

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES

October 18, 2010

PRESENT: Commissioner Russell Walker, Chair
Commissioner Gloria McCluskey, Vice Chair
Commissioner Earl Gosse
Commissioner Ken Hill
Commissioner Doug MacDonald

REGRETS: Commissioner Bill Karsten

STAFF: Deputy Chief Tony Burbridge, Halifax Regional Police
Deputy Chief Christopher McNeil, Halifax Regional Police
Superintendent Don Spicer, Halifax Regional Police
Superintendent Darrell Beaton, RCMP
Inspector Joanne Crampton, RCMP
Mr. Wayne Anstey, Acting Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. Shawnee Gregory, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. in the Meisner Room, Police Headquarters.

Superintendent Beaton presented retired provincial representative, Commissioner James Perrin, with a token of appreciation on behalf of the RCMP. Superintendent Beaton stated that Mr. Perrin's contribution to the Board of Police Commissioners would be missed.

Mr. Perrin thanked the Board and staff; stating that it had been a pleasure to serve both the RCMP and HRP.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 20, 2010

Amendments:

Item 6.3.2, Page 7 – the second paragraph will be replaced with the following statement, “suggested that Provincial funding for the Program could be explored as an option.”

Item 7.1, Page 7 – the last statement under item 7.1 will be replaced with the following, “Superintendent Beaton indicated that the lengths of suspensions for impaired driving were going to be increased.”

MOVED by Commissioner Hill, seconded by Commissioner MacDonald that the minutes of September 20, 2010 be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

8.1 Cole Harbour Check Point – Superintendent Beaton

8.2 Chaplaincy Program Policy – Superintendent Beaton

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

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT THE MINUTES

4.1 HRM Youth Advocacy Program

MOVED BY Commissioner McCluskey, seconded by Commissioner Hill, that this item be deferred to the November 8, 2010 meeting for Commissioner Karsten. 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

6.3.1 Proposed Independent Investigation Unit - Mr. Fred Sanford, Director, Policing Strategy, NS Department of Justice

Mr. Fred Sanford, Director, Policing Strategy, NS Department of Justice, stated that the Proposed Independent Investigative Unit had been announced by the Province in November 2009. He advised that a steering committee had worked over the past year developing the proposed model; noting that staff hoped to take it for cabinet approval this fall.

Mr. David Burchell, Policing Strategy, NS Department of Justice, provided the presentation on the Proposed Independent Investigative Unit. He indicated that the Unit had come about as a result of public concerns regarding impartiality of police when investigating a fellow officer; noting this was not to say that the suspected impartiality was actually occurring. He stated that the Unit would be led by a civilian director and while it would be operationally independent, it would report administratively to the Department of Justice. Mr. Burchell indicated that was beneficial to have a mix of civilians and officers in the Unit as the officers would provide operational effectiveness and the civilians would provide independence. He advised that they would be investigating the potential for partnerships with the other Atlantic Provinces once the Nova Scotia program was up and running; noting that the Federal Government also supports this initiative. In closing, Mr. Burchell advised that the Unit was after the confidence of the public that investigative results are the proper ones; stating that public perception should be that investigations are transparent, accountable and independent.

A discussion ensued with Mr. Sanford, Mr. Burchell and staff responding to questions.

Regarding administrative costs, Mr. Sanford advised that the Province would fund the Director's position; however, other police agencies would be responsible for paying certain additional costs.

Deputy Chief McNeil, HRP, indicated that since HRM was the largest agency involved, a full time HRP officer would be seconded to the Unit at HRP's expense. He advised that the agency under investigation would also be responsible for incremental costs such as meals and overtime; noting that this was something that the agencies had little control over. Deputy Chief McNeil expressed concern that the program may require

additional funding as the Unit would be busier than he first thought based on the types of cases which it would be investigating. In closing, he stated that there would also be a full time member seconded from the Halifax division of the RCMP and more may be required from both agencies depending on the case.

Mr. Sanford indicated that the majority of investigations seemed to come from the HRM area. He stated that the additional provincial resources may help lower the cost to municipalities for these types of investigations.

Mr. Sanford also stated that the whole investigation model was based on the Major Case Management Model. He indicated that the Unit would probably begin with two full time Provincial investigators who would likely be retired officers who were no longer associated with a police department; noting that these officers would be the team leads in any investigation. Mr. Sanford advised that; depending on the number of additional resources required, some on ground investigators would be seconded from other parts of the Province to conduct interviews. He noted that the Province would be funding all Provincial employees, vehicles and information systems, however, would not be paying in kind costs to the officers provided.

Deputy Chief McNeil noted that the Unit would be conducting criminal investigations rather than Police Act ones.

Mr. Sanford advised that the Minister of Justice could refer a case to the Unit Director; however, the Unit Director would have the final say in what they wish to investigate.

Mr. Sanford also stated that, under Bill C38, both municipal and RCMP officers could be investigated by this Unit.

Deputy Chief McNeil stated that the Unit would not investigate codes of conduct or corruption as these matters were already mandated under the Public Complaints Commission.

The Chair thanked Mr. Sanford and Mr. Burchell for their update.

7. REPORTS

7.1 RCMP Reports

The September 2010 RCMP reports were before the Board.

Superintendent Beaton indicated that the September 2010 RCMP reports were as submitted. With regards to training, he stated that numbers were down during the summer; however, training was now back up to speed. Regarding the victim services report, Superintendent Beaton advised that he had been speaking about increasing the number of calls for service and reaching out; noting that staff had accomplished this

during the last reporting period. He stated that he hoped to see the number increase even further as seven new additional volunteers were now involved with the Program.

7.2 HRP Reports

The September 2010 HRP reports were before the Board.

The September 2010 HRP reports were as submitted.

7.2.1 HRP Budget Update

Deputy Chief Burbridge provided an update on the Municipal Association of Police Personnel (MAPP) salary negotiations which would be taking place on October 22, 2010.

Deputy Chief Burbridge also advised that HRP staff hoped to have a budget for the Board at their November meeting.

7.2.2 Online Reporting - Deputy Chief Burbridge

Deputy Chief Burbridge stated that, earlier in the year, Chief Beazley and Mayor Kelly met with local businesses and their general complaints involved trying to file a report via the telephone. He stated that, as a result, staff requested that Mr. Kevin Tulk create an online reporting system. Deputy Chief Burbridge indicated that the community would no longer be frustrated by busy signals or an answering machine and that the new system would not create any additional costs as the system had only cost \$182 thus far.

Mr. Tulk provided the presentation regarding Online Reporting and ran through the working model site for the Board's information. He stated that the site would provide the public with the opportunity to report certain incidences online, to add information to an existing report and to leave information for a particular officer. He indicated that the reports would be submitted as electronic faxes via a queue to staff. Mr. Tulk also stated that the resident would receive their 'go number' within 24 hours of submitting a report.

Deputy Chief Burbridge indicated that staff anticipated that online reporting would increase the amount of complaints received, however, the HRP did wish to have this information; for example, areas where cars have been broken into even if nothing has been stolen. He noted that he hoped this would be a more inclusive model.

Mr. Tulk noted that residents would have a choice to receive an email or phone call with their incident number.

Superintendent Beaton advised that Mr. Tulk had also extended the offer to create an

online reporting system for the RCMP; noting that some issues had to be worked out such as including bilingual service. He stated that they were looking at access via the HRM homepage and hoped to be offering online reporting soon.

Deputy Chief McNeil clarified that the online reporting would be for the 490-5016 number which was used for reporting incidents after they occurred. He noted that the 490-5020 number would remain the same.

The Chair thanked Mr. Tulk for his presentation.

7.3 Public Safety Update - Superintendent Don Spicer & Mr. Allan Waye, HRP

A document titled 2010/11 Safe and Welcoming Communities Outcome Area was before the Board.

The Spotlight on Public Safety Newsletter Vol. 2 Issue 10 was submitted.

Superintendent Spicer provided updates beyond the submitted newsletter; noting that the next iteration of HRP Sports Pals would take place on Friday, October 22, 2010 at 2:00 p.m. on the artificial ice surface by Dartmouth High School. He indicated that the HRM sponsored event would involve a hockey game between the HRP and youth.

Superintendent Spicer also indicated that Home Connect would be taking place at the Halifax Armouries on Sunday, October 24, 2010; noting that it was a day of services for the homeless and marginally housed including dental and medical service, hair cuts and hot food. He hoped this would become an annual event.

Superintendent Spicer stated that the Ice Awards had taken place and the HRP may be receiving some in kind creative work for their cyber bullying campaign; noting that an information report would be brought forward if this occurs.

In closing, Superintendent Spicer stated that staff were seeking permission to present the Public Safety Annual Report update in January 2011.

Mr. Allan Waye, Executive Officer to the Chief of Police, provided an update on the Public Safety Annual Report. Highlights were as follows:

- Councillors were invited to a session at the Captain William Spry Centre and provided with a month afterwards to provide feedback to the Public Safety Office
- Staff wished to present the final Public Safety Annual Report to the Board prior to having it go to print
- The issues listed were the key issues as based on Dr. Don Clairmont's report on violence
- There will be no change to the five statements of intent
- The group at the Captain William Spry Centre session thought that four other areas should be included to enhance the situation

- Safer, Stronger Communities is already an initiative in HRM and the Provincial and Federal governments will become involved as well

In closing, Mr. Wayne stated that the draft annual Public Safety Report was complete, however, staff still needed to work on formatting and hoped to have it done by the end of the year. He stated that letters from Mayor Kelly, Chief Beazley and the Chair of the Board of Police Commissioners would accompany the report booklet to be submitted to Council.

Mr. Wayne also provided a presentation on the Safe and Welcoming Communities Outcome Areas. Highlights were as follows:

- Staff were working on a departmental strategic plan and now have outcome areas as well as six major themes across the municipality
- Many of the issues were beginning to overlap with simultaneous processes occurring
- The goals from 2009, however, were not overlapping
- The Public Safety Office has been meeting every Wednesday for three hours with each HRM business unit that is involved with the Safe and Welcoming Communities initiative
- At these sessions, every objective and goal from 2009 was revisited to see if refining or omitting was required
- Items may be omitted for 2011 if the goal will be achieved by the end of 2010 so new goals and objectives may be added
- Objectives must be specific, attainable and measurable

In closing, Mr. Wayne indicated that this matter would apply to every HRM business unit; noting that the Board would see the final result.

A discussion ensued with staff responding to questions.

As a courtesy to Commissioner McCluskey, Mr. Wayne advised that he would inquire as to how the new civic addressing program was working.

The Chair thanked Mr. Wayne for his presentation.

7.4 Canadian Association of Police Boards Conference – Chair

The Chair stated that Mr. Dave Walker, Deputy Mayor of Bridgewater and member of the Canadian Association of Police Boards, had advised him that there was an opportunity for Halifax to host the 2013 or 2014 Canadian Association of Police Boards Conference. The Chair wished to know if the Board was willing to put a proposal forward.

MOVED BY Commissioner Gosse, seconded by Commissioner McCluskey that

the Board of Police Commissioners put forward an expression of interest to host the Canadian Association of Police Boards Conference in 2013. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

8. ADDED ITEMS

8.1 Cole Harbour Check Point – Superintendent Beaton

This item was deferred as it pertained to Commissioner Karsten's District.

8.2 Chaplaincy Program Policy – Superintendent Beaton

For the Board's information as per the September meeting, Superintendent Beaton submitted a document containing the details of the RCMP national and divisional policy regarding their Chaplaincy Program.

The Chair requested that the HRP also submit information regarding their chaplaincy program at the next meeting.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for November 8, 2010.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

Shawnee Gregory
Legislative Assistant