

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES

July 8, 2013

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

REGRETS: Commissioner Tim Outhit

STAFF: Chief Jean-Michel Blais  
Deputy Chief Bill Moore, Halifax Regional Police  
Chief Superintendent Roland Wells, OIC, RCMP  
Inspector Dennis Daley, RCMP  
Sergeant R. Scott Macdonald  
Mr. Matt Godwin, 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. Award Presentations**

**2.1 Chief Jean-Michel Blais – Commendation for Cst. Justin McCormick**

The Chief presented a commendation to Cst. Justin McCormick.

**2.2 Presentation of Retired Police Badges to Past Commissioners**

The Chief presented retired service badges to former Board of Police Commissioners Earl Gosse and Steve Streach.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 10, 2013**

The minutes of June 10, 2013 were before the Board.

**MOVED by Commissioner Mosher, seconded by Commissioner Read that the minutes of June 10, 2013 be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

Additions:

- Strategic Plan added as Item 9.

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

**5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES – NONE**

**6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS**

**6.1 Commendations – Ms. Teresa Rath - June 10, 2013**

Ms. Teresa Rath, Public Relations Manager, provided background on the civilian commendations awarded by the Chief. The Certificate of Merit is presented for humanitarian acts and bravery. The second is a letter of recognition, which is awarded for community service and other acts of personal service.

Commissioner Mosher noted there should be more awareness of this kind of recognition, as it may inspire others to do similar acts of service.

Ms. Rath indicated staff only send letters to recipients, but could also include the Board on these. She also noted they could be profiled on social media, but some recipients do not want public recognition. A Certificate of Merit would be presented at the Board as these are very rarely given out.

Commissioner Dalrymple advised that it would not hurt to announce when good work has been done.

The Chief indicated that the Board can be made aware when these awards are made. He also advised that the Board will begin receiving the Chief's Updates, which references changes to policies and staff.

## **6.2 Board of Police Objectives – June 10, 2013**

The Board of Police Objectives, 2013 was before the Board.

Commissioner Ruth introduced the item, noting it is now mid-2013 and a review is necessary.

Commissioner Moreash noted that the "taking back the community" reference in the public relations goal item may need to be reworded.

Commissioner Mosher raised the Mayor's Roundtable on Violence and asked Board members if they would like to be interviewed by Professor Clairmont, who is administering the review. She asked if the Board would be interested in addressing an alcohol policy for HRM. Finally, she indicated she would like to have a discussion on officer transition planning for retiring officers.

Deputy Chief Moore noted there is a reduction in the number of sworn officers as some have been replaced with civilians. Officers retiring are expected to give six months notice before their departure. There are two recruitments each year and staff are able to forecast their need based on this schedule.

Commissioner Mosher responded to Commissioner Moreash's point about the rewording of "take back your community", indicating that the reference is about people taking responsibility and making communities liveable.

Commissioner Dalrymple suggested that Dr. Clairmont could attend an upcoming Board meeting and there was a consensus that this would be desirable.

Commissioner Dalrymple echoed Commissioner Moreash's concerns with the "taking back the community" reference, noting that the connotation is inaccurate as HRM has never given up any communities.

Commissioner Read noted that the Board only has five more meetings left and the Board should be conscious of what it is taking on. He noted that the Board has accomplished little with respect to measureable success.

Commissioner Honsberger referenced the legislative background for the Board and suggested the Board conduct an analysis in view of this legislative reality. The Board should build this background into its 2014 functions and he committed to doing this.

The Chief indicated staff look to the Board to be a part of improving HRP/RCMP processes, this is what the legislation intended. The Dashboard submission provides information on outputs, but he looks forward to discussion at the Board on the budget, structure and other items.

Deputy Chief Moore took the opportunity to discuss the building of the strategic plan and introduced two independent advisors retained by the HRP for this process, including Ms. Patricia Cuttell Busby and Ms. Lesley Southwich-Trask.

Ms. Lesley Southwich-Trask, introduced herself and the process they are looking forward to conducting with the HRP. She indicated that the creation of the ten-year plan is a great opportunity for the Board to get involved and looked forward to working with the Board on this project.

Ms. Cuttell Busby gave background on the process for the review, including an environmental scan, discussions with staff and union, the creation of a strategic planning group and a planning retreat.

Deputy Chief Moore indicated that he would connect with the Legislative Assistant to arrange a time for the consultants to meet with the Board.

Commissioner Honsberger asked if the Mayor's Roundtable on Violence has a status document, with Sergeant MacDonald responding that there is on the 64 recommendations and committed to sharing it with the Board.

Commissioner Honsberger asked if the Board will have a lot to prepare for pertaining to the Canadian Association of Police Boards conference in 2014, with Commissioner Ruth responding that there would be a great deal of involvement for Board members.

Commissioner Read referenced the circulated report 'Canadian Police Board Views on the Use of Police Performance Metrics', February 2013, which was circulated to the Board members earlier in the month.

Commissioner Moreash suggested that report be deferred until the next meeting.

Commissioner Dalrymple indicated he would like to have a hard-copy of the document.

**MOVED by Commissioner Dalrymple, seconded by Commissioner Moreash that Dr. Clairmont be invited to attend an upcoming meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners.**

**MOVED by Commissioner Dalrymple, seconded by Commissioner Moreash that the report on police metrics be deferred until the next meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners.**

A vote was held on each of the above motions.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Commissioner Ruth reviewed some of the legislative references for the Board and expressed her satisfaction that the Board is orienting itself with these requirements.

Commissioner Honsberger indicated that he would be forwarding to the Board a merged document compiling legislative references and this would be a good opportunity to match the business plan with the strategic plan.

Commissioner Read cautioned that having three separate groups working on a strategic plan would be problematic and that the relationship between these groups needs to be clarified.

Commissioner Honsberger indicated that the Board's role is to make sure the strategic plan is in place and support the Chief in this process, not to conduct the plan itself.

Commissioner Ruth indicated the other issue which needs to be addressed is the Board's connection to the public and its visibility. The Board is the civilian conduit to the police and the next meeting should be an opportunity to discuss this.

## **7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS**

### **7.3.1 Youth Advocate Presentation – Sharon Martin (5 minutes)**

Sergeant MacDonald introduced Ms. Sharon Martin, Program Manager, who manages the Youth Advocate program.

Ms. Martin circulated brochures pertaining to the program, which offers details on how the program works. She also passed around a brochure on the Girls United program which addresses challenges specific to girls. They are currently putting together a funding proposal for this program. She noted the complicated relationship girls have with their mothers and that the program will focus on girls who are at-risk. The program will launch in September.

Chief Superintendent Wells asked if the program was HRM-wide, with Ms. Martin responding that it is.

Chief Superintendent Wells noted that the Youth Advocate program is only for urban areas and that it should be available throughout the HRM.

Commissioner Mosher noted the brochure for the girls program includes ages 12-14, with Ms. Martin clarifying that it is ages 12-15.

Commissioner Mosher indicated her concern that the program is grouping ages that are in very different places with respect to development. Ms. Martin responded that the girls being brought together face similar challenges and the modules involved in the program are specific to their needs.

Commissioner Mosher asked if her staff are working with the IWK Choices program, with Ms. Martin responding that they do.

### **7.3.2 Court Time – Legal Services (5 minutes)**

Mr. Josh Judas, Legal Services was before the Board to answer questions. He noted that Legal Services is working on court efficiency. Recent changes have been primarily for saving the public time. He referenced the possibility of using evidence certificates to aid the process or affidavit evidence. He indicated that the Province is on Board with reviewing ways of making the process more efficient and that this is a significant step in the right direction.

Commissioner Dalrymple asked who staff are meeting with at the Department of Justice, with Mr. Judas responding that letters have been sent from Council to the Province.

Commissioner Dalrymple indicated the Board should come up with ideas on how to mitigate court time, perhaps having more Crown attorneys or calling the defence ahead of time. Addressing issues before they come to Court would be preferable where possible.

Mr. Judas indicated that, in his experience, having a pre-trial allows issues to be resolved before the court date. When the court date is many months away there is a greater likelihood for the defendant to wait for the trial rather than simply pay the fine. He also noted that the defence bar is amendable to these discussions.

Commissioner Dalrymple asked that court time be added to a future agenda where Board member can put forward ideas, now that the Commissioners know where to send their thoughts.

**MOVED by Commissioner Dalrymple, seconded by Commissioner Read that court time be deferred to another meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners.  
MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**8. REPORTS**

**8.1 Staff**

**8.1.1 RCMP Reports**

The June RCMP reports were before the Board.

Chief Superintendent Wells thanked Commissioners Moreash and Ruth for attending employee engagement meetings.

Chief Superintendent Wells pointed to the dashboard report and gave a brief overview. He highlighted the Hybrid Hub Model, Halifax District, which is the next phase in the Crime Reduction Strategy. This model will identify youth-at-risk and Chief Superintendent Wells indicated his support for the Youth Advocate Program.

**8.1.2 HRP Reports**

The HRP reports were before the Board.

**8.1.3 Sergeant R. Scott MacDonald – NONE**

**8.2 Commissioners**

**8.2.1 Updates**

Commissioner Ruth circulated possible logos for the 2014 Canadian Board of Police Commissioners conference in Halifax and asked for feedback from members.

Councillor Mosher asked if staff entered into a procurement plan for the strategic plan consultants, with Deputy Chief Moore responding that they did go through the procurement process.

Commissioner Read noted that he attended the police awards at Government House and noted that it was a great opportunity for service recognition.

**9. ADDED ITEMS – NONE**

**10. IN CAMERA**



**MOVED by Commissioner Read, seconded by Commissioner Mosher that the Board of Police Commissioners move the meeting In Camera. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

The committee voted to move In Camera at 2:06 p.m to discuss personnel items.

**11. NEXT MEETING DATE – August 12, 2013**

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Matt Godwin  
Legislative Assistant