

**BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES**

**March 9, 2009**

PRESENT: Commissioner Russell Walker, Chair  
Commissioner Gloria McCluskey, Vice Chair  
Commissioner Bill Karsten  
Commissioner James Perrin  
Commissioner Doug MacDonald

REGRETS: Commissioner Beverley Peters  
Commissioner Kenneth Hill

STAFF: Chief Frank Beazley, Halifax Regional Police  
Deputy Chief Tony Burbridge, Halifax Regional Police  
Deputy Chief Chris McNeil, Halifax Regional Police  
Darrell Beaton, RCMP, Acting Superintendent  
Ms. Shawnee Gregory, Legislative Assistant

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:31 p.m. in the Meisner Room, Halifax Regional Police Headquarters, 1975 Gottingen Street.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - NONE**

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

Additions:

- 7.1 Information Item - Halifax Student Alliance - Late Night Transit Pilot
- 7.2 Photo Safety Program for Nova Scotia - Chief Beazley
- 7.3 Presentation on Crime HRM - Chief
- 7.4 Ratification of In Camera Item

Deletions:

- 5.2 Canadian Association of Police Board 2008 - Commissioner Peters

**MOVED BY Commissioner McCluskey, seconded by Commissioner Perrin, that the agenda be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - NONE**

**5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS**

**5.1 Police Business Plan**

- C A draft copy of the Partners in Policing Business Plan was before the Commission.

Chief Beazley advised that, due to recent crime issues, he felt he had to move faster on the capital submission to upgrade the JSI wire tapping system. He stated that this item could be withdrawn from the process as he had secured funding and it would be brought to the In Camera session of Council the following day. The Chief also advised that, due to the tough economic times, he would be withdrawing the request for additional video cameras at a cost of \$100,000. He stated that he would use some of the technical money allotted in his chief's budget envelope to purchase a few extra cameras instead. He indicated that he would be moving forward with the submission for the upgrade on the 911 centre. In closing, Chief Beazley presented a recommended police budget of \$72,850,000, gross and \$64,290,000 net; which would mean a 4.2 percent increase in the gross budget and a 1.5 percent decrease in the net budget.

**MOVED BY Commissioner Perrin, seconded by Commissioner Karsten, that the Board of Police Commissioners approve the gross Halifax Regional Police Budget of \$72,850,000, net \$64,290,000 as outlined in the Police Business Plan 2009/2010. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**6. REPORTS**

**6.1 RCMP Reports**

C A copy of the March 2009 RCMP reports were before the Commission.

Superintendent Beaton indicated that, respecting the Off Duty Sick section, Sergeant Latimer was actually back on restricted duties. He stated that the rest remained the same.

As there were no questions, the Board accepted the RCMP Reports as information.

**6.2 HRP Reports**

C A copy of the HRP reports for March 2009 were before the Commission.

As there were no questions, the Board accepted the HRP Reports as information.

**7. ADDED ITEMS**

**7.1 Information Item - Halifax Student Alliance - Late Night Transit Pilot**

The Board took the information under advisement as it was the Safety Officer's intent to meet with Metro Transit and the Student Alliance regarding this matter. Chief Beazley advised that they would be returning to the Board for advice before further action was taken.

**7.2 Photo Safety Program for Nova Scotia - Chief Beazley**

C Correspondence from Deputy Minister David Darrow dated February 25, 2009, was submitted.

Chief Beazley advised that Deputy Minister David Darrow had invited the Halifax Regional Police as well as the Cape Breton Regional Police to take part in a pilot project for the development and implementation of a photo safety program for Nova Scotia. He requested the Board's support to participate in the program; noting that he would continue to bring updates forward.

Superintendent Beaton advised that he would follow up with the province to ask if they were planning to participate in the program and create an anti speeding campaign.

**MOVED BY Commissioner McCluskey, seconded by Commissioner Perrin, that the Board of Police Commissioners endorse the Halifax Regional Police's participation in the Photo Safety Program for Nova Scotia. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

### **7.3 Presentation on Crime HRM - Chief Beazley**

Chief Beazley advised that HRM had placed number seven on a Macleans magazine list of crime statistics in Canada. He noted that the reason for the placing was due to the fact that Macleans had counted the HRP and RCMP crime statistics separately. He stated that the HRP and RCMP needed to follow up on how they reported their crime statistics. As a briefing for the Board, he provided a presentation on Crime in HRM. The following highlights were noted:

- C HRM has a crime reduction strategy which is called the Community Response Model;
- C In 2005, when crime in HRM peaked, the HRP and RCMP started to do things differently by becoming very focused and strategic regarding where resources were put;
- C Sector policing and the Community Response Office Program was introduced;
- C A very small group of people create the majority of crime. There are monthly meetings to identify the worst offenders and to look at what court orders they were currently under to ensure that they were not in violation;
- C Hot spot policing was in place. The areas were determined by crime analysis and high profile officers work in plain clothes or uniform depending on the situation;
- C When beat patrols were reinstated in the downtown bar area robberies declined by 60%;
- C Uniacke Square was a great example of how well the Community Offices worked in opening up communications and creating relationships between the police and the community;
- C Violent crime, property crime and crime in general have been trending downward fairly significantly since 2005;
- C While violent crime is going down; youth violent crime continues to increase;
- C Citizen satisfaction with the HRP is in the 80% range. Another survey will be taken in May of 2009;
- C There were problems occurring all across Canada with violent crime in areas where bars were mixed with public housing;
- C A holistic approach to crime is required;
- C The Chief and CAO were in the process of starting the safer and stronger communities initiative with the province;

- C All of the community offices that were opened this year were paid for by the Department of Community Services with the HRP only paying for the phone lines;
- C There must be a restorative approach to communities;
- C Park maintenance and CPTED audits were important in reducing crime.

From the RCMP's perspective, Superintendent Beaton advised that many of the items that Chief Beazley had described were programs that the RCMP also had in place. He stated that they were also targeting chronic offenders in addition to starting programs such as Operation Breach and a literacy partnership program with Wal-mart. He stated that the RCMP had committed to working with Superintendent Spicer, the new Public Safety Officer, and that they would also be looking into the recommendations from the Mayor's Roundtable on Violence.

In closing, Chief Beazley advised that the HRP and RCMP would be looking at reporting as a single agency in order to avoid further incidents such as the 7<sup>th</sup> place ranking in Macleans magazine.

A discussion ensued with Chief Beazley responding to questions.

Several Commissioners applauded the HRP and RCMP's efforts regarding youth crime, however, they advised that earlier prevention and enforcement needed to be done with young teens and youth under 12. Chief Beazley and Superintendent Beaton agreed; noting that more also needed to be done for youth over 18 as programs were no longer available or difficult to coordinate once they reached this age.

Chief Beazley and Superintendent Beaton indicated that there were several programs in place as an effort to address the youth crime issue. They advised of the Youth Advocacy Program, the Integrated Drug Program and the potential to open a youth mental health court in the future. They also noted that recreation would be a big partner in all programs.

#### **7.4 Ratification of In Camera Item**

This item was dealt with at an earlier In Camera session and was now before the Board for ratification:

**MOVED BY Commissioner Karsten, seconded by Commissioner MacDonald, that the Board of Police Commissioners support the organizational changes in the Halifax Regional Police Organizational Chart to allow for succession planning. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, April 6, 2009.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:38 p.m.

Shawnee Gregory  
Legislative Assistant

The following item was added as information:

1. APB - Volume 13 Issue 2