

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES

August 8, 2011

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

STAFF: Chief Frank Beazley, Halifax Regional Police
Deputy Chief Tony Burbridge, Halifax Regional Police
Superintendent Don Spicer, Halifax Regional Police
Inspector Ken Goodine, RCMP
Inspector Jeff Dowling, RCMP
Mr. Richard Butts, Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. Shawnee Gregory, Legislative Assistant

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	CALL TO ORDER.....	3
2.	APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 11, 2011.....	3
3.	APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS.....	3
4.	BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES.....	3
4.1	RCMP Annual Performance Plan.....	3
5.	CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - NONE.....	4
6.	CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS.....	4
6.1	Correspondence - None.....	4
6.2	Petitions - None.....	4
6.3	Presentations - None.....	4
7.	REPORTS.....	4
7.1	RCMP Reports.....	4
7.2	HRP Reports.....	4
7.2.1	Financial Update – HRP.....	5
7.3	Public Safety Update – Superintendent Don Spicer.....	5
8.	ADDED ITEMS.....	6
8.1	Training Programs for Police re: Suicide Prevention - Commissioner Kelly	6
9.	NEXT MEETING DATE – September 12, 2011.....	6
10.	ADJOURNMENT.....	6

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 11, 2011

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

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

Additions:

7.2.1 Financial Update - HRP

8.1 Training Programs for Police re: Suicide Prevention - Commissioner Kelly

The agenda was accepted as amended.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

4.1 RCMP Annual Performance Plan

The Halifax District RCMP Annual Performance Plan 2011 – 2012 presentation was before the Board.

Inspectors Ken Goodine and Jeff Dowling were in attendance in place of Superintendent Beaton who sent his regrets.

Inspector Goodine advised that the RCMP Annual Performance Plan was a cross - Canada initiative with a focus on operations to ensure that detachments are focussed on the appropriate areas of concern in their districts.

Commissioners Moreash and Uteck entered the meeting at 12:34 p.m.

Inspector Goodine presented the Halifax District RCMP Annual Performance Plan 2011 – 2012. He requested that the Board review the 2011 – 2012 priorities and, if they are in agreement with them, to sign a document advising of their approval. He indicated that reports would then come to the Board throughout the year in reference to these different initiatives.

A discussion on the presentation ensued with staff responding to questions.

Inspector Goodine indicated that priorities are set via community consultation, current cases and statistics. He stated that this was a living, non-confining document that was continually being adjusted as needed.

MOVED by Commissioner Kelly, seconded by Commissioner Moreash that the Board of Police Commissioners accept the Halifax District RCMP Annual Performance Plan 2011 – 2012 document as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - NONE

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

6.1 Correspondence - None

6.2 Petitions - None

6.3 Presentations - None

7. REPORTS

7.1 RCMP Reports

The July 2011 RCMP Reports were before the Board.

Inspector Goodine indicated that the July 2011 RCMP reports were as submitted; noting that training numbers were lower based on the time of year.

7.2 HRP Reports

The July 2011 HRP Reports and Combined Second Quarter Statistics were before the Board.

Chief Beazley indicated that the July 2011 HRP reports were as submitted. He advised that the main report to be reviewed by the Board was the Combined Second Quarter Statistics which he then presented. He indicated that violent crime was up, property crime and other crime was down and that, overall, crime in HRM had declined by 6.1%. He stated that the year to date saw persons crimes had risen by 5% which was driven by 7 additional homicides thus far in 2011.

Chief Beazley provided an update on what the HRP and RCMP were doing to deal with the issue of violent crime in HRM. He advised that they had put a plan into effect within the last two weeks and a second plan would be put in place in September in an attempt to deal with gun crime as, to date, there had been 49 shootings in HRM in 2011 which was up from 45 overall in 2010. He indicated that they seized 291 guns in 2010 and, to date in 2011, 154 evidence guns had been seized. Chief Beazley announced that the

RCMP and HRP have formed a Fire Arms Unit which would serve to identify and target those who they knew had firearms; noting that this was a temporary plan which would lead into a more permanent plan.

Chief Beazley advised that the second initiative the HRP and RCMP hoped to launch in September was called, Safe Cities; an initiative based out of Toronto. He stated that the program works closely with the gun registry which leads police to what previously registered firearms were no longer registered. He indicated that the officers could then speak to the owners in an attempt to deal with these guns; noting that sentences disallowing ownership of firearms were regularly handed down; however, police have no way of knowing if the guns have actually been disposed of and this program would provide that follow up. He advised that the program was a success in Toronto and that the police would be speaking publically about it as well as encouraging owners to turn over any unwanted guns; noting that about 50% of guns police seize are unregistered.

Chief Beazley stated that he would be addressing the Board of Directors from the Hunters and Fishers Association regarding safe gun storage and the difference between crime and smuggled guns in order to clear things up to put out a positive community message.

A discussion ensued with staff responding to questions.

Chief Beazley advised that police were able to trace approximately 90-95% of seized guns back to either homes or gun dealerships.

Superintendent Spicer advised that statistics show that 95% of these seized guns are domestically sourced.

7.2.1 Financial Update – HRP

A Financial Report for the period ending June 30, 2011 was submitted.

Chief Beazley reviewed the Financial Report for the period ending June 30, 2011; noting this was the budget report that he provides to HRM Finance. He stated that there were no major concerns with the financial report at this time and asked that the Commissioners review the document and ask any questions they may have at the September meeting.

Inspector Goodine indicated that there were no problems with the RCMP budget either and he would supply that information to the Board at the September meeting.

7.3 Public Safety Update – Superintendent Don Spicer

The Spotlight on Public Safety Newsletter Volume 3, Issue 8 was submitted.

Superintendent Spicer advised that he was currently working on a partnership with the IWK to look at how to get better mental health services to communities where youth were in need. He indicated that they had put a proposal forward to the National Crime Prevention Centre to bring the director of the Chicago Cease Fire Association along with directors from Philadelphia and Toronto where there were similar programs to meet with stakeholders, including the Board, to try and start a modified program in HRM.

Superintendent Spicer also announced a partnership between HRP, Dalhousie University and Coburg Coffee to circulate coffee sleeves with crime prevention messages during the upcoming school year.

8. ADDED ITEMS

8.1 Training Programs for Police re: Suicide Prevention - Commissioner Kelly

Commissioner Kelly inquired as to what kind of programming the police had with regards to suicide prevention.

Chief Beazley advised that the HRP program, Suicide Intervention, was a thorough two day program. He stated that a program dealing with issues around thoughts of suicide amongst police and armed forces personnel was also put on via their Employee Assistance Program. Chief Beazley indicated that they would be pleased to hold the training for Board members; noting this was an ongoing training program for police.

It was noted that police statistics for suicide were fairly consistent and that, as training improves, the numbers actually rise as members are better able to notice such calls for help.

Superintendent Spicer noted that there was an international program held twice a year called, Suicide First Aid, which was good for both work and home life. He stated that he would follow up with the Board regarding when the next session would be scheduled.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE – September 12, 2011

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Shawnee Gregory
Legislative Assistant

Information Item

1. NSAPB Newsletter #3