

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSION

MINUTES

October 20, 2008

PRESENT: Commissioner Gloria McCluskey
Commissioner Russell Walker
Commissioner James Perrin
Commissioner Kenneth Hill
Commissioner Doug MacDonald

REGRETS: Commissioner Krista Snow
Commissioner Beverley Peters

STAFF: Ms. Barbara Coleman, Legislative Assistant
Mr. Darrell Beaton, RCMP, Acting Superintendent
Chief Frank Beazley, HRP
Deputy Chief Chris MacNeil, HRP
Mr. Darryl Harvey, RCMP, Acting Officer in Charge

GUESTS: Ms Tracey Hannah, Department of Justice

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PRESENTATIONS

Chief Beazley presented Chief's Commendations to Constables Marques Reeves and David Chambers (who was a cadet completing on-the-job-training at the time). These two officers were recognized for their actions in addressing a potentially life-threatening situation for a citizen of HRM this past summer

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:45 p.m. in the Meisner Room, at Halifax Regional Police Department, 1975 Gottingen Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - July 21, 2008

MOVED by Commissioner McCluskey, seconded by Commissioner Perrin, that the minutes of July 21, 2008 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions:

- 7.1 Non Emergency police number (490-5020)**
- 7.2 Budgets for both the HRP and the RCMP for 2009**

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

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

4.1 Deployment of Eight New RCMP Officers and its Budget Implications and Solutions.

Commissioner Walker advised he had sent an email with an attached memorandum from Mr. Dan English, CAO dated August 27, 2008 to all members of the Board asking them if they had any issues with the method of deployment of the new officers to contact him. Hearing no replies, Commissioner Walker advised the CAO that the deployment of the new RCMP officers could go as directed in the memorandum.

5. NEW BUSINESS - None

6. REPORTS

6.1 THE MAYOR'S ROUNDTABLE ON VIOLENCE REPORT

- A Report to the Mayor as a Result of the Mayor's Roundtable dated April 2008
- A Synopsis of the Mayor's Roundtable Report for Chief Frank A. Beazley
- *The Digby Declaration on Racism: Seven Recommendations for Repairing the Broken Relationship between the RCMP and the Black Community.*

Chief Beazley distributed the above-mentioned synopsis explaining that this synopsis pulls out the information that pertains to the Police only.

The Chief also distributed a report that was given to him by the RCMP on *The Digby Declaration on Racism: Seven Recommendations for Repairing the Broken Relationship between the RCMP and the Black Community*. Although he advised this could be discussion for another day, he made the following comments:

- There are a couple of items in the report that he will be sharing with his in-house committee.
- Although the Report is localized to the current situation in Digby, it also deals with issues pertaining to race relations, training and working within the Black Community of Digby.
- At some point there will need to be a discussion on HRM's ability to work with the African Canadian Community and to be able to work with them in a much different way than that of today based on the finding of this report.

Chief Beazley introduced Mr. Allan Way, Executive Officer to the Chief, who has been working on these reports. The Chief also indicated that next Monday he and his senior officers will participate in a full day workshop finetuning these reports. He also invited any members of the Board that wanted to participate to notify him. The Board could appoint someone to work with the Chief and Senior staff on this project, should they choose to do so.

Mr. Way walked the group through what he has been doing to this point. In a spreadsheet format, Mr. Way outlined Dr. Clairmont's recommendations. He then added a second column with clarifications of these recommendations. Any recommendations that were multi layered were broken out into several narrower recommendations. An action plan column was then added for each recommendation. Actual people will be listed that will be responsible for each recommendation and a time line for each of the actions will be given. Budgets may need to be restructured to find funds for the recommendations.

The Chief advised that a report that will be coming to Council in December. The

Commission will need to see the final report before it goes to Council. The Chief advised that a report should be ready to come to the November 10, 2008 meeting of the Commission.

Commissioner Walker advised the Board that he has a complaint with Dr. Clairmont's report in that neither the Board of Police Commissioners nor what should the actions be of the Board had not been mentioned in the Report to the Mayor as a Result of the Mayor's Roundtable dated April 2008.

6.2 DONATION OF COMPUTERS FROM ALIANT

Chief Beazley advised the Board that Aliant has partnered with Halifax Regional Police Liaison Officers to provide educational materials that will further educate students as to the dangers of the internet. Aliant has donated three laptop computers to School Liaison Officers for use in the classrooms.

MOVED By Commissioner McCluskey, seconded by Commissioner MacDonald the Halifax Regional Police accept the computers and use them to educate students in the classroom about the dangers of the internet. MOTION PUT AND PASSED

6.3 BILL 129

Commissioner Walker advised the Commission that at the October 7, 2008 Regional Council session, a motion was made to recommend that HRM write the leaders of all three political parties to urge reconsideration of Bill 129 to provide an opportunity to reflect on the public safety issues it raises. A response was received back stating that it was a non government Bill, it was very contentious and it would be looked at further from all sides before it is moved any further. It is currently before the Law Amendments Committee.

6.4 HRP REPORT

Chief Beazley advised the Board that the reports were just as submitted.

He further advised the Board that although the 2nd quarter stats were late being submitted due to the fact that meetings during the summer were cancelled, they were a good news story and he wanted that noted for the record. He also said that the 3rd quarter stats would be ready for the December meeting.

Commissioner McCluskey asked for clarification on the prostitution numbers. Chief Beazley informed Commissioner McCluskey that although the numbers were up, these numbers are enforcement driven, meaning that more arrests were made.

6.5 RCMP REPORT

A\Inspector Beaton advised the Board that the reports were just as submitted.

Darrell Harvey, A\Officer in Charge of the Halifax District gave a report on the addition of the new officers.

7 ADDED ITEMS

7.1 Non Emergency Police Number

Commissioner McCluskey informed the Chief that when one calls the non-emergency number, staff are taking too long to respond to the incident. She had called to report there were two prostitutes strolling from point A to point B. The taker of the call wanted to know the address at which this was happening. She tried to inform them that they were not connected to an address but were strolling the street.

Chief Beazley informed the Board that should any member of the Board wish to he would gladly give Board Members a tour of this operation. He told Board members that the operators were given a set of questions that they must ask and one of these questions is to what address is this incident connected. He also reported that the dispatcher may be deploying officers while questions were still being asked.

Acting Supt. Darrell Beaton advised Commissioner McCluskey that perhaps what she could have said was that they were currently at 1442 Albro Lake Road.

Chief Beazley explained that an address needs to be connected because the numbers need to be captured in the stats and not outside the crime catchment area as this is the way the stats are set up.

7.2 Budgets for HRP and RCMP

Commissioner Walker asked if any envelopes have been given to either policing agency and if there has been any work completed on next year's budget with the Chief responding that no envelopes had been given and very little on the budget as HRP are waiting for directions. Further work is being completed on the final analysis of the 518 police officers and their salaries as it is nearing negotiations.

Commissioner Walker informed the Chief and the A/Superintendent that he would like to have their wish lists/budget at December's meeting.

7.3 Nova Scotia Chiefs' Association Meeting

As the result of the last meeting of the Nova Scotia Chiefs' Association meeting and Police Boards meeting in Yarmouth, HRP has been offered to sponsor next year's meeting . The Chief suggested that a member of the Board will need to work with the committee that HRP staff will be putting together. The Chief is also looking for a member of the Nova Scotia Association of Police Boards to work on the committee. The Chief advised that September 23, 24, 25 are the working dates for next year's meeting.

He further advised that the attendance at the meeting in Yarmouth was low but was attributed to the Elections but planners are hoping that attendance will be greater next year.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners is November 10, 2008

9. ADJOURNMENT

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

Barbara L. Coleman
Legislative Assistant