

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES

November 14, 2011

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

REGRETS: Commissioner Phillip Read

STAFF: Chief Frank Beazley, Halifax Regional Police
Deputy Chief Chris McNeil, Halifax Regional Police
Superintendent Don Spicer, Halifax Regional Police
Superintendent Jean-Michel Blais, RCMP
Inspector Joanne Crampton, RCMP
Ms. Shawnee Gregory, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

Prior to the meeting being called to order, Chief Beazley and the Chair made a presentation in recognition of the staff who worked on Online Reporting System initiative. Presentations were made to Ms. Beth Udby, Ms. Wendy Mansfield, Master Warrant Officer Sandi Foster and Captain Kevin Tulk.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:43 p.m. in the Meisner Room, Police Headquarters.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 19, 2011

MOVED by Commissioner Moreash, seconded by Commissioner Ruth that the minutes of September 19, 2011 be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions:

7.1.2 Victoria Park Eviction Budget – Commissioner Uteck

8.1 Serious Incident Response Team Update – Chief Beazley

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

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

4.1 Strategic Planning Initiative

A Strategic Planning – General Outline was before the Board.

The Chair indicated that the Board should make a decision of the scope of planning resources to devote to a potential Strategic Planning Initiative.

Commissioner Ruth indicated that this idea came about as a result of a discussion held at the Canadian Association of Police Boards (CAPB) Conference in August. She reviewed her Strategic Planning – General Outline plan with the Board; suggesting that a team be put in place for this initiative.

A discussion on the matter ensued.

Commissioner Kelly indicated that Commissioner Ruth's intention was valid; however, that work could be done via the existing Board.

Commissioner Ruth stated that she did not envision the group consisting of the entire Board but instead a group that would work with the police as a mechanism of constant review.

Chief Beazley advised that policing in HRM has been under review since HRP integrated with the RCMP in 2003. He also noted the following initiatives that have taken place since that time, including the Policing Resources Study in 2008, the Violence and Public Safety Council Focus Area, the Mayors Roundtable on Violence, and the annual Public Safety Report; indicating the RCMP has a strategic plan and the Partnering for Public Safety Plan has also been improved. He advised that, as HRM was currently undergoing corporate change, timing was an issue for a new initiative as he and his staff would be busy until April 2012. Chief Beazley suggested that the Board instead make themselves familiar with the above mentioned initiatives as he was mandated by the direction of Council to complete their focus areas and a business plan.

Commissioner Moreash volunteered to be involved in the initiative.

The Chair advised that planning for this could range for something short to several days or weeks. He stated that, as a minimum, the Board should at least set their goals for 2012; noting that planning for hosting the National Conference would be one.

MOVED by Commissioner Kelly, seconded by Commissioner Uteck that the Board of Police Commissioners schedule a special meeting or add on to their regular meeting to discuss and move forward the Strategic Planning Initiative. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4.2 Municipal Court Update

The Report on the Status of Municipal Courts in Canada was before the Board.

Chief Beazley advised that there was a meeting with the sub committee on this matter; noting that the ESOT project, which will make court time more efficient, is ongoing and has tied up some staff resources. He indicated that the Deputy Minister they had been discussing this with will be retiring at the end of November, and recommended that the Board wait until a new Minister is appointed to further this matter.

MOVED by Commissioner Moreash, seconded by Commissioner Kelly that the Board of Police Commissioners defer this project until a new Deputy Minister is in place. 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 Staff

7.1.1 RCMP Reports

The September & October 2011 RCMP Reports and Third Quarter Stats were before the Board.

Superintendent Blais indicated that the October sick leave statistic should be amended to five rather than six.

MOVED by Commissioner Kelly, seconded by Commissioner Moreash that the Board of Police Commissioners accept the September & October 2011 RCMP Reports and Third Quarter Stats as submitted. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7.1.2 HRP Reports

The September & October 2011 HRP Reports and Third Quarter Stats were before the Board.

Chief Beazley reviewed the Third Quarter Stats with the Board. He stated that a number of gun searches had taken place since the last meeting and that, in total, the police had taken 196 firearms off the street since January, 96 of which were crime guns; noting that the guns were still coming from break and enters in homes and businesses.

In response to a question regarding how useful the Long Gun Registry was to police, Chief Beazley stated that he supported the Registry and that he will no longer have the ability to trace where sawed off shotguns and rifles come from once it is gone. He indicated that the ability to work internationally will also be impacted.

MOVED by Commissioner Kelly, seconded by Commissioner Moreash that the Board of Police Commissioners accept the September & October 2011 HRP Reports and Third Quarter Stats as submitted. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Victoria Park Eviction Budget – Commissioner Uteck

Chief Beazley advised that, prior to the events on November 11, 2011, HRP had spent approximately \$25,000 in overtime. He stated that since then the total cost was now at approximately \$128,000; noting that costs would continue to rise as major demonstrations take place since patrols will have to be increased.

MOVED by Commissioner Kelly, seconded by Commissioner Streach that the Board of Police Commissioners accept the Victoria Park Eviction Budget report. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7.1.3 Public Safety Update – Superintendent Don Spicer

The Spotlight on Public Safety Newsletter Volume 3, Issue 10 was before the Board.

The Spotlight on Public Safety Newsletter Volume 3, Issue 11 was submitted.

Superintendent Spicer stated that the IWK partnership was now operational in all HRM public housing areas and that access to mental health for youth in these communities had been greatly improved as a result. He also indicated that he would be speaking to a class at St. Mary's University on November 15, 2011 to look at a partnership opportunity to have graduate students team up with a Public Safety Officer and Tenants Association to come up with a plan for their area. Superintendent Spicer noted there was a new partnership between Metro Turning Point and Addiction Services to bring services to the community. In closing, he announced the public launch of the Public Safety Blog would take place on November 15, 2011.

MOVED by Commissioner Kelly, seconded by Commissioner Ruth that the Board of Police Commissioners accept the Public Safety Update. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7.2 Board Members

7.2.1 Board Training – Chair

The Chair indicated that Board Training had been scheduled for December 1, 2011 from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. in the Department of Justice building.

It was noted that Commissioner Streach could not attend this session.

The Chair will follow up as the Department of Justice is able to reschedule if the majority of members cannot attend on December 1.

7.2.2 Update - Hosting of 2014 National Conference - Chair

The Chair advised that the previous and current Boards had agreed to volunteer to host the 2014 national CAPB conference and, as a result, they now must submit a formal proposal.

It was noted that Commissioner Kelly and Mr. Richard Butts, Chief Administrative Officer, would get back to the Chair on whether the Board requires Council's support to move forward this initiative.

It was noted that much of the funding would be shared with the National CAPB Board and that they have been able to cover their costs thus far.

Chief Beazley noted; however, that there may be some up front costs to get the initiative started.

It was noted that Commissioner Ruth was the Chair of this initiative and Commissioner Uteck would be involved as well.

The Chair asked how many members the Board could send to the National Conference in Victoria, BC, in the summer of 2012.

MOVED by Commissioner Moreash, seconded by Commissioner Kelly that the Board of Police Commissioners send two members to the 2012 National Conference in Victoria, BC. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

8. ADDED ITEMS

8.1 Serious Incident Response Team – Chief Beazley

The Chair announced that a team lead had been appointed by the Province to the Serious Incident Response Team and would now start building their team.

Chief Beazley advised that the team lead would be hiring permanent staff first and would then communicate with the police about the mandated secondments; one each from the RCMP and HRP. He advised that the team lead would also like to meet with the Board.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE – December 12, 2011

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Shawnee Gregory
Legislative Assistant