

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES

March 12, 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
Deputy Chief Tony Burbridge, Halifax Regional Police
Superintendent Don Spicer, Halifax Regional Police
Superintendent Jean Michel Blais, RCMP
Inspector Joanne Crampton, RCMP
Mr. Richard Butts, Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. Shawnee Gregory, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 13, 2012

MOVED by Commissioner Streach, seconded by Commissioner Moreash that the minutes of February 13, 2012 be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions:

8.1 Commissioner Updates – Chair

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

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - NONE

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

5.1 Motion of Referral - Regional Council – January 28, 2012

An extract of the draft Regional Council minutes dated January 24, 2012 was before the Board.

The 2000 Report re: Community Mobilization Program was before the Board.

Councillor Smith was present to speak on behalf of his motion from Council. He stated that the motion was driven by inquiries from residents regarding the root causes of crime; noting that he had not heard any complaints about the work the police was doing and this would be a community driven initiative. He advised that the 2000 Community Mobilization Program document which he submitted focussed on preventative crime and also made recommendations; many of which had not yet been implemented. Councillor Smith indicated that he would like to see a Council initiative to speak to the communities most impacted by crime to see what they believe the root causes of crime are and how HRM could move forward.

A discussion ensued.

Commissioner Kelly stated that this information may already be available as the debate had taken place during the Mayor's Roundtable on Violence, which had included

Council. He advised that they spoke to the community and also found that some of the root causes of crime are poverty, lack of education, and mental illness.

Councillor Smith advised that he did not get the sense from the most impacted communities that they had been spoken to.

Chief Beazley indicated that the Safer and Stronger Communities Committee had been in place since 2006 and was comprised of the HRP, RCMP, and Province. He announced that, next April, the Committee would be reviewing what had been accomplished since then and what could be added; noting they would be meeting with the Department of Justice, Community Services, the RCMP and Chief Administrative Officer to look at the issues and some of the longer term solutions. He advised that he did not see any short term changes at this time and did not want to raise expectations; however, he did agree with community engagement; noting he had invited Mr. Paul Shakotko, from the United Way, to the meeting. Chief Beazley also indicated that North End Dartmouth consisted of a number of communities that would not come together because of their layout and that there was a higher percentage of low income households than in HRM; 35% versus 15% in the rest of HRM. He stated that they were looking at how to change the strategy of working with these communities and had met with the Minister on what could be done differently. He advised that those who want to form community groups should know there are no short term fixes; noting that as the community continues to come up with plans, they should go to their Councillor to look for funding for groups and projects and to see if grants are available. Chief Beazley stated that the community has to get out ahead of the problems.

Mr. Shakotko advised that the United Way believes the solution lies within the residents themselves; noting that in North Dartmouth, they link residents who want to start initiatives and, paired with understanding the root causes of crime, this course of action was working thus far.

Chief Beazley advised that the HRP would support a community group in any way they could.

It was agreed that Councillor Smith was welcome to move forward with his initiative and did not require permission from the Board to do so.

Commissioner Uteck entered the meeting at 1:08 p.m.

MOVED by Commissioner Streach, seconded by Commissioner Kelly that Chief Beazley respond to Council's request at it relates to the referral and offer to work with the community. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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 February 2012 RCMP Reports were before the Board.

Chief Superintendent Jean Michel Blais indicated that the February 2012 RCMP reports were as submitted.

7.1.2 HRP Reports & Budget Update

The February 2012 HRP Reports were before the Board.

Chief Beazley indicated that the February 2012 HRP reports were as submitted.

Chief Beazley circulated an updated budget; noting a decision had been made to centralize interdepartmental costs around fleet so \$2,000,000 would be transferred and the new budget number was \$69,906,600.

MOVED by Commissioner Kelly, seconded by Commissioner Ruth that the Board of Police Commissioners approve the Halifax Regional Police 2012-2013 Preliminary Operating Budget of \$69,906,600. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Chief Beazley also circulated the 2012/13 Annual Business Plan; noting the final version, as populated by HRM Finance staff, would be available by 4:30 p.m.

7.1.3 Public Safety Update – Superintendent Don Spicer

The March 2012 Spotlight on Public Safety Newsletter was submitted.

Superintendent Spicer indicated that the March 2012 Spotlight on Public Safety Newsletter was as submitted.

Superintendent Spicer announced that the crime prevention strategy on violence against women titled the Don't Be that Guy campaign would be fully funded via the Department of Justice; noting the Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women and the Restaurant Association were also involved in the initiative. Superintendent Spicer also advised that a pilot project dealing with intervention would commence in the Gottingen Street and Uniacke Square area. He stated the initiative was for people involved with drugs and violence; noting that criminals would meet with

the HRP and could chose between being fully prosecuted or getting help. He stated that partners were gradually coming on board and the program would be up and running by September. He advised that an employment and adult education section would be individualized with the purpose of finding ways of making such people more employable.

8. ADDED ITEMS

8.1 Commissioner Updates

The Chair advised that he was on the selection panel for the New Deputy Chief of HRP; noting interviews had been held the week prior and more would be held on March 13, 2012.

Commissioner Ruth advised that she had gone to Ottawa with the Canadian Association of Police Boards (CAPB) to meet with Senator and MPs regarding Bill C-10 which had been passed that day. She stated that the Conservatives were not open for discussion; however, the Liberals were and a number of people in the Senate were also following up.

Commissioner Uteck advised that she had submitted the letter of intent to CAPB to host the conference in 2014 and had, with the help of Destination Halifax, submitted a tourism package to Ottawa.

Commissioner Moreash announced that the first meeting of the Policing Standards Steering Committee would be held on April 4, 2012.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE – April 16, 2012

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:28 p.m.

Shawnee Gregory
Legislative Assistant