

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES

September 19, 2011

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

REGRETS: Commissioner Sue Uteck
Commissioner Peter Kelly

STAFF: Chief Frank Beazley, Halifax Regional Police
Deputy Chief Chris McNeil, Halifax Regional Police
Superintendent Don Spicer, Halifax Regional Police
Chief Superintendent Jean-Michel Blais, RCMP
Inspector Jeff Dowling, 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 12:36 p.m. in the Meisner Room, Police Headquarters.

The Chair made a presentation to Superintendent Beaton who was relocating within the RCMP from his position in the Halifax District. The Chair thanked him for his work with the Board.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – August 8, 2011

MOVED by Commissioner Read, seconded by Commissioner Moreash that the minutes of August 8, 2011 be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions:

7.3.1 Report on HRP and RCMP's Public Meetings

8.1 Presentation – CAPB Conference, Regina – Commissioner Ruth

8.2 Presentation – NSAPB Conference, Bridgewater – Commissioner Moreash

Deletion:

6.3.1 Policing in Germany – Detective Chief Superintendent Bernd-Michael Sorg

It was agreed that Information Item 1 be added to the agenda immediately following item 4.1.

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

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

4.1 Suicide Prevention re: Dispatch Statistics

HRP Police Dispatch Statistics were before the Board.

Chief Beazley reviewed the HRP Police Dispatch Statistics with the Board; noting that the purpose of sharing this information from an educational purpose was to advise that such calls take time. He indicated that the integrated unit has made this service better and that while the number of calls has risen, this could be explained by the fact that the police have become better able to handle these situations. Chief Beazley advised that the causes and reasons why people attempt suicide must be talked about more often; noting that there was currently more training in the police service regarding how to deal

with individuals who are mentally ill. In closing, he stated that officers receive suicide prevention training and offered the same training to the Board if any Commissioners were interested.

Information Item 1: Online Incident Reporting

An information report dated August 10, 2011 was before the Board.

Captain Kevin Tulk, Site Manager CNS, HRP, provided an overview of the information report.

Inspector Jeff Dowling advised that the RCMP have been working with Captain Tulk in order to get the RCMP on the same system; noting that it should be up and running soon.

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - NONE

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

6.1 Correspondence - None

6.2 Petitions - None

6.3 Presentations

6.3.1 Firearms – Chief Beazley, HRP

The Presentation to the Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters was submitted.

Chief Beazley provided the presentation regarding firearms which he recently gave to the Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters.

Chief Beazley then announced additional efforts to deal with the gun problem in HRM that HRP and RCMP had introduced over the summer; noting they had created a new integrated Drug and Gun Team with the goal of targeting mid level drug dealers who carry and use guns in HRM. He stated that the temporary team which had been in place was successful in taking 11 firearms off the street since July 2011.

Chief Beazley advised that the second piece of the mandate for the new group was to look at the source of guns. He stated that every year the Court prohibits people from owning guns and this team would follow up on the direction of the Court to ensure these orders were being followed. He indicated that the team would also contact owners of guns that have not been re-registered and also provide options for these people to lawfully dispose of their firearms or surrender them to police.

7. REPORTS

7.1 RCMP Reports

The August 2011 RCMP Reports were before the Board.

The Chair introduced the new Chief Superintendent, Mr. Jean-Michel Blais.

Chief Superintendent Blais advised that the August 2011 RCMP reports were as submitted.

7.2 HRP Reports

The August 2011 HRP Reports were before the Board.

Chief Beazley advised that the August 2011 HRP reports were as submitted.

The meeting recessed at 1:23 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 1:28 p.m.

7.3 Public Safety Update – Superintendent Don Spicer

The Spotlight on Public Safety Newsletter Volume 3, Issue 9 was submitted.

Superintendent Spicer advised that the Spotlight on Public Safety Newsletter Volume 3, Issue 9 was as submitted. He provided an update on the ceasefire initiative; noting that an open meeting would occur in 2012 and all were welcome to attend.

Superintendent Spicer also announced that the partnership with the IWK for the Early Intervention Service for Youth had begun in the Scotia Court area of Dartmouth; noting the IWK employees would go right into the community and HRP has offered them space in their community offices. He handed out the new referral form; noting the form had been amended to be one simple page and that community officers would aid parents in filling it out, if necessary. He stated that the program was geared at youth between the ages of nine and 12; however, they would also consider youth close to those ages as their goal was to target those that were not yet in the criminal system before they commit a crime. Superintendent Spicer advised that the average wait with the old method was 18 months which would now be substantially shortened.

7.3.1 Report on HRP and RCMP's Public Meetings

The Report to the HRM Board of Police Commissioners on HRP and RCMP's Public Meetings was submitted.

Superintendent Spicer stated that in June of 2011 HRP piloted the Crime Prevention Series initiative which was a success; therefore, HRP wanted to bring it to the greater community. He indicated that they were now proposing a hybrid approach to the

traditional town hall meetings HRP conduct each year to include crime prevention sessions as well. He advised that each meeting would include a different topical crime prevention tip related to that area and would then conclude with the town hall session.

Chief Beazley encouraged the Commissioners to attend these meetings if they were available; noting that a year end report would be completed as well as complainants followed up with if they submit their contact information.

Chief Superintendent Blais advised that the RCMP and HRP would not be combining these meetings; however, he would be in attendance.

8. ADDED ITEMS

8.1 Presentation – CAPB Conference, Regina – Commissioner Ruth

Commissioner Ruth provided the presentation on the Canadian Association of Police Boards (CAPB) National Conference held in Regina, Saskatchewan in August 2011.

Commissioner Ruth suggested, after speaking briefly with the Chair and Chief Beazley, that the Board conduct a Strategic Planning Session.

It was indicated that a document regarding this matter would be included on the next meeting agenda.

Chief Beazley advised that he would support this initiative as it was the Board's role to help the commanding officer put together the strategic approach or visioning for police services. He suggested that the Commissioners consider the level of commitment they are able to give as this would take a series of meetings, probably on weekends, to complete. He indicated that any plan they developed would have to include HRM's Corporate Outcome Areas piece and that the timing was good as staff would be commencing their business planning soon with the new Chief Administrative Officer.

Chief Superintendent Blais echoed Chief Beazley's comments; noting that he would provide the Board with some information on what the RCMP were doing so far with their strategic direction.

8.2 Presentation – NSAPB Conference, Bridgewater – Commissioner Moreash

Commissioner Moreash provided a presentation on the Nova Scotia Association of Police Boards Conference held in Bridgewater in September 2011.

The Chair stated that the Department of Justice had announced the training program for new members which would likely take place in October; noting he would send the dates to the new Commissioners.

September 19, 2011

9. NEXT MEETING DATE – October 17, 2011

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:28 p.m.

Shawnee Gregory
Legislative Assistant

Information Item

1. Online Incident Reporting – Information Report