constables received Chief's Accommodations.

Mr. Peter Connor was recognized for stopping to render first aid to a passenger of a vehicle which had flipped several times on Highway 111 on June 7, 2008.

Ms. Jennifer Clarke was lauded for calling police on June 19, 2008 after realizing a regular customer at Gatsby's Restaurant hadn't shown up for a number of days. Which may have saved the man's life.

Constables Dan Berrigan and Jim Greek was recognized for entering a burning building on May 19, 2007 and checking the residence thoroughly to ensure no citizens' lives were in jeopardy. Due to their keen observation skills, the building was salvaged but unfortunately was ultimately destroyed by fire and resulting smoke damage.

RCMP

RCMP Insp. Darrell Beaton presented an Award of Distinction to Betty Nauffts for her volunteer work with the Cole Harbour Safe Seniors program. It was noted that she also gives her time to St. John Ambulance, Victim Services, HRM Crime Prevention Association and the Lake Echo Fire Department Ladies Guild.

An Award of Distinction went to Donna Johnson, who works for the Canadian Police Information Centre and is a role model in the Preston communities. She developed a majorette and drum line in the memory of her son, who loved watching parades.

An award of Distinction was also presented to Halifax RCMP Const. Kelly Lower received the same award for her work on a complex homicide case after only been a member of the RCMP for seven months.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - June 9, 2008

MOVED by Commissioner McCluskey, seconded by Commissioner Snow, that the

minutes of June 9, 2008 be approved. **MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

Additions:

8.1 Terms of Office for Councillors - Board of Police Commissioners

MOVED by Commissioner McCluskey, seconded by Commissioner Snow, that the Order of Business be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

5.1 RCMP Office in Eastern Passage

A report dated July 2008, an Overview of RCMP Community Policing Offices was before the Commission. Acting Superintendent Beaton gave an overview of the report.

Councillor Barkhouse had approached the Commission to see if something could be done to help save the Community Policing Office in Eastern Passage which is in her district. A/Superintendent Beaton advised that these offices are community driven offices. He has no discretionary power to take money from his budget to pay rent for any of these offices.

Discussion ensued with the following suggestions noted:

- Fundraising could be done in the community.
- HRM does not own a building in this area.
- The Local Chamber of Commerce could be approached to fund this worthwhile cause.
- A community meeting could be held to inform people that their Community Police Office was in danger of closing and to see what could be done about it.

Commissioner McCluskey asked if the Pharmasave had been approached to see if they would donate space in their building. A/Superintendent Beaton will follow up with Councillor Barkhouse to see if she has approached the drug store.

This item will be removed from the agenda as everything that can be done by the Commission has been done.

5.2 Bill 129 Trade Union Act Amendments

Chief Beazley gave a brief update on Bill 129.

Brief discussion ensued with the following motion placed.

MOVED BY Commissioner McCluskey, seconded by Commissioner Snow that a letter be written to Premier MacDonald, Darrell Dexter, Leader of the New Democratic Party and Stephen McNeil, Leader of the Liberal Party expressing concern regarding Bill No. 129 respecting an amendment to the Trade Union Act. MOTION PUT AND PASSED

5.3 RCMP Commission Performance Plan for Approval

A copy of the Halifax District RCMP Annual Performance plan 2008-2009 (revised) was before the Board.

Acting Superintendent Beaton gave an overview of the report. It was decided that this report should come before the Board in the Spring of 2009.

Commissioner Hill questioned why there were no measurables in the plan. He further asked why the past could not be measured against the current time. Acting Superintendent Beaton said that he would be open to any suggestions that the Commission could make.

Commissioner McCluskey suggested that perhaps that the Commission as a whole could put together a list of what the Commission wants in the report and the report could be written to reflect that.

MOVED By Commissioner McCluskey, seconded by Commissioner Snow that the Commissioner Walker, as Chair of the Committee, would sign off the concepts of the report. MOTION PUT AND PASSED

5.4 Report on Fireworks

A staff information report dated June 26, 2008 was before the Commission.

Discussion ensued with the following being noted:

- Fireworks are regulated by the Federal *Explosives Act*
- Fireworks were being sold at every corner store
- Fireworks are being sold to under age children
- Firework by-laws are virtually impossible to enforce

- Fireworks are being set off at all hours of the evening
- Fireworks were actually being set off aiming them at other children
- Banning would be needed across the municipalities not just HRM in order for it to be enforceable.

Councillor Walker advised the Board that he would bring a motion to the next Regional Council to ban Fireworks from HRM.

5.5 Examination (Assessment) of the Past, Present and the Future role of the Halifax Board of Police Commission

It was decided by the Board that this item would need a longer period of time to adequately discuss the roles of the Past, Present and the Future roles of the Board of Police Commissioners. This would be put on a future agenda. The Board decided to invite Tracey Hannah to speak to this matter at a future meeting.

Chief Beazley offered the services of the Department's policy staff should the Board decided they need that kind of assistance.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Start Time for the Eight New RCMP Officers.

A staff Information Report dated July 15, 2008 was before the Commission.

At the time of the 2008/09 Budget deliberations, it was estimated, using past years' experience, the RCMP cost per officer would be 4%. Since the approval of the Budget, HRM has been advised that the RCMP cost per officer will be 5.3%. This is 1.3% or \$240,100.00 over Budget.

The starting date for the new RCMP officers was to be October 1, 2008. To mitigate the impact on the Budget, the report is suggesting that start times for the new officers be moved to January 1, 2009. This would alleviate the need to cover the additional costs.

When asked what the implications would be for the RCMP, A/Superintendent Darrell Beaton felt that it could be managed, if need be, as they are carrying some additional officers.

Commissioners voiced their concerns that this was not acceptable, noting that additional staff would not have been requested if the need were not there, the Budget was approved for the officers to start in October and this is the date that they should

start.

MOVED BY Commissioner Snow, seconded by Commissioner Perrin that the start time for the additional officers remain at October 1, 2008 and staff find another way to cover the additional amount of \$240,100.00. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

7. REPORTS

7.1 HRP Report

HRP Reports for the month of July were before the Board. Chief Beazley informed the Board that he would answer any questions that the Board might have.

7.2 RCMP Report

RCMP Reports for the month of July were before the Board. A/Superintendent Beaton informed the Board that he would answer any questions that the Board might have

8.1 ADDED ITEMS

8.1 COUNCILLORS' TERM OF OFFICE ON THE BOARD

Commissioner McCluskey gave a verbal update of her discussions with the Minister of Justice and the Association of Chiefs of Police re: the Councillors' terms of office on the Board.

8.2 HRP WEB SITE/BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS WEBSITE/RCMP WEBSITE

Commissioner Snow inquired as to the links between the three sites. She went on to say that HRM has two different police agencies and as such, the Board's website should be linked to both police agencies and each police agency should be linked to the Board and the other police agency.

Chief Beazley advised that HRP website and the website of the Board of Police Commissioners could be easily linked. He also suggested that the two websites should be similar in appearance.

A/Superintendent Beaton advised the Board that the RCMP website was still under construction and he did not know if the link could be provided.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners is **August 11, 2008**

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned to In Camera at 1:35 p.m.

Barbara L. Coleman
Legislative Assistant