

**BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES**

**June 14, 2010**

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

STAFF: Chief Frank Beazley, Halifax Regional Police  
Deputy Chief Chris McNeil, Halifax Regional Police  
Superintendent Don Spicer, Halifax Regional Police  
Barb Palmeter, Financial Consultant  
Superintendent Darrell Beaton, RCMP  
Inspector Joanne Crampton, RCMP  
Ms. Shawnee Gregory, Legislative Assistant

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 11:07 a.m. in the Meisner Room, Police Headquarters.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - May 10, 2010**

Amendments:

Item 8.1 - the provincial GST increase will be changed from 2% to 2.5%

Page 6 - HRM only has the ability to make FTE adjustments to the *HRP*

**MOVED BY Commissioner McCluskey, seconded by Commissioner Karsten, that the minutes of May 10, 2010 be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

Additions:

8.1 Budget Update

8.2 Canadian Association of Police Boards Conference

It was agreed that item 7.1 RCMP Report be moved immediately following item 4.

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

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

**7.1 RCMP REPORT**

- The May 2010 RCMP reports were before the Board.

Superintendent Beaton highlighted the training activity report for May; noting that many members completed annual mandatory recertification which accounted for some of the training. He advised that statistics in the Victim Services Report were poor as a result of staffing pressure on the ability to monitor these files. Superintendent Beaton added that the RCMP had recently employed a full time Resource Victim Services Coordinator who was long time public service employee and resident of North Preston, Ms. Donna Johnson. Superintendent Beaton indicated that the RCMP were looking to recruit new volunteers for coverage as well and he was hopeful that, as a result, the statistics would change for the better and improve.

Regarding Victim Services, it was noted that the RCMP and HRP were going to look into the possible combining of their two units this year.

## **7.2 HRP Reports**

C The May 2010 HRP reports were before the Board.

Chief Beazley indicated that the reports were as submitted.

It was noted that the Queen's visit would cost approximately \$10,000 for policing.

It was noted that the cost for the RCMP during the Queen's visit was a federal responsibility and would have no impact on HRM. Superintendent Beaton indicated that there would be a compliment of approximately 200 officers from across the province during the Halifax visit.

Superintendent Crampton stated that the RCMP were sending 25 officers to the G8 Summit which the Federal Government was also funding.

Chief Beazley advised that he had members attending the ICS course as all HRM was transferring to this program; noting that the project was being driven by the Emergency Measures Office. He stated that the first planning meeting would take place on September 23, 2010 and there would be a phased in approach. He indicated that preparation work was underway in order to get people to the point where they could provide their own training.

## **7.3 Public Safety Update - Superintendent Spicer**

C The Spotlight on Public Safety Newsletter Vol. 2 Issue 5 was submitted.

Superintendent Spicer stated that there would be a presentation of the draft Public Safety Plan at the Captain William Spry Centre at 9:00 a.m. on June 16, 2010.

## **5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS**

### **5.1 Policing Resources Study Recommendations Which Do Not Require Either Council or Ministerial Approval**

- The Policing Resources Study - Recommendations Which Do Not Require Either Council or Ministerial Approval were before the Board.

The Board reviewed recommendation 1F:

'Patrol areas should be designed to coincide with identified neighbourhoods and communities, based on an analysis of spatial distribution of crime and social disorder issues generated through the CAS system in conjunction with census tract demographic data.'

In response to the recommendation, Superintendent Beaton provided an example that the RCMP had received correspondence from HRM Planning staff regarding opposition to a mobile home park in Lake Echo; noting that this was useful information.

Chief Beazley stated that HRP currently has census data and routinely looks at response sectors. He advised that HRP staff look at the quantity and severity of crime and where people and businesses were located in order to create their policing districts. He noted that HRM Planning staff corresponds with the HRP as well.

The Chair noted that since the RCMP and HRP had stated that they were already following their Community Approach to the recommendation, the Board should look at their issue as listed in the Community Approach.

Chief Beazley advised that HRP and RCMP staff could provide a presentation on this subject.

The Chair clarified that the Board could fulfill their mandate by receiving a presentation from the HRP and RCMP on how they are complying with the recommendation.

The Board reviewed recommendation 2B:

'Changes should be made to information gathering and budget monitoring processes to facilitate greater clarity and understanding of RCMP and HRP finances.'

The Chair stated that the RCMP and HRP were already following this recommendation as well.

Chief Beazley agreed with the Chair and indicated that he would be providing a monthly budget update. He stated that the Board and staff would be going through an exercise on the Public Safety Strategic Plan as well. He advised that, from a costing perspective, the Policing Study had probably taught the current Board more about financing than any previous Board.

The Board reviewed recommendation 7C:

'The HRM Board of Police Commissioners should further develop an understanding of the role of oversight and how the Commission can assert its role and apply greater, yet

appropriate, influence over the monitoring of the planning, management and operations of the police services.’

Commissioner McCluskey expressed concern that no member was on the Board long enough to follow the items outlined in the recommendation.

Chief Beazley stated that the Province had little to do with municipal policing until the Boots on the Street Program was implemented several years ago; noting that Program was now under review.

It was noted that the Board needed to build a relationship with the Department of Justice and investigate a possible training partnership.

Chief Beazley stated that the relationship would come through the provincial delegate to the Board; noting that the Provincial Training Program may also need to be updated. He advised that the new Board would require training right away which was what he foresaw as the biggest issue with the total changeover of members. He suggested inviting the Deputy Minister of Justice to a meeting as he was closer to the working level.

Commissioner Gosse advised that he had completed the Provincial training and felt it was worthwhile. He noted that the Board should still plan on having a budget separate from the Police Budget and should not drop that issue.

Chief Beazley stated, for record purposes, that the Board write to the Province saying that they will have a new Board in November 2010 and, as a result, will require significant training. He expressed concern that the next budget year was going to be unpleasant and continuity on the Board level was required.

The Board reviewed recommendation 12C:

‘The HRM Board of Police Commissioners should develop and maintain a current Policy Manual that details policies and guidelines to facilitate ongoing planning and monitoring of policing activities and community safety and security in HRM.’

The Commissioners noted that the creation and implementation of a Board Policy Manual was an important action item, however, a resource person may be required for that task.

Commissioner Karsten suggested that the Board contact the HRM Membership Selection Committee once again to express their concern over losing the entire current Board membership by March 2011.

**MOVED BY Commissioner Gosse, seconded by Commissioner Karsten, that the Board of Police Commissioners send correspondence to the Membership Selection Committee requesting consideration for extending the terms of three current Commissionaires (two municipal appointees and one Councillor) for one additional year due to the large Board turnover which will occur in November 2010 and March 2011. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

The Board reviewed recommendation 14D:

‘The HRP and the RCMP should analyse workload data and develop and implement deployment models which, as far as practicable and having due regard for the wellness of employees, match personnel assignments to work needs.

- . Shift structuring that optimizes use over the year and avoids the 96 hour payback; and
- . Deployment that reflects workload by day of the week and hour of the day.’

The Chair indicated that the recommendation outlined part of what the HRP was already doing.

The Board reviewed recommendation 15E:

‘The HRP and the RCMP should develop and implement a comprehensive plan to ensure a continuum of policing that ensures that most effective and efficient use of community and commercial resources to assist in the reduction of community disorder and the prevention and detection of crime within HRM.’

The Board reviewed recommendation 16E:

‘The HRM Board of Commissioners should provide leadership in the orchestration and coordination of activities consistent with the implementation of a policing continuum.’

The Chair indicated that recommendations 15E and 16E were already being done via the Public Safety Office.

Regarding recommendations 4C and 11C, the Chair advised that they would attempt to reestablish these items in the fall 2010 budget.

4C: ‘The Board should establish a specific budget, including provision for the creation of a secretariat (full or part time). Within the context of the Board budget, specific committees, such as Finance and Audit Committee should be established and modelled after practises existing in other Police Boards in Canada.’

11C: ‘The HRM Board of Police Commissioners should develop an annual budget which is subject to separate review by the Council from that of the police spending estimates and, if approved, the Board budget should remain separate and distinct from the budget of either the HRP or the RCMP.’

**MOVED BY Commissioner Karsten, seconded by Commissioner McCluskey, that the Board of Police Commissioners request that future Board of Police Commissioners review the issues outlined in Perivale and Taylor recommendations 4C and 11C on an annual basis. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

**6.1 Correspondence - None**

**6.2 Petitions - None**

**6.3 Presentations - None**

**7. REPORTS**

**7.1 RCMP Reports**

This item was dealt with earlier in the meeting. Please see page 3.

**7.2 HRP Reports**

This item was dealt with earlier in the meeting. Please see page 4.

**7.3 Public Safety Update - Superintendent Spicer**

This item was dealt with earlier in the meeting. Please see page 4.

**7.4 HRP/RCMP Citizen Satisfaction Survey Results**

- The HRP/RCMP Citizen Satisfaction Survey Results were submitted.

Chief Beazley stated that he and Superintendent Beaton wanted to share the survey results with the Board. He advised that, overall, HRM had ratings in the high 80s which were very good marks; noting that the report was compiled during the gun issues at the beginning of the year. Chief Beazley indicated that the data was collected via Corporate Research Associates who were employed to do this survey annually and they have used the same questions since 2003. In closing, Chief Beazley noted that, in spite of this good survey, in a recent HRM survey 38% of residents responded that public safety was a big issue in HRM.

The HRP/RCMP Citizen Satisfaction Survey Results were submitted as information.



Chief Beazley advised that a press release including the survey results would be put out after the meeting

## **8. ADDED ITEMS**

### **8.1 Budget Update**

Chief Beazley stated that as part of the HRM Budget, a Vacancy Management Program had been put in place whereby the Finance Department seizes any vacancy money in each business unit's budget. He indicated that the Senior Management Team (SMT) has advised that they found vacancy money in the HRP budget totalling \$226,576.53

Ms. Barb Palmeter, Financial Consultant, stated that the Vacancy Management Program was a paper exercise in order to redirect savings. She stated that, traditionally, HRP vacancy monies were used to fund overtime, however, SMT has told HRP staff that they expect them to project their vacancies despite the repercussions

Chief Beazley stated that paper exercise or not, the Vacancy Management Program would cause him to forecast a much larger deficit than ever in policing. He stated that the policing budget has always operated on an envelope system and vacancies created a savings of approximately \$1,500,000 annually, however, HRP spent an additional \$1,900,000 in court time and overtime. He stated that the Board would now see a vacancy report each month which HRM staff would prepare and HRP staff would ensure was correct. Chief Beazley advised that he was already \$1,100,000 overspent this year due to issues such as the Hyde Inquiry, other major investigations and the witness protection program.

Ms. Palmeter noted that HRM was looking at a surplus for the year end corporately. She indicated that many HRP vacancies being captured by HRM senior staff would go away when the cadet class was hired in July.

Chief Beazley stated that certain areas of HRP's business would be impacted; adding that he could not compromise murder investigations or major incidents.

### **8.2 CAPB Conference**

The Chair requested to know what Commissioners were attending the Canadian Association of Police Boards Conference.

Chief Beazley noted that the HRP usually funded the attendance of two Commissioners out of the police budget.

Commissioner McCluskey stated that she would be attending, however, not under the police budget.

The Chair and Chief Beazley requested that interested members contact the Chief's Office to request to attend.

**9. NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting was scheduled for July 12, 2010.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:59 p.m.

Shawnee Gregory  
Legislative Assistant

The following items were added as information:

1. APB May 2010
2. APB June 2010