

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES

April 8, 2013

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

REGRETS: Commissioner Tim Outhit

STAFF: Chief Jean-Michel Blais
Deputy Chief Bill Moore, Halifax Regional Police
Superintendent Roland Well, OIC, RCMP
Inspector Dennis Daley, RCMP
Sergeant R. Scott Macdonald
Mr. Richard Butts, CAO
Mr. Matt Godwin, Legislative Assistant

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | | |
|-------|---|---|
| 1. | CALL TO ORDER..... | 3 |
| 2. | APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 18, 2013 | 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 – NONE | 3 |
| 7. | REPORTS | 3 |
| 7.1 | Staff | 3 |
| 7.1.1 | RCMP Reports | 3 |
| 7.1.2 | HRP Reports | 5 |
| 7.1.3 | Public Safety Update - Sergeant R. Scott MacDonald | 5 |
| 7.1.4 | Chief's 2013 Strategic Planning Statement..... | 5 |
| 7.1.5 | Social Media – Theresa Ruth and Lauren Leal from HRP Public Relations | 6 |
| 7.2 | Commissioners..... | 6 |
| 7.2.1 | Updates..... | 8 |
| 8. | ADDED ITEMS – NONE..... | 8 |
| 9. | IN CAMERA..... | 8 |
| 9.1 | Approval of the Minutes of March 18, 2013 | 8 |
| 10. | NEXT MEETING DATE – May 13, 2013 | 8 |
| 11. | ADJOURNMENT | 8 |

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:28 p.m. in the Meisner Room, Police Headquarters.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 18, 2013

The minutes of March 18, 2013 were before the Board.

MOVED by Commissioner Moreash, seconded by Commissioner Read that the minutes of March 18, 2013 be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

MOVED by Commissioner Dalrymple, seconded by Commissioner Mosher that the agenda be accepted as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES – NONE

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS – NONE

7. REPORTS

7.1 Staff

7.1.1 RCMP Reports

The March RCMP Reports were before the Board.

Superintendent Wells distributed a copy of the RCMP dashboard and noted that enforcement efforts have increased impaired driving charges in the first quarter of the year were up 27%, with suspensions higher as well.

In addition, he noted a significant increase in the number of failing to stop at stops signs and pedestrian collisions.

Commissioner Mosher asked if there has been an emphasis on monitoring impaired driving, with Inspector Daley responding that it is always a priority and some watches are more dedicated to this than others.

RCMP have mapped all impaired drivers from 2013 and distributed to officers, which allows them to target high-risk clusters.

Superintendent Wells added that providing this information allows officers to investigate the root causes of why there may be a cluster in certain areas.

With respect to failing to stop, Commissioner Mosher asked if officers are ticketing those who simply slow down in advance of a stop rather than come to a complete halt.

Superintendent Wells responded that failing to stop is taken literally and Deputy Chief Moore concurred, noting that the charge is for failing to stop.

Commissioner Moreash noted that there is an impression among many drivers that there is no requirement to stop and he asked if officers can direct more attention to this.

Superintendent Wells noted that April 1st is when RCMP begins its performance plan. Further, there is always a communications component when enforcement protocols are changed.

Inspector Daley noted that HRP/RCMP are in the middle of the crosswalk safety program and many of those accidents are when drivers do not stop completely, especially on the right turn. The results of this program so far demonstrates good progress.

Superintendent Wells referenced the number of Court Time hours in the document and noted the amount of time lost when no evidence is given; time which could be better spent elsewhere.

Commissioner Dalrymple indicated that the problem is worse than previously thought and that there is a significant need for action. He noted that messages should be given to officers as to whether or not the case is going to go ahead.

Superintendent Wells noted the situation is not likely different in many other jurisdictions and that the issue is a challenge with respect to the work-life balance for officers.

Commissioner Mosher asked if having a municipal Court would make a difference and Superintendent Wells responded that officers would still have to go to court and expect defendants to show up to address the ticket.

Deputy Chief Moore noted that two components to this question involve having the right people at court to address the issue, and to only have those required to be present attend. With respect to having a municipal court, he indicated it is unlikely the process will improve much, but managing witnesses may be easier.

Superintendent Wells noted that video-conferencing has cut down on costs with respect to officers transferred elsewhere having to testify at previous cases.

The Chair asked for clarification with respect to shifts and overtime and a discussion ensued on this point.

Commissioner Dalrymple cited his own experience as an officer, noting that while eight officers may be on shift, four could be in court, with the need for the scheduling of more officers to compensate.

Superintendent Wells noted that most court time is double-time and time-and-a-half and the RCMP is looking closely at who is essential to be at court, as the costs are unacceptable. Officers attempt to arrange schedules to minimize costs and manage work-life balance for officers.

MOVED by Commissioner Mosher, seconded by Commissioner Read that the March RCMP reports be received by the Board. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7.1.2 HRP Reports

The March 2013 HRP Reports were before the Board.

Chief Blais noted that HRP officer Randy Wood will be presented with an award by Blue Line magazine in Toronto. In the next issue, there will be three articles about HRM and members may wish to pay special attention to it.

MOVED by Commissioner Mosher, seconded by Commissioner Read that the March HRP reports be received by the Board. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7.1.3 Public Safety Update - Sergeant R. Scott MacDonald

The April Public Safety Update was before the Board.

Sergeant MacDonald indicated that there will be a joint training day for the HRP and RCMP volunteers; Police Week will involve a Police Day at MicMac mall, which precludes prescription drug awareness week, at which the public can dispose of medications. This will be on May 11, 2013.

Sergeant MacDonald also noted that May is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, which involves cooperation between units and the Province. A public campaign is being organized again this year.

MOVED by Commissioner Read, seconded by Commissioner Moreash that the April Public Safety Update be received by the Board. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7.1.4 Chief's 2013 Strategic Planning Statement

As submitted at the last meeting.

The Chief indicated that this will be an annual feature during his tenure and he is looking for input on formatting and content.

7.1.5 Social Media – Theresa Ruth and Lauren Leal from HRP Public Relations

The legislative Assistant advised that it was the preference of staff that the item be deferred to the next meeting.

MOVED by Commissioner Mosher, seconded by Commissioner Read, that the above item be deferred to the May 13, 2013 meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7.2 Commissioners

Commissioner Ruth offered details on her recent efforts with the Canadian Association of Police Boards (CAPB) on Parliament Hill. She noted that it was an effective effort in raising awareness and she noted that the CAPB is speaking at committees. One prominent issue they spoke to MPs about was mental health and policing.

The Chair noted there is an invitation to the Board to send a representative to management employee relations committee and the Chief advised that this is a monthly meeting which acts as a forum for management and union representatives. The collective bargaining agreement expires on March 31, 2015, which the forum will address on an ongoing basis, along with smaller matters.

The Police Association advised that the meeting is informal and any number of Board members are welcome to attend.

Commissioner Moreash expressed his interest in attending.

Commissioner Mosher suggested having a rotating member attend so more than one person has an opportunity.

MOVED by Commissioner Mosher, seconded by Commissioner Dalrymple that all members of the Board of Police Commissioners be invited to attend the monthly meetings of the management employees relations committee. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Commissioner Dalrymple asked about overtime figures.

The Deputy Chief indicated that the HRP spends \$1 million per year on overtime; \$350,000.00 is spent on motor vehicle night court and the remaining \$650,000.00 is for

criminal code expenses. Only allowing officers to have two trials per night is costing more.

Commissioner Moreash asked if this is common among adjudicators and Deputy Chief Moore indicated this was an arbitrary decision.

Commissioner Dalrymple indicated he was pleased to see this issue being considered, as it is not only a budget factor, but also a quality of life issue for officers. Often these obligations diminish home and family time for officers.

The Chair offered the Board's commitment to help move this forward.

Deputy Chief Moore offered to provide a presentation on Full Circle Community Safety, which stemmed from a previous Board discussion on holistic approaches to policing.

Deputy Chief Moore provided the context for this, noting that the current model is unsustainable. The Prince Albert model provided a different framework and a model for Canada as it emphasizes policing as a shared responsibility. He presented the full circle model, which involves agencies and priorities working together. Finally, one of the key principles is sharing information and breaking down barriers, given that agencies are often dealing with the same people, but separately.

The Institute for Strategic International Studies, which produced these items, can be accessed online:

<http://www.cacp.ca/ISIS/pages/ISIS.php?title=ISIS%202012%20Full%20Circle%20Community%20Safety%20Model>

Commissioner Ruth asked what HRP is doing to engage in this process and Deputy Chief Moore responded that they are currently looking at a research-based approach and the youth advocate program is a component of this.

Commissioner Ruth asked who was the lead to get other agencies involved, with Deputy Chief Moore responding that Safe Communities was an early step in this direction.

Superintendent Wells noted that the RCMP have reached out to health and education to build on this model and they are developing an approach to address the pre-criminal stages. The RCMP are looking at an intervention model for people who experience crime, not just the criminal and victim.

Inspector Daley noted staff have developed a protocol for privacy issues and as a result more open communication between agencies will be available.

Commissioner Dalrymple indicated he was pleased to see this coming forward and suggested new systems and technologies need to be put in place that shows the whole story of an individual of interest for police, from a health, social, educational and criminal perspective.

Deputy Chief Moore indicated that Prince Albert has built a model of this kind.

Commissioner Dalrymple asked that this be added to a future agenda, so the Board can give clear direction to HRP and RCMP to proceed with this approach.

Deputy Chief Moore indicated he is in the strategic planning process at the moment and the Chief indicated the June meeting will lead to a discussion about strategy.

Commissioner Mosher asked if HRP intends to do mapping and Deputy Chief Moore responded that they can do mapping and overlaying.

Commissioner Mosher suggested staff make this a starting point as it has been done at HRM in the past and is a revealing exercise for exposing strengths and weaknesses.

Superintendent Wells indicated that the June or July meeting would be suitable for him.

Inspector Daley noted that more work needs to be done with schools, health, mental health and also with non-governmental-organizations.

7.2.1 Updates

8. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

9. IN CAMERA

9.1 Approval of the Minutes of March 18, 2013

This item was addressed in the public portion of the meeting.

MOVED by Commissioner Moreash, seconded by Commissioner Dalrymple that the In Camera minutes of March 18, 2013 be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10. NEXT MEETING DATE – May 13, 2013

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Commissioner Mosher, seconded by Commissioner Moreash that the meeting be adjourned.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:49 p.m.

Matt Godwin
Legislative Assistant