

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES

November 8, 2010

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

REGRETS: Commissioner Ken Hill

STAFF: Chief Frank Beazley, Halifax Regional Police
Deputy Chief Christopher McNeil, Halifax Regional Police
Superintendent Don Spicer, Halifax Regional Police
Superintendent Robin McNeil, 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 12:32 p.m. in the Meisner Room, Police Headquarters.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 18, 2010

MOVED by Commissioner McCluskey, seconded by Commissioner Karsten, that the minutes of October 18, 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 Canadian Public Safety Interoperability Workshop
- 8.2 Bill 72 – Chair
- 8.3 Halifax District Annual Performance Plan -Second Quarter Update – Inspector Joanne Crampton
- 8.4 RCMP ‘Year in Review Report’ - Superintendent Beaton
- 8.5 Board Status – Commissioner Karsten

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

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - NONE

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

5.1 HRM Youth Advocacy Program

Commissioner Karsten indicated that it had been mentioned at a previous meeting that the Board send a letter of support for the HRM Youth Advocacy Program when the matter is addressed by Council.

MOVED BY Commissioner Karsten, seconded by Commissioner McCluskey, that the Board of Police Commissioners write a letter to Regional Council in support of the HRM Youth Advocacy Program. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5.2 Cole Harbour Check Point – Superintendent Beaton

Superintendent Beaton submitted information to Commissioner Karsten regarding this matter.

Commissioner Karsten indicated that his residents had brought this issue to his attention as they felt that seatbelt legislation was not being enforced. He stated that, should this issue arise again, he would now have tangible figures to present.

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

6.1 Correspondence - None

6.2 Petitions - None

6.3 Presentations – None

7. REPORTS

7.1 RCMP Repots

The October 2010 RCMP Reports and Third Quarter Statistics were before the Board.

Superintendent Beaton indicated that the October 2010 RCMP reports were as submitted.

Superintendent Beaton provided an overview of the Third Quarter Statistics; noting that the combined HRP/RCMP statistics had been included as well. He stated that violent crime had decreased by 32 or 12%, robberies by 13% and homicides and attempted murder by 1%. He advised that property crime had increased by 10.5% and while drug related statistics had increased, this was good news as it meant more arrests, searches and proactive enforcement was occurring. Superintendent Beaton stated that there had been an increase of 147 incidents for theft from motor vehicles. In closing, he advised that the RCMP were currently conducting their Town Hall meetings.

Several Commissioners expressed concern regarding an increase in blatant marijuana use in the community.

Chief Beazley indicated that he planned to have Dr. Robert Strang, Chief Public Health Officer, attend a future Board meeting to speak to issues such as drug and alcohol use, particularly related to youth.

Superintendent Beaton stated that the use of medical marijuana and the issuance of licences was higher in Nova Scotia than any other Province, therefore, enforcement was a challenge as these residents could not be charged; noting that organised crime groups did have members with licences.

Regarding a recent incident where approximately 60 tires were slashed, Superintendent Beaton stated that a community meeting had been held in Eastern Passage and that the RCMP now had further information on the matter.

7.2 HRP Reports

The October 2010 HRP Reports and Third Quarter Statistics were before the Board. Chief Beazley stated that the HRP Third Quarter Statistics had been included as well. He indicated that he shared the same key messages as Superintendent Beaton; noting that violent crime was down and property crime was up. Chief Beazley advised that he and Superintendent Beaton have been and will continue to talk publically in an attempt

to get residents to lock their doors; particularly now that it was the holiday season. Chief Beazley stated that the three divisional commanders had plans to deal with this issue over the next couple of months; noting that property crime was driving a small increase in overall crime statistics.

7.2.1 HRP Budget Update

Chief Beazley advised that, as of that morning, he had met with his senior management team and frozen all discretionary spending as a result of a slight budget increase of \$150,000 which he was attempting to slow down or stop. He stated that he had cancelled all training that requires travel and training that could wait.

Chief Beazley stated that he still had to investigate crime no matter what, therefore, cuts would have to be made on the soft side of the administration. He indicated that spending would have to occur, one way or the other, this year or next. Chief Beazley advised that he would not be attending the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police conference this year as he had cut all his travel to set an example, however, this could not continue long term. He advised that it was not necessary to communicate this matter to Council at this time.

Mr. Wayne Anstey, Acting Chief Administrative Officer, stated that Senior Management realized that there was an element of overtime in policing that was unavoidable and, therefore, wished to make this a line item. He advised that senior staff still wished to administer the vacancy management program; however, overtime would be covered off.

Chief Beazley stated that HRP had been working on a project with the Province for several years regarding e-ticketing which would put all vacations and leave into a provincial system so court time may be reduced and money saved as a result. He indicated that he was working with Ms. Cathie O'Toole, Director of Finance, to explore different options for the creation of the police budget which could, potentially, save money.

7.3 Public Safety Update – Superintendent Spicer

The Spotlight on Public Safety Newsletter Volume 2, Issue 11 was submitted.

Superintendent Spicer indicated that the newsletter was as submitted. He updated the Board that volunteers were so moved by the Halifax Home Connects event, that they would be providing haircuts and hot meals to Metro Turning Point and Barry Place residents on a monthly basis.

Superintendent Spicer also stated that there would be a meeting that week with officers from the Scotia Court area regarding a parenting program and that HRP hoped to partner with the Province on this initiative.

8. ADDED ITEMS

8.1 Canadian Public Safety Interoperability Workshop

Correspondence dated November 3, 2010 from Ms. Jennifer Lanzon, Executive Director, Canadian Association of Police Boards was submitted.

The correspondence dated November 3, 2010 was submitted for information.

8.2 Bill 72 – Chair

The Chair advised that Bill 72 had gone for second reading and that the Board had until Friday, November 12, 2010 to forward any questions or concerns to the Province.

Deputy Chief McNeil suggested that the Board at least express concern regarding how the legislation states that the proposed Independent Investigation Unit will be funded. He stated that they had good intentions; however, expenses for seconded officers would be the home agency's responsibility. Deputy Chief McNeil indicated that it was now likely that HRP would be required to second a member to the Province full time at HRP's expense and that all associated travel costs for additional officers would be HRP's responsibility as well.

Chief Beazley agreed that it would be most effective for the Board to question the budget.

MOVED BY Commissioner MacDonald, seconded by Commissioner McCluskey, that the Board of Police Commissioners recommend that the Chair and Chief Beazley go before law amendments to discuss their budget concerns with regards to Bill 72.

Deputy Chief McNeil expressed concern that the Unit would not have enough staff to conduct their mandated work.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

8.3 Halifax District Annual Performance Plan -Second Quarter Update – Inspector Joanne Crampton

The Halifax District RCMP Annual Performance Plan Update dated November 8, 2010 was submitted.

Inspector Crampton provided an overview of the Halifax District RCMP Annual Performance Plan Update; noting that nine annual performance plans were currently underway and that the RCMP had hit the rest of their targets and were on track. She stated that the RCMP and HRP were jointly campaigning to encourage residents to lock up and hawk eye flyers were going to be placed on vehicles in parking lots as part of that campaign. Inspector Crampton advised that traffic was an initiative in all plans with

the exception of the RCMP Street Crime Unit and that heightened communication was also part of the initiative. She indicated that the RCMP made a commitment to the Preston community after the high school disturbances to ensure they would deliver further cultural diversity training to members; noting that this training would be done by April 1, 2011 and was specific to the communities of Preston and Dartmouth.

8.4 RCMP 'Year in Review Report' - Superintendent Beaton

The 2009-2010 RCMP 'Year in Review' report was submitted.

Superintendent Beaton indicated that the submitted publication was produced by the RCMP Safety Office and welcomed the Board to provide feedback to the authors from Corporate Planning.

8.5 Board Status – Commissioner Karsten

Commissioner Karsten requested an update on the status of the current Board membership.

Commissioner McCluskey provided an email response from Ms. Cathy Mellett, Municipal Clerk, which stated that the correspondence from the Board of Police Commissioners was received by the Membership Selection Committee and would be addressed at the end of November 2010. Commissioner McCluskey advised that it was uncertain whether or not any of the Councillor terms would be extended past November 30, 2010; noting that this was not good governance.

For clarification, Councillor McCluskey advised that the Councillors had been extended to November 30, 2010 for the Policing Resources study and the terms of the additional three Commissioners had been extended to March 31, 2011.

Chief Beazley advised that he would follow up on this matter as he had no Board as of November 30, 2010.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting was scheduled for December 13, 2010

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:57 p.m.

Shawnee Gregory
Legislative Assistant