

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES

January 14, 2013

PRESENT: Commissioner Earl Gosse, Chair  
Commissioner Micki Ruth, Vice Chair  
Commissioner Michael Moreash  
Commissioner Phillip Read  
Commissioner Linda Mosher  
Commissioner Tim Outhit  
Commissioner Barry Dalrymple

REGRETS: Chief Jean-Michel Blais

STAFF: Deputy Chief Chris McNeil, Halifax Regional Police  
Deputy Chief Bill Moore, Halifax Regional Police  
Inspector Dennis Daley, RCMP  
Sergeant R. Scott Macdonald  
Inspector Roland Wells, RCMP  
Mr. Richard Butts, CAO  
Mr. Matt Godwin, Legislative Assistant

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:31 p.m. in the Meisner Room, Police Headquarters.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 10, 2012**

The minutes of December 10, 2012 were before the Board.

**MOVED by Commissioner Moreash, seconded by Commissioner Read that the minutes of December 10, 2012 be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

Moved: Board of Police Commissioners' Objectives 2013 moved to item number 5.

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

The Chair welcomed Inspector Roland Wells from the RCMP, who will soon be attending Board meetings as the Officer in Charge (OIC). The Board offered its congratulations on his appointment.

Inspector Daley will represent the RCMP for this meeting.

**4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES**

**4.1 Letter from Mr. David Potter Re: HRM Police Crime Map – Commissioner Mosher**

A letter from Mr. David Potter was before the Board.

**5. Board of Police Commissioners' Objectives 2013**

The Board of Police Commissioners' Objectives 2013 were before the Board.

The Chair advised the last time these objectives were updated was in August, 2012 and he would like the Board to revisit these and determine what the priorities would be for 2013. He noted he has made some changes to the August, 2012 document.

**6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – December 10, 2013**

**6.1 Presentation on Disclosure Procedures**

Deputy Chief Moore circulated a briefing note to the HRM Board of Police Commissioners and provided background on this item.

The item regards the public release of information about an individual of concern living near a school in the HRM. Officers provided information to the school and it was released into a public forum without the knowledge of the officers. Deputy Chief Moore undertook a review of this process and found that the situation did not meet the criteria for designating the individual a high-risk offender.

With respect to notification, staff have closed the gap to ensure a more seamless process in the future.

Commissioner Dalrymple indicated his support for the officers' approach.

Deputy Chief McNeil noted it's not possible for the HRP to be aware of the backgrounds of all individuals living in a community and they only become aware when a notification is received.

Inspector Daley advised the RCMP follows the same protocol.

**7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS – NONE**

**8. REPORTS**

**8.1 Staff**

**8.1.1 RCMP Reports**

The December 2012 RCMP reports were before the Board.

Commissioner Read noted there appears to be more interest from the public in notifying detachments of issues.

Inspector Daley welcomed the point and noted there was a great deal of media over the holidays encouraging the public to report road issues, such as impaired driving.

Commissioner Dalrymple applauded staff on the degree of training taking place.

**8.1.2 HRP Reports**

The December 2012 HRP reports were before the Board.

A discussion ensued on the budget and Deputy Chief Moore gave his briefing on the budget.

The HRP – Comparative Operating Budget Analysis, dated December 31, 2013, was before the Board.

Overall, Deputy Chief McNeil advised the HRP is projecting a small budget surplus. He further advised that earlier in the year there were a number of major investigations which drove costs up, but costs have come back down since then.

Commissioner Mosher questioned staff on what the overtime expenses are.

Deputy Chief McNeil advised the HRP have overspent on overtime by roughly \$900,000 and it is this expenditure, more than any other, driving budget increases. The HRP has cut overtime by 30% and have attempted to make up for this expenditure with savings elsewhere.

Commissioner Mosher asked for year-over-year overtime trends and Deputy Chief McNeil committed to providing this.

Commissioner Outhit asked if it would mean spending less if HRP hired more permanent staff.

Deputy Chief McNeil advised that overtime incurred is a function of the number and complexity of crimes taking place and hiring more staff depending on the investigation would not meet the needs of the investigation. Additionally, many homicides take place between Thursday and Sunday, which means weekend overtime hours are required. To address some of these issues, staff have looked at managing shifts differently.

Commissioner Mosher asked if staff have looked at auxiliary policing and whether or not officers are required to do some of the tasks they are currently performing.

Deputy Chief McNeil advised his staff are considering this and there may be opportunities in the future to relieve officers of tasks which could be performed by another professional.

Policing in schools was discussed and Commissioners agreed with having a police presence in high schools.

Commissioner Mosher asked about investigations outside HRM by HRP officers and whether or not HRM is reimbursed for these.

Deputy Chief Moore advised that in some cases there is a charge for these services and in other cases the service is reciprocated through the receiving municipality providing a service in return.

### **8.1.3 Public Safety Update - Sergeant R. Scott MacDonald**

The January, 2013 Public Safety Update was before the Board.

Sergeant MacDonald reviewed the update and highlighted the cooperation on the Bloomfield site, International Human Rights Day at Millwood High, the “Unlike Cyber-Bullying” campaign, and the use of volunteers over the holidays to protect residents from theft. The further engagement of citizens on catching impaired drivers led to 60 charges for impaired driving, 25% of which came from notifications by concerned citizens.

Sergeant MacDonald further noted that Verona Singer successfully defended her PhD thesis at Dalhousie University in December. Ms Singer is the Coordinator of the HRP Victim Services Unit. Her accomplishment and research on high-risk domestic violence case coordination add to a growing national recognition of our expertise in this field.

Finally, he noted the important collaboration taking place within the city in pedestrian safety.

**Moved by Commissioner Moreash, seconded by Commissioner Read, that the January 2013 Public Safety Update be received as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Commissioner Dalrymple noted he was glad to see law enforcement involvement in crosswalk safety and commended both the HRP and the RCMP for their holiday spot-checks.

Commissioner Mosher asked about past efforts to acquire from the province the authority to install cameras for areas with heavy pedestrian traffic. She argued that having signs indicating the possible placement of a camera may encourage speed reduction.

Deputy Chief McNeil indicated there is no appetite at the provincial level for the devolution of this authority. He committed to raising this with the Chief and asking him to speak to the province again. Staff will report back to the Board on this item.

Commissioner Outhit suggested school zone speeding regulations should be addressed at a meeting between the Chief and the province as well.

The Chair advised that the Board has written the province in the past.

Deputy Chief McNeil advised receiving more information before moving forward.

### **8.1.4 Dashboard Reports**

The January 13, 2013 RCMP Dashboard reports were before the Board.

Inspector Daley noted these reports will be circulated bi-weekly and would welcome feedback from Commissioners. He notes crosswalk accidents are trending upwards.

The second page of the report examines specific offences.

Commissioners Mosher and Outhit approved of the format.

Inspector Daley indicated the first page will continue to contain information that is topical and at a glance.

The Chair noted this is similar to the HRP's dashboard.

Commissioner Mosher noted the majority of accidents in 2012 are at a crosswalk. Inspector Daley responded that crosswalk accidents are happening all over HRM and there isn't an area in particular where these accidents are endemic.

#### **8.1.5 Uptown Drug Prevention Project – Superintendent Auld**

Deputy Chief Moore advised that Superintendent Auld could not attend the meeting for health reasons, but would provide some background on this.

This project took place in partnership with a number of community organizations in the uptown or "North-End" area of Halifax and was classified as an undercover operation. The program was adopted from a similar initiative in North Carolina and has been used in many other jurisdictions, but this may be a first in Canada. The undercover operation identified five individuals selling drugs, but whom the operation deemed candidates likely for rehabilitation. Following the operation, the five individuals were confronted on their illicit practices and were given the option of pursuing a rehabilitation program, with the prospect of having their charges dropped, or to be charged with the offence.

The Deputy Chief noted that four of the five individuals identified chose to pursue the rehabilitation route. A media release, including a quote from Reverend Rhonda Britten, will announce the program. Staff believe this is a positive approach and a way to break the catch-and-release cycle.

Commissioner Ruth asked how long the program was and Deputy Chief Moore advised the program length depends on the individual. He further noted that if the individual is seen to be making a sincere effort in the program the charges would be stayed, but the program does not end when this takes place.

Commissioner Ruth further asked how many participants the program can accommodate. Deputy Chief Moore indicated in response that anyone meeting the criteria can be accommodated in the program. Their focus is on anyone trafficking. However, those with a long history of drug-trafficking, convicted of weapons possession, and or a history of violence will not be admitted.

Commissioner Outhit asked if the program is a pilot and Deputy Chief Moore advised it has been done in as many as twenty-five other cities, but this is the first time it is being used in Halifax. He further advised that the program is designed for inner city neighbourhoods who are under pressure to engage in trafficking.

Deputy Chief Moore noted this program was embraced by the community and offered his congratulations to Superintendent Auld for his work in building community partnerships.

#### **8.1.6 Deputy McNeil – Budget Briefing**

See above under item 8.1.2.

### **8.2 Commissioners**

#### **8.2.1 Appointments of Chair and Vice Chair of the Board**

The Chair noted the Board of Police Commissioners is expected to select a new Chair and Vice Chair annually in January. The Chair further stated his term on the Board ends in March and suggests that the Board vote to defer these appointments to the March meeting to allow for a transition to take place and ensure his replacement on the Board has the opportunity to take part in this decision.

Commissioner Moreash noted he has no difficulty in deferring this item so long as the board is in compliance with the Act. In response, the Clerk advised the Board is in compliance so long as a majority of members vote to defer the appointment.

**MOVED by Commissioner Outhit, seconded by Commissioner Mosher that the appointments for the Chair and Vice Chair of the Board of Police Commissioners be deferred to the Board's regular meeting in March, 2013. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

#### **8.2.2 Updates**

The Chair noted that Commissioner Ruth will be attending the policing conference in Ottawa this week through an invitation she received through the Canadian Association of Police Boards.

### **9. IN CAMERA**

#### **9.1 Personnel Item**

The Board moved to go In Camera to address a personnel item.

### **9. ADDED ITEMS - NONE**



**10. NEXT MEETING DATE – February 11, 2013**

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:04 p.m.

Matt Godwin  
Legislative Assistant