

**BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES**

September 20, 2010

- PRESENT: Commissioner Russell Walker, Chair
Commissioner Bill Karsten
Commissioner Kenneth Hill
Commissioner Doug MacDonald
Commissioner Earl Gosse
- REGRETS: Commissioner Gloria McCluskey, Vice Chair
- STAFF: Chief Frank Beazley, Halifax Regional Police
Deputy Chief McNeil, Halifax Regional Police
Superintendent Darrell Beaton, RCMP
Ms. Shawnee Gregory, Legislative Assistant

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	CALL TO ORDER	3
2.	APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES	3
3.	APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS	3
4.	BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES	3
5.	CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS	3
6.	CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS	3
6.1	Correspondence	3
6.2	Petitions	3
6.3	Presentations	3
6.3.1	Police Chaplains	3
6.3.2	HRM Youth Advocacy Program - Ms. Sharon Martin, Program Manager, Youth Advocate Program	5
7.	REPORTS	7
7.1	RCMP Reports	7
7.2	HRP Reports	7
7.2.1	HRP Budget Update	8
7.3	Public Safety Update - Superintendent Spicer	8
8.	ADDED ITEMS	8
8.1	Nova Scotia Chiefs of Police Association Conference Update - Commissioner Gosse	8
8.2	Nova Scotia Association of Police Boards Conference Update - Commissioner Gosse	8
9.	NEXT MEETING DATE	9
10.	ADJOURNMENT	9

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:36 p.m. in the Meisner Room, Police Headquarters.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - August 16, 2010

MOVED BY Commissioner Karsten, seconded by Commissioner MacDonald, that the minutes of August 16, 2010 be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions:

- 8.1 Nova Scotia Chiefs of Police Association Conference Update - Commissioner Gosse
- 8.2 Nova Scotia Association of Police Boards Conference Update - Commissioner Gosse

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

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - NONE

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - NONE

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

6.1 Correspondence - None

6.2 Petitions - None

6.3 Presentations

6.3.1 Police Chaplains

The Chair welcomed the Police Chaplains to the meeting.

Father Lloyd O'Neill, Catholic Police Chaplain, thanked the Board for allowing the HRP Police Chaplains to present. He noted that he had been a Police Chaplain since 1966;

working with both the HRP and RCMP. He stated that chaplaincy was a very valuable service in policing as chaplains assist officers and their families as well as the public in many varied kinds of situations. Father O'Neill advised that the toughest time for people was when they lose a family member and that, in those situations, no one is an atheist; noting that even the toughest person has a faith component when their back is to the wall. He stated that chaplains can have a positive influence by helping people through the greatest crises in their lives. He indicated that the chaplains help police officers in bad times through debriefings as there can be negative results when people cannot deal with trauma; noting that he had helped with the Swiss Air debrief. Father O'Neill addressed one final concern; advising that with all the violence that was occurring, planning for negative events such as school shootings was extremely important. He stated that the Police Chaplains could play an important role in this planning.

Canon Robert Power, Anglican Police Chaplain, stated that it was interesting to see the reaction of police cadets when they are made aware of the variety of faiths that are present for them in the training classroom. He indicated that many of these cadets, particularly those that come from a non faith tradition, learn the value of chaplaincy on their very first watch. He recounted the brother of a deceased man wanting to see him at the hospital to thank him on behalf of his non Christian family as his brother did not die alone as Canon Power, a man of prayer, was by his side. He advised that this was an important message. Canon Power stated that it is a wonderful experience for the Chaplains to participate with officers on their watches and that this has helped their work considerably.

Reverend Dr. Cynthia Chenard, Presbyterian Police Chaplain, indicated that she had been with the HRP Chaplaincy Program for eight years; noting that she began during the Swiss Air crash. She stated that they were an ecumenical chaplaincy and were there for staff and their families for emotional and spiritual support, twenty four hours a day, seven days a week. Reverend Chenard advised that the Chaplains were volunteers and had parishes of their own to look after. In closing, she noted that she was married to an HRP Officer.

It was noted that Reverend Wayne Desmond, Baptist Police Chaplain, was unable to attend the meeting.

A discussion ensued with the Chaplains responding to questions.

Regarding a new chaplain being appointed to the Cole Harbour area, Reverend Chenard stated that this appointment was through the RCMP Chaplaincy Program; noting that the RCMP had 24 chaplains across Nova Scotia in each division.

Superintendent Beaton stated that he and Reverend Chenard, who also headed the RCMP Chaplaincy Program, had just sworn in three new volunteers; one of whom would be the Chaplain for Cole Harbour. He indicated that young members may not be so inclined to think of using the Chaplaincy service so they had been working on an education piece to increase awareness.

Reverend Chenard advised that police chaplains had a national body, the Canadian Police Chaplains Association. She stated that they meet annually to receive solid training as well as fellowship.

The Chair thanked the Police Chaplains; stating that the Board appreciated their work and hoped they could help make the service even better.

6.3.2 HRM Youth Advocacy Program - Ms. Sharon Martin, Program Manager, Youth Advocate Program

- A presentation was submitted.

Chief Frank Beazley, HRP, stated that Mr. Paul Dunphy, Director of Community Development, Mr. Andrew Whittemore, Manager of Community Relations and Cultural Affairs, and Ms. Sharon Martin, Program Manager, Youth Advocate Program, were in attendance to speak about the HRM Youth Advocacy Program. Chief Beazley indicated that they would be speaking about a proactive approach to public safety. He advised that staff would be approaching HRM for some permanent funding for the program in the future and would be requesting the Board's support as well. In closing, Chief Beazley stated that the Program had proven itself to be an effective crime prevention tool.

Mr. Whittemore provided the presentation. Highlights were as follows:

- The four year Youth Advocate Program began in 2007
- Over that period, the Program received \$1,900,000 in funding which HRM was required to match
- The program is not a social service; its job is to improve the coordination of already existing services
- Youth are referred to the program by the police, school or by social services
- Dr. Michael Ungar, who is leading the evaluation of the Program, feels the wrap around model is successful and now the program is being rolled out across Canada based on that success
- Staff are looking to expand the Program to 15 and 16 year olds

- Staff for the Program are not necessarily all social workers, however, many come from the neighbourhoods in which they are working and have been in the same situations as the youth they are helping
- Dr. Ungar thinks the Program requires a clinical social worker
- Staff thinks the Program should be expanded region wide

In closing, Mr. Whittemore stated that the Nunn inquiry was an example of the negative consequences that could occur if the Program is discontinued; noting that HRM would lack a coordinated approach to service.

Ms. Martin ended the presentation with an example of a successful case study.

A discussion on the presentation ensued with staff responding to questions.

The Chair advised that the Youth Advocate Program has been very successful in his District; noting that it was a proactive approach and was well received by his residents. He expressed concern that seven to nine year olds also needed help and that age group should be explored for referral. He also stated that referral was not easy as parental consent had to be granted and parents were sometimes unwilling to admit there was a problem. In closing, the Chair advised that as this was such a positive program, the current six workers could be doubled.

Commissioner Karsten echoed the Chair's statements; noting that the Program was instantly recognized as successful at its launch in 2007 as it had a clear and defined focus. He expressed concern that the Federal Government would not come through with sustainable follow through funding to continue this successful program. In lieu of Federal funding, he advised that he would support the Program moving forward even if HRM had to carry all funding and requested that this matter be further discussed at a later date.

Regarding the possible HRM wide expansion, Mr, Dunphy stated that staff would continue with the same case load over a larger area.

Mr. Whittemore advised that the Program would end in March of 2011 as that was when the funding would end. He stated that staff required a clear direction from Council to make the transition. He indicated that while there may be Federal funding available in the future, it was unclear at this time.

Mr. Dunphy stated that the required \$660,000 in funding did not have to come from new expenditures as it could be reallocated from existing services.

Ms. Martin advised that of the 54 youth staff have been working with, all save five have shown improvement; noting that one of those five was currently incarcerated and the other four had moved out of the province before staff could complete their evaluation.

Commissioner Hill stated that this evaluation would be the most important selling point for the Program.

Chief Beazley stated that he had been involved with the Youth Advocacy Program since the beginning. He indicated that the Program works and that he would stand in support of it when this matter goes to Council.

Superintendent Beaton, RCMP, suggested that Provincial funding for the Program could be explored as an option.

It was agreed that this matter be added to the next agenda.

7. REPORTS

7.1 RCMP Reports

C The August 2010 RCMP reports were before the Board.

Superintendent Beaton stated that the August 2010 RCMP reports were as submitted. He advised that victim services numbers had not improved as much as he would like so staff were still working on that issue. He provided corrections to the Personnel Report as follows; one member listed as off duty sick under the Street Crime Unit was now back at work on restricted duty, one member from the Cold Case Unit was working full time on restricted duty and that the member from Watch Four should be listed under the off duty sick category.

At the Board's request, Superintendent Beaton indicated that he could obtain the amount of summary offense tickets issued for the seatbelt initiative.

Superintendent Beaton indicated that the length of suspensions for impaired driving were going to be increased.

7.2 HRP Reports

C The August 2010 HRP reports were before the Board.

Chief Beazley stated that the August 2010 HRP reports were as submitted. He indicated that on August 24 and 25, 2010 HRP had partnered with Service Nova Scotia

and the RCMP to seize 'clunker' cars off the road; noting they had rejected six cars and one had to be towed it was in such poor shape. In closing, Chief Beazley advised that they had issued over 16000 summary offense tickets to date and that they may break the 50,000 mark once again this year.

Commissioner Karsten requested that staff investigate how the matter of the Department of Transportation doubling fines for speeding in school zones was proceeding.

7.2.1 HRP Budget Update

Chief Beazley advised that he had no update this month.

7.3 Public Safety Update - Superintendent Spicer

C The Spotlight on Public Safety Newsletter Vol. 2 Issue 9 was submitted.

Chief Beazley indicated that the HRP Town Hall Meetings were underway; noting that one would be taking place that night in Dartmouth. He stated that the first meeting on September 15, 2010 had went well and encouraged Commissioners to attend if they were available.

Chief Beazley also advised that Halifax Community Chaplaincy was creating a Circle of Support and Accountability program for sex offenders and that they were seeking volunteers. He stated that there were not many programs in place to help people coming out of an institution and such programs were effective in helping ex offenders adjust.

8. ADDED ITEMS

8.1 Nova Scotia Chiefs of Police Association Conference Update - Commissioner Gosse

Commissioner Gosse advised that, overall, the Chiefs of Police Conference in Pictou had gone well. He stated that the facilities were excellent as were the presentations; noting that the Honourable Minister Peter MacKay was a guest speaker.

8.2 Nova Scotia Association of Police Boards Conference Update - Commissioner Gosse

Commissioner Gosse indicated that he had also attend the annual general meeting for the Nova Scotia Association of Police Boards. He stated that, at the meeting, members

reviewed the constitution and changed the amount of Board members from five to seven; noting that they had also elected a new Board and that HRM gets one position on that Board. He advised that a new member from the Board of Police Commissioners would have to be selected as Commissioner McCluskey was no longer on the provincial board.

MOVED BY Commissioner Karsten, seconded by Commissioner Hill, that the Board of Police Commissioners elect Commissioner Gosse as the HRM representative for the Nova Scotia Association of Police Boards. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Commissioner Gosse noted that Mr. Dave Walker was still the Chair of the provincial board.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting was scheduled for October 18, 2010.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:04 p.m.

Shawnee Gregory
Legislative Assistant