

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES

May 16, 2011

PRESENT: Commissioner Earl Gosse, Chair
Commissioner Micki Ruth, Vice Chair
Commissioner Michael Moreash
Commissioner Phillip Read
Commissioner Sue Uteck
Commissioner Peter Kelly
Commissioner Steve Streach

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

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:35 p.m. in the Meisner Room, Police Headquarters, Gottingen Street.

2. SWEARING IN OF NEW MEMBER

Mr. Martin Ward, Solicitor, swore in Commissioner Steve Streach as a new member of the Board of Police Commissioners.

3. PRESENTATION OF RETIRED MEMBER BADGES - HRP & RCMP

Chief Beazley and Superintendent Beaton presented Commissioners Hill and MacDonald with their Board of Police Commissioners retirement badges.

The Chair thanked the retired members for their contribution to the Board.

Retired Commissioners Hill and MacDonald thanked the HRP and RCMP for their hard work as well as the remaining Commissioners and staff.

8.3.1 John Dunlop Memorial Award

Mr. Fred Hunsberger, Nova Scotia Criminal Justice Association, presented the John Dunlop Memorial Award to Constable Holly Thomas for her outstanding contribution to criminal and community justice in the youth related area.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 11, 2011

MOVED by Commissioner Moreash, seconded by Commissioner Read that the minutes of April 11, 2011 be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

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

6. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

6.1 Review of 2011 Board Objectives

The Halifax Board of Police Commissioners – Objectives for 2011 document was before the Board.

The Board reviewed the updated 2011 Board Objectives document.

Objective 1: Prepare a positive bid to host the 2014 Canadian Association of Police Boards (CAPB) Conference

The Chair indicated that this item was still in motion and the Canadian Association of Police Boards (CAPB) was aware of HRM's interest to host the conference. He suggested the Commissioner attending the upcoming conference in Regina, Saskatchewan could observe how the conference was run and be involved with the coordination if HRM was to host the conference in 2014.

Commissioners Ruth and Uteck expressed interest in attending this upcoming conference.

It was requested that the titled be changed from 2013 to 2014.

Objective 2: Liaise with the Provincial Department of Justice and Nova Scotia Association of Police Boards (NSAPB) as applicable to ensure that HRM's interests are protected regarding Bill No. 72 – Police Act – Creation of the Serious Incident Response Team

Chief Beazley provided an update that the Director of the Serious Incident Response Team should be selected in June and there would then be discussions around hiring two new team members from the HRP and RCMP; noting that both agencies would be paying for these positions at their own expense.

Superintendent Beaton stated that it was still unknown if the RCMP member would be taken from the HRM detachment.

Objective 3: Ensure Suitable Representation at Conferences

The Chair advised that, in addition to the CAPB Conference in Regina, the provincial conference would be held in Bridgewater from September 15 to 17, 2011 and he encouraged all members to attend.

Chief Beazley indicated that, in the past, HRP has funded two Commissioners to attend such conferences from the police budget and if there were more interested, the RCMP may be able to help. He asked the Commissioners to contact his office if they would like to attend this conference.

Commissioners Moreash and Read expressed interest in attending this conference.

Objective 4: Have new Board members attend Board training

The Chair advised that he still did not know when training would take place and would contact the members when this information becomes available.

It was noted that the presentation, under agenda item 8.3.2, was also part of the new Commissioner's training.

Objective 5: Smooth out board transition to new members

The Chair indicated this was something members would be mindful of for the next membership turnover.

Objective 6: Review the Mayor's Roundtable on Violence

The Chair advised that this objective would be maintained as well.

It was requested that the establishment of a municipal court be added as Objective 7.

Chief Beazley advised that Superintendent Brenda Zima as well as HRM Legal and Finance staff would be working on the municipal court committee. He asked if the Board wished to appoint a Commissioner.

MOVED by Commissioner Streach, seconded by Commissioner Ruth that the Board of Police Commissioners appoint Commissioner Kelly to the municipal court committee. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Superintendent Beaton indicated that Inspector Jeff Dalah was the RCMP representative on the committee.

Chief Beazley advised that the Department of Justice did not wish to participate on the committee but would read the final report.

6.2 Update re: Police 2011/2012 Budget Outcome

The Chair advised that the 2011/2012 Police Budget was presented to Council and was approved as submitted. He indicated that some Councillors did wonder how much the Board scrutinizes the budget; however, he was happy with the Board's approach of looking at cost items.

Commissioner Uteck stated that the Board should have broken the HRP budget down further and that she had an easier time understanding the RCMP budget. She indicated that this was a learning experience for her and she may be off base; however, there was not a lot of detail provided to question.

The Chair stated that the Board had the right to look at the budget further.

The Board requested an electronic copy of the budget.

Commissioner Ruth indicated that she would like to have more discussion and details on what was being done over the course of the year to get the budget under control.

Chief Beazley indicated that, over the next few months, HRP staff were planning on bringing the Board presentations on the services HRP provides and then they could review the budget; noting that 90% of the budget was for salaries and benefits. He advised that he would be meeting with the CAO at the beginning of June and would brief the Board on the outcome of that meeting. Chief Beazley also stated that the Board was welcome to look at the budget line by line.

Superintendent Beaton advised that the RCMP would also be open to having their finance staff provide further budgetary information.

Chief Beazley also indicated that HRP had their own financial staff and a budget consultant from HRM looking at the budget on a regular basis; noting HRP was governed under HRM spending policies. He stated that HRP compiles budget projections on a monthly basis and he could copy the Board when these projections were submitted; noting that, as per the Police Act, the Board had every right to look at the budget.

Commissioner Kelly advised there was a provincial body that reviews RCMP contracts and the Board could also be provided with a detailed presentation from the RCMP.

Discussion ensued on what route to take to review the budgets.

MOVED by Commissioner Moreash, seconded by Commissioner Ruth that the Board of Police Commissioners request quarterly budget reports from staff. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - NONE

8. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

8.1 Correspondence

8.1.1 Halifax Regional Police Association – Dave Moore, President

Correspondence dated January 31, 2011 from Mr. Dave Moore, President, Halifax Regional Police Association, was before the Board.

MOVED by Commissioner Kelly, seconded by Commissioner Moreash that the Board of Police Commissioner forward the correspondence dated January 31, 2011 to the Chief Administrative Officer for his review and consideration for the budgetary process.

Discussion on the motion ensued.

Councillor Uteck requested further information regarding interdepartmental transfers; noting this was a union issue and, as such, may be outside the scope of the CAO.

It was noted that both the HRP and HRM fund their own workman's compensation via a reserve budget.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

8.2 Petitions - None

8.3 Presentations

8.3.1 John Dunlop Memorial Award

This item was dealt with earlier in the meeting. Please see page 3.

8.3.2 Board of Police Commissioners 'Roles and Responsibilities' – Orientation for New Members

An HRP presentation was submitted.

An RCMP presentation was submitted.

The HRP Standard Operational Policy and Procedure Manual Sections 14 and 16 were submitted.

A copy of the HRP Standard Operational Policy and Procedure Manual, Items 14 & 16, were submitted.

Chief Beazley and Superintendent Beaton each provided presentations on the HRP and RCMP for the benefit of new members.

Regarding the submitted HRP Standard Operational Policy and Procedure Manual, Items 14 & 16 document, Chief Beazley requested this item be added to the June 13, 2011 agenda for the Board to accept the extra duty policy. He indicated that this was added to the Policy via the previous Board to require that any HRP member doing off duty work report to him once a year in order to provide an update on their business.

9. REPORTS

9.1 RCMP Reports

The April 2011 RCMP Reports and 1st Quarter Stats were before the Board.

Superintendent Beaton provided background information on the monthly RCMP reports for the benefit of new members.

Superintendent Beaton also provided an overview of the first quarter combined and independent statistics. Highlights were as follows:

- Persons related crime has increased by 7.1%; this is not a large increase
- Cases of attempted murder and shootings have caused the crimes against persons rate to inflate to 13 this quarter versus 7 during the first quarter of 2010
- There was almost a 14% reduction in property crime with 460 less incidents than during the first quarter of 2010
- There was a slight rise of 3% in 'Criminal Code Other'
- There was a total Criminal Code decrease of -5% which was positive

Regarding the victim services document, Superintendent Beaton stated that a new program had begun in April 2010 with a full time coordinators position; however, that member had been seconded and went back to their other duties so the unit was without a coordinator for a period. He indicated that one could see that gap reflected in the statistics; however, the position was now fully staffed once again.

A discussion ensued with staff responding to questions.

9.2 HRP Reports

The April 2011 HRP Reports and 1st Quarter Stats were before the Board.

Chief Beazley provided an overview of the first quarter combined and independent statistics. Highlights were as follows:

- HRP crimes against persons were up by 66 this quarter at a 10% increase from the first quarter of 2010
- There was a 3.5% reduction in the Criminal Code
- Property crime decreased from the first quarter of 2010 as well

Chief Beazley reviewed the April 2011 HRP reports as well.

A discussion ensued with staff responding to questions.

Commissioner Kelly asked if there was anything the Board could do to help the HRP and RCMP bring a sense of security back to the public as a result of the media attention as it relates to the ongoing issue of violent crime in HRM.

Chief Beazley advised that it was consistent in every study on violent crime that, in the majority of cases, those involved in such crimes are known each other. He stated that what has changed in HRM recently is that criminals were starting to use types of violence, such as guns, not used in the past for organized crime. Chief Beazley wanted to assure the public that none of the recent cases were random and that both the HRP and RCMP were conducting extensive investigations and every legal tactic they possibly could; noting they were also properly staffed. He advised that there was a

Crime Reduction Strategy in place that did not change every time there was a spike and that initiatives such as Project Breach for chronic offenders and a warrant program would help slow these crimes down and put more people in jail. Chief Beazley also stated that the Public Safety Strategy continues long term looking for the root causes of crime. In closing, he advised that they would ask if they needed anything and they would continue with their investigations.

Superintendent Beaton advised that they could probably solve 90% of cases if witnesses would speak; noting that witness protection funding does help this issue. He advised that RCMP were exploring many avenues to solve these crimes.

It was requested that an overview of the Graffiti Strategy be included on an upcoming agenda.

Commissioner Streach left the meeting at 2:53 p.m.

In closing, Chief Beazley advised that, since January 2011, the HRP and RCMP had taken 99 firearms off the street.

9.3 Public Safety Update – Superintendent Don Spicer

The Spotlight on Public Safety Newsletter Volume 3, Issue 5 was submitted.

Superintendent Spicer advised that the Public Safety Office was launching a pilot project for a crime prevention series, tentatively set to begin on June 8, 2011 for three Wednesdays in a row to highlight three crime prevention messages; personal and property safety, internet safety, and quality of life issues. He indicated that the series would be piloted in June to be available in all areas of HRM by the fall.

Superintendent Spicer also invited the Commissioners to attend a provincial Domestic Violence Action Plan presentation at 9:15 a.m. on June 13, 2011 at Police Headquarters.

In closing, Superintendent Spicer advised that he had emailed an electronic copy of the Public Safety Annual Report to the Board for their review for the next meeting. He stated that since they had all received it, it could be released to the public.

10. ADDED ITEMS - NONE

11. NEXT MEETING DATE – June 13, 2011

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:01 p.m.

Shawnee Gregory
Legislative Assistant

Information Item:

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