

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES

March 14, 2011

PRESENT: Commissioner Earl Gosse, Chair
Commissioner Doug MacDonald, Vice Chair
Commissioner Sue Uteck
Commissioner Peter Kelly
Commissioner Micki Ruth

REGRETS: Commissioner Reg Rankin
Commissioner Ken Hill

STAFF: Chief Frank Beazley, Halifax Regional Police
Superintendent Bill Moore, Halifax Regional Police
Superintendent Don Spicer, Halifax Regional Police
Superintendent Darrell Beaton, RCMP
Inspector Joanne Crampton, RCMP
Ms. Cathie O'Toole, Director of Finance
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. SWEARING IN OF NEW MEMBER

Mr. Martin Ward, Solicitor, swore in Commissioner Micki Ruth, Provincial Appointee, as a new member of the Board of Police Commissioners.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 14, 2011

Amendment:

Item 7.1 – Superintendent Beaton requested that *enforcement* be included after *that both the RCMP and HRP had been providing education and public service announcements*

MOVED by Commissioner Uteck, seconded by Commissioner Kelly that the minutes of February 14, 2011 be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions:

9.1 Meeting with Minister of Justice – Items for Discussion – Chair

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

5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

5.1 Meeting Locations – Superintendent Beaton

Superintendent Beaton suggested that, as per the discussion at the February 14, 2011 meeting, the April 11 meeting be held at the Cole Harbour RCMP Office, the June 13 meeting at the Lower Sackville Detachment and the September 12 meeting at the Library Room in Tantallon.

6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

6.1 On-line Reporting – Mr. Kevin Tulk

A presentation was submitted.

Mr. Kevin Tulk provided presentation on On-Line Reporting and reviewed the system website.

A discussion ensued with staff responding to questions. The following points were noted:

- Staff have been working with the Retail Gasoline Dealers Association of Nova Scotia as this system will work well in solving cases of gasoline drive-off theft
- The online submitter must provide a date of birth for records management purposes
- The system is meant for filing incidences after the fact
- Crime Analysts will be able to better identify problems in certain areas based on these submitted incident reports
- While this is an HRP system, once incidents are identified as being located in the RCMP's jurisdiction, the requests can be forwarded to their staff
- Staff will accept all complaints and ensure they get to the appropriate location

In closing, Mr. Tulk stated that the Board had been provided with a communications plans and requested that any comments be provided to Chief Beazley's office.

7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

7.1 Correspondence - None

7.2 Petitions - None

7.3 Presentations - None

8. REPORTS

7.1 RCMP Reports

The February 2011 RCMP Reports were before the Board.

Correspondence dated March 14, 2011 from Superintendent Beaton was submitted.

Superintendent Beaton stated that the February 2011 RCMP reports were as submitted. He indicated that under the Personnel report, one member on sick leave was now returning to work and that under the Training Activity report, it should read *intoximeter* rather than *intometer*.

Superintendent Beaton referenced his submitted correspondence, advising that the Province had confirmed that an approximate 5% increase for the 2011/2012 RCMP budget would be prudent to work with.

Ms. Cathie O'Toole, Director of Finance, confirmed that she received word that it would be a 5.3% increase.

Superintendent Beaton stated that this would not be officially confirmed until the Provincial budget was tabled.

8.3 Public Safety Update – Superintendent Don Spicer

The Spotlight on Public Safety Newsletter Volume 3, Issue 3 was submitted.

Superintendent Spicer indicated that the Spotlight on Public Safety Newsletter Volume 3, Issue 3 was as submitted.

8.2 HRP Reports

The February 2011 HRP Reports were before the Board.

The February 2011 HRP reports were as submitted.

8.2.1 HRP Budget Update

The Combined Business Plan of Halifax Regional Police and RCMP Halifax District was submitted.

Chief Beazley advised that the HRM Budget would be tabled on April 19, 2011 and requested that the Chair be available to attend the Council meeting that day.

Ms. O'Toole provided an overview of the draft budget; noting that the HRP net increase was now going up by 3.9% rather than 8.4% as previously stated as a result of further review and adjustments. She stated that expenditures were increasing by 5.5% and a revenue decrease of 16.9% was projected which is why there was a higher than usual; net increase. Ms. O'Toole advised that by removing one time elements from the HRP budget, the new number of 3.9% was more in line with corporate increases that averaged 3.6%. She indicated that staff would be doing quality control between now and the tabling of the budget.

A discussion ensued with staff responding to questions.

Chief Beazley advised that the 16% revenue decrease was as a result of secondment revenues.

Chief Beazley reassured the Board that staff were working on an updated Overtime Policy which he hoped to present in draft form at the April meeting.

Commissioner Kelly noted that it would save money if HRM had its own municipal court structure.

Chief Beazley advised that he would gladly work with the Board regarding the potential for a municipal court and could possibly form a committee. He stated that, if there was no night court, HRP could save upwards of \$500,000 per year, therefore, he would support any kind of research project regarding this matter.

MOVED by Commissioner Kelly, seconded by Commissioner MacDonald that the Board of Police Commissioners request that staff strike a committee, including Finance and Legal Services staff, to work with the Board to investigate the possibility of a municipal court in a budget oriented and operational format and to go forward to the Province with the understanding that this will ease the stress and strain on their Provincial court system by allowing HRM to have its own municipal court structure.

Discussion on the motion ensued.

Commissioner Kelly stated that while the municipal court would not involve the current court system, it would allow them to become more efficient as well.

Ms. O'Toole advised that, in order to conduct a successful analysis, staff would require the support of the Department of Justice in order to obtain numbers.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Chief Beazley reported that the Capital Fleet Budget would require approximately \$1,495,000 for the 2011/2012 budget.

In response to questions posed by Commissioner Kelly, Chief Beazley advised that the total fleet was 283 vehicles, 275 of which were owned and 8 rented. He stated that the average life of an emergency vehicle was between one and a half and two years and an unmarked vehicle between five and seven years; noting that the Fleet Manager could provide further information.

Superintendent Bill Moore, HRP, presented the submitted Combined Business Plan of Halifax Regional Police and RCMP Halifax District.

As a result of the review of Goal 4: Leveraging Information Technology, Commissioner Kelly moved the following motion:

MOVED by Commissioner Kelly, seconded by Commissioner Ruth that the Board of Police Commissioners write a letter to the Tri-Services Special Purpose Committee on 700 MHZ in support of protecting that bandwidth to be used for government purposes only and not garnered financially for the private sector.

Discussion on the motion ensued with staff responding to questions.

Superintendent Moore advised that he was the Canadian Police representative on the Tri-Services Special Purpose Committee and provided the Board with background on this issue; noting that he would send further information as well.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Superintendent Moore continued his presentation and a discussion ensued with questions and comments from the Board.

Chief Beazley advised that staff would make a decision by the end of the summer regarding a January cadet class. He stated that the cost of a class at the beginning of 2011 exceeded the cost of lateral hires which is why staff decided not to proceed with one.

It was noted that measures of success for the goals outlined in the plan would be the next piece of work to be completed after obtaining corporate direction.

It was requested that the Board's decision around analyzing the establishment of a municipal court be reflected in the goals.

The meeting recessed at 2:05 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 2:14 p.m.

8.3 Public Safety Update – Superintendent Don Spicer

This item was dealt with earlier in the meeting. Please see page 5.

9. ADDED ITEMS

9.1 Meeting with Minister of Justice – Items for Discussion – Chair

Correspondence dated February 21, 2011 from the Chair to the Honourable Ross Landry, Minister of Justice, was submitted.

Correspondence dated March 1 & 4, 2011 from the Honourable Ross Landry, Minister of Justice, was submitted.

The Chair indicated that, as per the submitted correspondence, Minister Landry had invited all Municipal Boards of Police Commissioners, Advisory Boards, the RCMP and Chiefs of Police to a meeting on March 23, 2011 to discuss current challenges police are facing in Nova Scotia.

As a result of this invitation, the Board discussed what items the Chair, who would attend on the Board's behalf, should address. The Board agreed that their concern regarding any potential reduction to the Additional Officer Program; which they had previously expressed via a letter to Minister Landry should be raised.

The Board also agreed to express concern regarding the proposed Special Investigation Unit as it should be properly funded rather than putting further financial burden on municipalities and was all the more reason to leave the Additional Officer Program in its current state.

The Board noted that having the support of Regional Council would be beneficial.

MOVED by Commissioner MacDonald, seconded by Commissioner Ruth, that the Board of Police Commissioners request Regional Council's support of the Chair of the Board of Police Commissioners' statement of concern at the March 23, 2011 meeting with the Minister of Justice that provincial funding for the Additional Officer Program not be reduced. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10. NEXT MEETING DATE – April 11, 2011

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:26 p.m.

Shawnee Gregory
Legislative Assistant

Information Item

1. Nova Scotia Association of Police Boards Newsletter – March 2011