

**BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES**

March 8, 2010

PRESENT: Commissioner Russell Walker, Chair
Commissioner Gloria McCluskey, Vice Chair
Commissioner Bill Karsten
Commissioner James Perrin
Commissioner Earl Gosse
Commissioner Kenneth Hill

REGRETS: Commissioner Doug MacDonald

STAFF: Deputy Chief Tony Burbridge, Halifax Regional Police
Superintendent Don Spicer, Halifax Regional Police
Superintendent Bill Moore, Halifax Regional Police
Superintendent Darrell Beaton, RCMP
Mr. Darrell Harvey, RCMP
Ms. Shawnee Gregory, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:32 p.m. in the Meisner Room, Police Headquarters.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - February 8, 2010

MOVED BY Commissioner McCluskey, seconded by Commissioner Karsten , that the minutes of February 8, 2010 be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions:

- 7.1 RCMP Reports - Updated 2009 4th Quarter Statistics
- 7.2 HRP Reports - Additional Report re: Training Activity
- 8.1 Budget - Chief Beazley
- 8.2 Wrap Up of Policing Resources Study - Chair
- 8.3 Board Membership Terms - Commissioner Karsten

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

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

4.1 Secretariate

This item was deferred to the April 2010 meeting.

4.2 RCMP Third Quarter Update for Annual Performance Plan

Superintendent Beaton indicated that the RCMP Third Quarter Update for Annual Performance Plan Report, which had been submitted at the February 8, 2010 meeting, consisted of six different performance plans and 13 objectives. He stated that, upon review, five of the six plans were on track with policing at the Halifax International Airport being the only plan which was not, however, Superintendent Beaton advised that this would have little impact on municipal policing as it concerned policing that was under contract with the airport. He stated that a new planning cycle would begin at the end of the fiscal year and indicated that he would be coming back to the Board with a new plan at that time.

MOVED BY Commissioner Perrin, seconded by Commissioner Gosse, that the Board of Police Commissioners accept the RCMP Third Quarter Update for Annual Performance Plan as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - NONE

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

6.1 Correspondence - None

6.2 Petitions - None

6.3 Presentations - None

7. REPORTS

7.1 RCMP Reports

- The February 2010 RCMP reports were before the Board.

Superintendent Beaton indicated that five members were listed under Light Duty in the Personnel Report, however, one member had returned to duty on March 5, 2010. Superintendent Beaton advised that the other members on light duty were in various stages of returning to work with the exception of one member who was due to retire in June of 2010. Superintendent Beaton also indicated that he was pleased to report that 75 RCMP members had taken African Nova Scotian Cultural Competency Training during the month of February.

Regarding domestic violence training, Superintendent Beaton stated that the reported training related to the new classification of the Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment (ODARA) model.

The Chair requested the number of winter parking ban tickets that had been issued during the month of February.

The RCMP reports were tabled as submitted.

7.2 HRP Reports

- The February 2010 HRP reports were before the Board.

Deputy Chief Burbridge stated that Sergeant Dave Reynolds and Sergeant Mike Spearns had officially submitted their retirement papers. Deputy Chief Burbridge also advised that the amount of members on maternity leave in the staff report should be changed from four to five.

Superintendent Moore stated that HRP members had attended a seminar on hybrid cars regarding any electrical issues that officers should be aware of when responding to an accident.

The HRP reports were tabled as submitted.

7.3 Public Safety Update - Superintendent Spicer

- The Spotlight on Public Safety Newsletter Vol. Issue was submitted.

Superintendent Spicer stated that the report was accurate as submitted; noting that staff were seeing some progress.

Superintendent Spicer indicated that a new process had been put in place in relation to Restorative Justice hearings that included HRP's court section assigning a court date to the officer, based on their schedule, as part of their follow up rather than as overtime. He stated that this made it more flexible for the officer to attend and findings had shown that youth take their court appearances more seriously when an officer is in attendance. He noted that if the officer in charge of the case was unable to attend, a community officer would go in their place.

8. ADDED ITEMS

8.1 Budget - Chief Beazley

- The HRM Police Combined Draft Business Plan of Halifax Regional Police and RCMP Halifax District 2010/11 was circulated.
- Correspondence dated March 2, 2010 from Chief Beazley re: HRP Net Budget for 2010/11 was circulated.

Deputy Chief Burbridge stated that HRP required a net operating budget of \$69,647,114 for 2010/11; noting that the NSUPE settlement had been included in the \$56,649,514 police budget. He indicated that the budget could be cut and reduced by Council as retirements may lower the required net budget funding amount.

Superintendent Moore stated that the draft Business Plan was the latest revision as of last week which he and Mr. Darrell Harvey, RCMP, had been preparing. He stated that the Board could find a high level overview on page two of the Business Plan; noting that

HRP numbers were relatively the same and sworn officers had gone up by two as the two community response citizen positions had been changed to sworn officers.

Mr. Harvey stated that the RCMP were still working under the numbers of 178 regular and civilian members; noting that the rate would be determined by the Province.

Superintendent Moore stated that there was a slight change in the structure of the Business Plan as staff would be removing the School Crossing Guard contract from the Business Plan once it was finalised. He also advised that HRP staff was looking to make some pointed reductions in crimes against persons and properties as well as drug charges. He stated that the HRP was seeking the Board's input and feedback and requested that Commissioners please send their comments to himself and Mr. Harvey.

Commissioner Karsten suggested that cold case files be included in the Business Plan.

The Chair requested to know where the 39 HRP and 12 RCMP provincially funded officers were stationed.

Deputy Chief Burbridge indicated that the HRP provincially funded officers were stationed as follows:

- 16 on downtown beat patrol
- 6 in Public Housing for areas such as Uniacke Square, Greystone and Scotia Court
- 1 Public Safety Officer position
- 3 in the Liquor Unit
- 2 in the Provincial Integrated Proceeds of Crime (IPOC) Unit
- 1 in the court section as part of the Nunn Inquiry
- The remainder in street crime units.

Deputy Chief Burbridge suggested that Deputy Chief McNeil could provide an update at the next meeting as he had recently met with the Minister of Justice regarding these positions.

Superintendent Beaton indicated that the RCMP provincially funded Boots on the Street officers were stationed as follows:

- 1 School Safety and Resource Officer in Musquodoboit Harbour
- 1 School Safety and Resource Officer in Lower Sackville
- 9 in Street Crime Units
- 1 Crime Analyst

The meeting recessed at 1:24 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 1:36 p.m.

It was noted that discussions were ongoing regarding the final total of the 2010/11 RCMP budget as HRM Finance staff was showing a 1.47% budget increase, however, Mr. Ed Kirby, Director of Contracts with the Department of Justice, had indicated that there would be an increase of 2.5%.

The Board agreed to recommend the RCMP budget at 2.5% for a total of \$20,808,423 on a preliminary basis pending written confirmation from the Department of Justice.

MOVED BY Commissioner McCluskey, seconded by Commissioner Karsten, that the Board of Police Commissioners endorse the Net HRP Budget of \$69,647,114 for 2010/11 and the RCMP budget of \$20,808,423 and forward both budgets to Halifax Regional Council.

It was noted that the RCMP could have all their budgetary information by March 29, 2010.

MOVED BY Commissioner McCluskey, seconded by Commissioner Karsten, that the Board of Police Commissioners table the motion until the meeting on March 29, 2010. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

8.2 Wrap up of Policing Resources Study - Chair

The Chair thanked the Commissioners for all the time and effort they had put into the Policing Resources Study; noting that, much to his chagrin, one working paper containing inaccurate numbers had been released to the public. He stated that he had followed his directions to remain In Camera and was disappointed that information had been leaked. He noted that this information had created animosity between the HRP and RCMP which needed to be repaired.

Commissioner McCluskey indicated that the Board members on Council had made it clear every time they spoke that HRM had two excellent police services and had not criticised either force. She noted that some Councillors had, unfortunately, made comments both In Camera and publically that may have caused a drop in police morale.

Commissioner Karsten challenged everyone to move forward and requested that HRP and RCMP members bring any issues they may have to the Board.

Commissioner Gosse stated that, as a non Councillor who had attended the In Camera session, he wished to point out that the three Councillors on the Board had spoken with a sense of dignity and decorum and had stated their case in a reasonable manner.

Superintendent Beaton indicated that he was prepared to move forward in the absence of the proposed 11 hour RCMP shift. He wished to thank the Board for all the hard work they had undertaken and commended them for their efforts. He stated that his only intent when releasing an internal memo regarding the Study was to dispel any inaccurate information that may have been circulating as he felt he had a duty to his staff. Superintendent Beaton apologised to the HRP for any offensive remarks that his members may have made and stated that he would like to move forward.

Deputy Chief Burbridge also wished to thank the Board for their hard work. Regarding any offensive remarks in relation to the HRP, he noted that discussion may be something best done with all of Council. Deputy Chief Burbridge submitted a letter from Chief Beazley which outlined HRP concerns. In closing, he stated that the HRP would continue moving forward and working with the RCMP.

Superintendent Beaton suggested that both police services and the Board assess if anything could have been done differently.

This issue will be discussed further at a future meeting.

Commissioner Karsten advised, for the record, that he had respect for everyone who had participated in the Study and noted that the Board should be commended for not releasing one item of information from their In Camera meetings.

8.3 Board Membership Terms - Commissioner Karsten

This item was deferred to the April 2010 meeting.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting was scheduled for March 29, 2010.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:22 p.m.

Shawnee Gregory
Legislative Assistant