

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES

April 11, 2011

PRESENT: Commissioner Earl Gosse, Chair
Commissioner Michael Moreash
Commissioner Phillip Read
Commissioner Sue Uteck
Commissioner Peter Kelly

REGRETS: Commissioner Micki Ruth, Vice Chair

STAFF: Chief Frank Beazley, Halifax Regional Police
Superintendent Don Spicer, Halifax Regional Police
Superintendent Darrell Beaton, RCMP
Inspector Joanne Crampton, RCMP
Mr. Richard Butts, Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. Shawnee Gregory, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:31p.m. at the RCMP Cole Harbour Detachment.

2. INTRODUCTIONS & SWEARING IN OF NEW MEMBERS

The Legislative Assistant swore in Commissioners Phillip Read and Michael Moreash as new members of the Board of Police Commissioners.

3. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR (re: motion of January 10, 2011)

MOVED by Commissioner Kelly, seconded by Commissioner Uteck that Commissioner Gosse continue as Chair of the Board of Police Commissioners for 2011. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Commissioner Kelly, seconded by Commissioner Uteck that Commissioner Ruth be elected as Vice Chair of the Board of Police Commissioners for 2011. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 14, 2011

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

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

Additions:

10.2 HRP & RCMP 2010 Town Hall Meetings

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

6. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

6.1 Police Fleet – Mr. Larry Hilton & Mr. Paul Beauchamp, HRM Fleet Services

A document titled Fleet Re-Capitalization Police Services was submitted.

Mr. Larry Hilton, Coordinator of Technical and Admin Services, and Mr. Paul Beauchamp, Manager of Corporate Fleet and Equipment, provided the presentation on the Police Fleet. Highlights were as follows:

- Of the current 285 police vehicles, 100 require replacement
- Staff are requesting \$2,100,000 in the Capital Budget each year for the next three years to replace these vehicles and bring the fleet back up to where it needs to be
- If all goes as planned, only 27 cars will be left to replace in 2014/15
- Patrol vehicles over three years old are only used for eight hour service days to obtain a longer use life in the fleet
- It is not the vehicle itself but the usage that creates the need for replacement
- The useful life of fleet vehicles is as follows: three years for police cruisers, five years for vans and non patrol vehicles, and 10 to 15 years for heavier vehicles and motor bikes

A discussion ensued with staff responding to questions.

Mr. Hilton indicated that this was the last production run on the Crown Victoria police car and staff did not know what model they would switch to; noting the RCMP and other departments use this vehicle as well. He advised that the new cars would cost in the \$35,000 range.

Regarding retention times, Superintendent Beaton advised that the RCMP fleet in HRM was managed through their Atlantic Region Office and that cars were covered in the FTE cost of the RCMP member. He indicated that retention times would probably be similar in this environment; noting that the RCMP does not usually keep their vehicles beyond the 160,000 to 200,000 kilometre mark.

Regarding the cost of fuel and maintenance, Chief Beazley indicated that HRP purchases their own gas and vehicles may fuel up at one of 11 HRM fuel sites. He stated that they do not pay Provincial road tax as all cars have fuel cards with them and that fuel is currently purchased at .96 cents a litre. Chief Beazley advised that maintenance is done in house as well with some work being contracted out. He stated that the shop rate was \$45 per hour; noting that the HRP does get some price reductions for parts as they purchase so many and that warranty work goes out when cars are purchased.

The Chair thanked Mr. Hilton and Mr. Beauchamp for their presentation.

6.2 Meeting with the Minister of Justice – Feedback – Chair & Chief Beazley

The agenda from the March 23, 2011 Minister's Meeting was submitted.

Correspondence dated March 25, 2011 from Deputy Chief McNeil, President, Nova Scotia Chiefs of Police Association, was submitted.

The Chair advised that he, Superintendent Beaton and Chief Beazley had attended the meeting with the Minister of Justice, Chiefs of Police and the RCMP Commanding Officers on March 23, 2011. He reviewed the details of the meeting and concerns

presented by HRM for the benefit of new members. Highlights of the meeting were as follows:

- Minister Landry advised that the Province would negotiate with HRM regarding its contribution to the Serious Incident Response Team
- The HRM position will not necessarily be taken from Boots on the Street Program personnel
- Provincial Policing Service Agreement (PPSA) negotiations will be effected by the Federal Election
- Minister Landry stated that there would be no change to the Additional Officer Program this year; however, that will change in following years and that the Program should not be used to augment policing
- Minister Landry wants to look at policing in Nova Scotia generally and to look at standards as he believes that policing is becoming expensive
- Minister Landry would like to discuss this with the Nova Scotia Chiefs of Police
- Chief Beazley advised Minister Landry that policing is a municipal responsibility and suggested he speak with municipalities or the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities (UNSM) first
- Minister Landry is concerned about impaired driving and would like Nova Scotia's favourable MADD rating to continue
- Minister Landry requested ideas on proposed changes to the Motor Vehicle Act so the Board should write to the Department of Justice with suggestions

7. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - NONE

8. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

8.1 Correspondence - None

8.2 Petitions - None

8.3 Presentations

8.3.1 Nova Scotia Association of Police Boards (NSAPB) and Canadian Association of Police Boards (CAPB) – Mr. David Walker, President NSAPB

A presentation from the Nova Scotia Association of Police Boards (NSAPB) was submitted.

Mr. David Walker, President of NSAPB, indicated that direction was given at the 2010 annual general meeting of the NSAPB to visit each of the 11 Boards of Police across Nova Scotia to provide an overview of the Association. Mr. Walker provided a presentation on the NSAPB for the Board's information.

In closing, Mr. Walker invited the Commissioners to attend the annual joint conference with the NSAPB and Nova Scotia Chiefs of Police in Bridgewater from September 15 to 17, 2011. He noted that he hoped that HRM was still planning to host the 2014 conference and welcomed the Board to contact the NSAPB with any questions or comments they may have.

10.1 Chief Superintendent Alphonse MacNeil, Commanding Officer 'H' Division - Introduction

Deputy Commissioner Alphonse MacNeil, Commanding Officer 'H' Division RCMP, stated that he had been in his current position since December 2010 and wished to introduce himself to the Board and make an announcement. He advised that Superintendent Beaton's current position was being upgraded from Superintendent to Chief Superintendent, therefore, a competition for a new commanding officer for the RCMP Halifax District would be held. Deputy Commissioner MacNeil indicated that this was an opportunity for the RCMP to show a commitment to HRM by conducting a national bulletin to find the right candidate for the job as HRM was the largest detachment east of the Rockies and should have a higher ranking Chief Superintendent. He stated that RCMP staff would return to the Board in approximately six weeks for their input once a short list is compiled and that Superintendent Beaton would remain in his position until the new Chief Superintendent is found. In closing, Deputy Commissioner MacNeil advised the Board that this change in rank would create no extra cost to HRM as it would be done within the existing RCMP budget.

9. REPORTS

9.1 RCMP Reports

The March 2011 RCMP Reports were before the Board.

The RCMP 2010/11 Training Report was submitted.

Superintendent Beaton advised that the March 2011 RCMP reports were as submitted; noting that, with regards to the Training Report, the RCMP had done almost twice as much training this fiscal year.

**MOVED by Commissioner Kelly, seconded by Commissioner Uteck that the Board of Police Commissioners accept the March 2011 RCMP reports as submitted.
MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

9.2 HRP Reports

The March 2011 HRP Reports were before the Board.

Chief Beazley indicated that the March 2011 HRP reports were as submitted; noting that up until March 1, 2011, HRP had 128 officers and civilians complete block training.

MOVED by Commissioner Kelly, seconded by Commissioner Read, that the Board of Police Commissioners accept the March 2011 HRP reports as submitted. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.2.1 HRP Budget Update

Chief Beazley advised that he had no new updates as the budget remained the same as presented in February 2011 and a report would be forwarded to Council from the Board endorsing the Police Budget.

9.3 Public Safety Update – Superintendent Don Spicer

The Spotlight on Public Safety Newsletter Volume 3, Issue 4 was submitted.

The Public Safety Strategic Plan booklet was submitted.

The Public Safety Communication Strategy was submitted.

Superintendent Spicer indicated that the Spotlight on Public Safety Newsletter Volume 3, Issue 4 was as submitted.

Commissioner Uteck expressed concern that there appeared to be an in house disagreement regarding legitimate public art and graffiti in HRM.

Superintendent Spicer advised that the difference between graffiti and art was permission and that, as such, all graffiti was a crime and the disagreements were probably an issue of terminology. He stated that there would be a staff meeting to address some of these concerns to ensure all HRM staff is on the same page and that opportunities for urban art are provided.

Superintendent Spicer then presented the first HRM Public Safety Strategic Plan and reviewed the submitted booklet. He noted one error on page 3 of the booklet that should read 64 rather than 60 recommendations for action. Superintendent Spicer welcomed Commissioners to contact him with any comments or questions and advised that the information would be put on the Public Safety webpage now that it has been reviewed by the Board.

Ms. Theresa Rath, Manager of Public Relations, HRP, reviewed the Public Safety Communication Strategy with the Board; noting that staff were open to feedback.

MOVED by Commissioner Kelly, seconded by Commissioner Read that the Board of Police Commissioners accept the Public Safety reports as submitted. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10. ADDED ITEMS

**10.1 Chief Superintendent Alphonse MacNeil, Commanding Officer 'H'
Division – Introduction**

This item was dealt with earlier in the meeting. Please see page 6.

10.2 HRP & RCMP 2010 Town Hall Meetings

The Halifax District RCMP 2010 Town Hall Report was submitted.

The HRP 2010 Town Hall Meetings Final Report was submitted.

It was noted that the 2010 RCMP and HRP Town Hall Meeting reports would be tabled for the Board to review and could be added to the next agenda if members had questions.

11. NEXT MEETING DATE - May 16, 2011

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:36 p.m.

Shawnee Gregory
Legislative Assistant