

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES

January 9, 2012

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

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	CALL TO ORDER.....	3
	ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR	3
2.	APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 12, 2011.....	3
3.	APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS.....	3
4.	BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - NONE.....	3
5.	CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - NONE.....	3
6.	CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS	3
6.1	Correspondence	3
6.1.1	Nova Scotia Association of Police Boards (NSAPB) Newsletter #4 – January 2012 – Mr. David Walker, President, NSAPB	4
6.2	Petitions - None	4
6.3	Presentations - None	4
7.	REPORTS	4
7.1	Staff	4
7.1.1	RCMP Reports	4
7.1.2	HRP Reports & Budget Update.....	4
7.1.3	Public Safety Update – Superintendent Don Spicer.....	4
7.2	Committee Members.....	5
7.2.1	2012 Strategic Objectives - Chair.....	5
8.	ADDED ITEMS	7
8.1	Mayor’s Roundtable on Violence re: Public Communication – Commissioner Uteck.....	7
8.2	Policing Reports for Commissioners – Commissioner Uteck	7
8.2	2014 Conference Update – Commissioner Ruth	8
8.4	Department of Justice Steering Committee Representative - Chair.....	8
9.	NEXT MEETING DATE – February 13, 2012.....	10
10.	ADJOURNMENT	10

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:33 p.m. in the Meisner Room, Police Headquarters.

ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

The Legislative Assistant called for nominations for Chair of the Board of Police Commissioners for 2012.

MOVED by Commissioner Uteck, seconded by Commissioner Read that Commissioner Gosse be elected as Chair for 2012. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The Chair called for nominations for Vice Chair for 2012.

MOVED by Commissioner Moreash, seconded by Commissioner Kelly that Commissioner Ruth be elected as Vice Chair for 2012. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 12, 2011

MOVED by Commissioner Kelly, seconded by Commissioner Moreash that the minutes of December 12, 2011 be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions:

- 8.1 Mayor's Roundtable on Violence re: Public Communication – Commissioner Uteck
- 8.2 Policing Reports for Commissioners – Commissioner Uteck
- 8.3 2014 Conference Update – Commissioner Ruth
- 8.4 Department of Justice Steering Committee Representative - Chair

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

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - NONE

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - NONE

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

6.1 Correspondence

6.1.1 Nova Scotia Association of Police Boards (NSAPB) Newsletter #4 – January 2012 – Mr. David Walker, President, NSAPB

The Nova Scotia Association of Police Boards (NSAPB) Newsletter #4 – January 2012 was before the Board.

The draft NSAPB By-laws for February 2012 were before the Board.

The Chair advised that the NSAPB was looking at increasing the number of representatives from seven to nine in order to include representatives from advisory boards. He indicated this would require an amendment to their constitution which would be done at the next annual meeting.

6.2 Petitions - None

6.3 Presentations - None

7. REPORTS

7.1 Staff

7.1.1 RCMP Reports

The December 2011 RCMP Reports were before the Board.

Superintendent Blais indicated that the December 2011 RCMP reports were as submitted.

An update on the RCMP budget was made after the HRP Budget Update. Please see page 10.

7.1.2 HRP Reports & Budget Update

The December 2011 HRP Reports were before the Board.

A budget document dated December 15, 2011 was before the Board.

Chief Beazley indicated that the December 2011 HRP reports were as submitted.

The HRP Budget Update was dealt with later in the meeting. Please see page 8.

7.1.3 Public Safety Update – Superintendent Don Spicer

The Spotlight on Public Safety Newsletter Volume 4, Issue 1 was submitted.

A document titled Crime Free Multi-Housing Program was submitted.

Superintendent Spicer indicated that the Spotlight on Public Safety Newsletter Volume 4, Issue 1 was as submitted.

Superintendent Spicer circulated a document on a new initiative in British Columbia titled Crime Free Multi – Housing Program; an initiative that began in the United States which he would like to bring to HRM as a partnership between HRP, RCMP and the private sector. He reviewed the document with the Board.

Superintendent Spicer advised that the program was voluntary and participation had to be renewed each year; noting a volunteer or community officer would annually ensure that the buildings were in compliance.

Regarding the potential to hold a Pixels for Pistols or similar initiative again as it had been a successful program, Chief Beazley advised that they could investigate whether there was any corporate interest for sponsoring such an incentive based event. He added that police had taken 530 firearms off the street in 2011.

7.2 Committee Members

7.2.1 2012 Strategic Objectives - Chair

The Board reviewed their 2011 Strategic Objectives and amended the list for 2012 as follows:

1. Prepare A Positive Bid to Host the 2014 Canadian Association of Police Boards (CAPB) Conference.

The Board agreed to leave this item on the list as the event would take place in 2014.

2. Liaise with the Provincial Department of Justice and 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 advised that a Director had been appointed to the Serious Incident Response Team and Deputy Chief McNeil had been appointed from HRP to work out secondment details; noting a Memorandum of Understanding was to be created and work would continue throughout 2012.

The Board agreed to remove this item from the list.

3. Establishment of a Board Budget within the Existing HRP Budget

This item had previously been taken off the 2011 list; however, the Board agreed to add it for 2012.

It was noted that the Board was looking for a line item in the HRP Budget rather than their own budget.

4. Ensure Suitable Representation at Conferences

The Board agreed to remove this item as they had already met this objective.

5. Have New Board Members Attend Board Training

The Board agreed to remove this item as they had just met this objective as well.

6. Smooth out Board Transition to New Members

The Board agreed to leave this item on the list.

It was noted that turnover on the Board should include succession planning and that a balance of genders and minorities should be sought during the planning stages and recruitment process, if possible.

7. Establishment of a Municipal Court

The Board agreed to remove this item as the Province did not plan on changing their approach to the Court system.

8. Communication/Public Relations Campaign for Public Engagement

Commissioner Uteck requested that this item be included for 2012. She suggested a public relations campaign to aid in the work already being done by the Public Safety Office to get the public further engaged in taking back their communities. She indicated that the Board could come up with ideas to further engage the public and develop a communications plan.

Chief Beazley advised that this suggestion would fit in with the current Safe and Welcoming Communities Strategy that HRP was working on via a number of corporate public safety strategies. He stated that a lot of information on policing was already being posted on Twitter, Facebook and via media releases; however, what sometimes gets lost is the single crimes that shock the public as despite the spike in gun crime and homicides in 2011, crimes against persons were actually down by almost 56% and property crimes by 33% over the last five years. He stated that he could bring HRP communications staff in for a meeting with the Board.

The Board agreed to add this item to the list and requested a crime presentation at a future meeting.

9. HRP Contract Negotiations

The Board agreed to add this item to the list.

A new 2012 Strategic Objectives list will be drafted and forwarded to the Board for their information.

8. ADDED ITEMS

8.1 Mayor's Roundtable on Violence re: Public Communication – Commissioner Uteck

This item was addressed under item 7.2.1. Please see page 6.

8.2 Policing Reports for Commissioners – Commissioner Uteck

Commissioner Uteck requested a comparison of the internal HRP reports and media reports which the Board and Council currently receive.

Chief Beazley advised that some action was already being taken on this request as a result of the December 2011 Board meeting.

Superintendent Blais indicated that reports were currently sent out from both the HRP and RCMP. He stated that the RCMP report goes to Councillors, Senior Managers and MLAs from the Watch Commanders with a summary of what has occurred over the last 24 hours and another goes to the media; noting the HRP report was a bit different. He indicated that the two organizations were hoping to create one specific, harmonized report and had just purchased crime mapping software as well to help the RCMP and HRP with their internal crime reduction program. He requested two months to complete this work.

The Board agreed that they would like greater engagement in the reporting process.

Chief Beazley advised that HRP completes a media report for the areas of interest the public needs to know about. He indicated the only other report HRP completes is the Watch Commander report which was designed to provide daily information to the Chief of Police similar to a briefing note; noting these reports have never been broadly sent out to Councillors or Boards. Chief Beazley stated that, in the Police Act, there was a clear division between what the Board and Chief of Police does; the Board provides governance to ensure the Chief is taking care of day to day operations which were under his jurisdiction and which he had total control over. He indicated that the Act compels him to bring the HRP budget to the Board and the Board could hold public meetings and communications in support of the police; however, if there was something extra in particular that the Board wanted to know, he wondered if it information the Board required to do its job or if it was just information they wanted to know as they were getting close the day to day operations of the HRP by requesting such additional

information. In closing, he advised that he would bring Councillors up to date on issues in their Districts if they asked; noting there were also privacy issues to consider.

Commissioner Moreash stated that this matter required further discussion as he believed the Board was not getting sufficient information nor did he think there was any conflict with the issue.

It was noted that the RCMP and HRP would continue investigating the harmonized reports matter as indicated at the December 2011 meeting.

8.2 2014 Conference Update – Commissioner Ruth

Commissioner Ruth reported back to the Board that the host community of the Canadian Association of Police Boards (CAPB) Conference has to provide \$25,000 for the event which they do not get back. She indicated that at the end of the 2013 conference, the host of the 2014 conference would host a breakfast to speak about the area in which the upcoming conference would be held. Commissioner Ruth stated this would be a chance to showcase Halifax; however, there would probably be a cost involved with this as well; yet it would also be beneficial for tourism advertising. In closing, she advised that, before she could tell CAPB that Halifax could host the 2014 conference, she had to know the \$25,000 would be available.

Chief Beazley advised that the HRP did not have the available funding in its budget.

Commissioner Uteck indicated that she would approach Destination Halifax to see if they would be interested in this funding opportunity as this event would not qualify for Special Events or Council budget funding.

8.4 Department of Justice Steering Committee Representative - Chair

MOVED by Commissioner Kelly, seconded by Commissioner Read that Commissioner Moreash be appointed to the Department of Justice Steering Committee on policing standards. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The meeting recessed at 1:37 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 1:44 p.m. with the same members present.

7.1.2 HRP Budget Update

The presentation for the First Draft of the 2012-2013 HRP Budget dated January 2012 was submitted.

The HRP 2012/13 Operating Budget Situation (Summary) was submitted.

Chief Beazley provided opening remarks to the presentation of the first draft of the 2012-2013 HRP Budget and thanked his staff including Deputy Chiefs Burbridge and McNeil, Superintendent Bill Moore, Ms. Barbara Palmeter, Financial Consultant and Mr. Craig Horton, Financial Coordinator, for helping with the process. Chief Beazley advised that Superintendent Moore had gone through the process of reviewing the budget by completing a five year trend analysis and also looking at spending to see what HRP did and did not need as all HRM business units had been given a target of a 0 based budget; this includes absorbing the raises for the union and non union employees.

Superintendent Moore provided the presentation of the 2012-2013 HRP Budget.

In closing the presentation, Chief Beazley reiterated that while budget cuts had been made upon completing the five year review, HRP had not touched their core policing services.

Mr. Richard Butts, Chief Administrative Officer, advised that the goal and challenge for all HRM business units was to work aggressively on expenditure management. He indicated that these budget cuts would not negatively impact boots on the street and the HRP budget was challenging yet achievable.

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

Superintendent Blais advised that staff did not yet know the total projected RCMP cost with salaries for 2012-2013; however, the projected operating budget was \$2,800,000.

Ms. Palmeter indicated that finance staff was using a 5% increase for their RCMP projections.

Chief Beazley advised that HRP's largest budget cost is for salaries, benefits and overtime; noting if a highly unusual event did occur, the budget would not address that; however, HRP does have a reserve for extraordinary events which they could request from the CAO and Council, if required.

Commissioner Uteck advised that she did not agree with the presented budget cuts of \$163,000 on page 14 of the presentation as she was concerned that the public perception of policing would be impacted.

Chief Beazley advised that over \$2,000,000 in total cuts were being made and he did not know where else to cut from the budget which he supported. He encouraged the Board to review the document and provide further suggestions; noting they had chosen the things that, if cut, would not impact HRP's ability to investigate crime.

Chief Beazley also indicated that there would not be many retirements in the near future as they currently had a young force.

It was noted that the Board would further address the budget at their next meeting and they were encouraged to contact Chief Beazley or Superintendent Moore as soon as possible in the meantime with any questions or suggestions.

Regarding the removal of the permanent downtown surveillance cameras, Chief Beazley indicated that HRP had recently purchased portable equipment that could be used in hot spots.

Commissioner Read requested that staff ensure that no capital items are put in the operating budget.

The current quarter update for the RCMP budget was submitted.

Superintendent Blais advised that the update was simply for the Board's information to bring them up to date.

Inspector Jeff Dowling advised that presented was the operating budget that the Superintendent could control including overtime but not capital or salaries; noting \$3,100,000 was the budget available to him. He stated that at this time, at the third quarter of the year, they had spent 70% of budget and the projected year end would; therefore, be 95% of the budget depending on overtime claims.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE – February 13, 2012

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:03 p.m.

Shawnee Gregory
Legislative Assistant