

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES

August 12, 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  
Inspector Jeff Dowling, RCMP  
Mr. Matt Godwin, Legislative Assistant

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	CALL TO ORDER.....	3
2.	APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 8, 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 .....	3
	6.3 Presentations.....	3
	6.3.1 Mayor’s Roundtable on Violence Update .....	3
7.	REPORTS .....	4
	7.1 Staff .....	4
	7.1.1 RCMP Reports .....	4
	7.1.2 HRP Reports.....	5
	7.1.3 Police Metrics report .....	5
	7.2 Commissioners.....	6
	7.2.1 Board of Police – External Communications .....	6
	7.2.2 Updates.....	6
8.	ADDED ITEMS – NONE.....	7
9.	IN CAMERA.....	7
	10.1 Approval of Minutes – July 8, 2013.....	7
	10.2 Onboarding Programme .....	7
	10.3 Operational Issue.....	7
11.	NEXT MEETING DATE – September 9, 2013.....	7
12.	ADJOURNMENT .....	7

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. in the Meisner Room, Police Headquarters.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 8, 2013**

The minutes of July 8, 2013 were before the Board.

**MOVED by Commissioner Honsberger, seconded by Commissioner Read that the minutes of July 8, 2013 be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

**MOVED by Commissioner Mosher, seconded by Commissioner Read 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**

**6.3 Presentations**

**6.3.1 Mayor's Roundtable on Violence Update**

The 2011 Mayor's Roundtable on Violence report was before the Board.

Professor Don Clairmont and Ms. Kit Waters were before the Board to present an update on the 2013 revisiting of the Mayor's Roundtable on Violence.

Professor Clairmont noted that he and his team are mandated to carry out a review/update since the last Mayor's Roundtable, focusing on three items: A statistics update comparing current crime statistics with those uncovered in the previous study as well as in comparison to other jurisdictions; a look at the recommendations from the previous roundtable and how they have been carried out, as well as what has changed in the landscape and if these recommendations are still relevant; a look at how HRM can take action on review outcomes.

Professor Clairmont reported that he would like the review to be finished by September. There are a team of experts carrying out the bulk of the work in nine or ten areas of

focus: Organizational recommendations; race-relations; crime statistics; downtown Halifax; social construction of violence; housing; youth; offender-reintegration; gendered violence; sexual assault and harm to prostitutes.

Ms. Kit Waters, St. Mary's University, offered a more detailed overview of organizational issues. She noted that the Board of Police Commission is the public safety committee and advised that a look at the Public Safety Office would be primary among her focuses. Among those the group has connected with are Councillors and other Canadian municipalities. She reported that most municipalities in Canada place their public safety office outside of their police department.

Commissioner Honsberger asked if Professor Clairmont could build on the second piece of his mandate with respect to the implications for HRM, with Professor Clairmont noting that reviewers are expected to emphasize the HRM context rather than producing something for purely academic value.

Commissioner Dalrymple asked if the committee will be speaking directly with street officers, local organizations and the like, with Professor Clairmont responding that they are unable to conduct the same extensive interviews as the last study, but he assured that the researchers working on the project regularly conduct field research.

The Chair thanked Professor Clairmont and his team for their efforts.

## **7. REPORTS**

### **7.1 Staff**

#### **7.1.1 RCMP Reports**

The July RCMP reports were before the Board.

Inspector Jeff Dowling noted a large increase in the number of checkpoints for seatbelts and cell phones. He pointed to the creation of a new road-safety com-stat report which maps public complaints and accidents.

Commissioner Mosher pointed to the difference between the perception and reality of crime, with Inspector Dowling responding that by tracking accidents the RCMP can focus resources and identify the need for changes to speed limits or infrastructure.

Commissioner Mosher asked if this technology can isolate potential accidents and prevent issues, with Inspector Dowling noting that public complaints can identify changes and this is the idea behind the system.

Commissioner Mosher asked if HRP was considering the same technology, with Chief Blais indicating they are implementing a very similar approach.

**The July RCMP reports were received by the Board.**

**7.1.2 HRP Reports**

The July HRP reports were before the Board.

The Chief indicated that the July HRP reports are as submitted.

**The July HRP reports were received by the Board.**

**7.1.3 Police Metrics report**

The Canadian Police Board Views on the Use of Police Performance Metrics, dated February 2013 was before the Board.

Commissioner Read and Commissioner Dalrymple indicated they lacked the necessary tools to properly interpret the material.

Commissioner Moreash noted that police boards are often not well-acquainted with performance metrics and don't have access to necessary measurement tools. Proper measurement is an important measure of success and he asked the Chief his views on this report and what the process would be for pursuing this at HRM.

The Chief noted there are a number of good points in this report. His goal is to make HRP more effective and noted he doesn't believe the organization is there yet. He pointed to Ms. Kathleen Patterson, Business Initiatives Coordinator, who will be developing a measurement strategy over the next six months. He noted there are pitfalls when performance management is done poorly, and so the approach will be a strategic one.

Commissioner Dalrymple asked if the Board will be involved with the Chief replying it will be.

The Chair suggested this item be considered in tandem with the strategic planning process.

Commissioner Moreash pointed the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and advised that staff should be aware of them. The Chief responded that Winnipeg has a certification along these lines, but questioned its utility.

Inspector Dowling volunteered Chief Wells to speak to how the RCMP sets its priorities and goals.

Commissioner Dalrymple asked if there is an expectation that the Board be involved in future planning, with the Chair responding that it is the Board's role to be involved in

strategic planning. She pointed to Toronto, where the Board chair has identified metrics as their biggest issue/challenge.

Commissioner Moreash noted that you can't manage what you can't measure and if the Board can contribute to producing better outcomes in this regard than it should.

Chief Blais noted the approach has to be exhaustive, as an "off-the-shelf" solution may not be what HRM needs, but overall, HRP looks at this as an investment and made lead to money saved.

Commission Dalrymple warned that any program needs to receive buy-in from rank-and-file officers before implementation.

Commissioner Honsberger cautioned that there is a danger in taking a template from another jurisdiction and implementing it here. At the next Board meeting he advised considering legislative accountabilities. The business plan needs to be considered as well as the strategic plan.

The Chair suggested that work on legislation and governance could take place at a sub-committee of the Board, with Commissioner Honsberger indicating his support for this process.

**MOVED by Commissioner Mosher, seconded by Commissioner Moreash that a sub-committee be struck to address the legislative elements of the Board's responsibility and work with the Chief to create a business plan.**

#### **MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Those attending a sub-committee meeting on this item will be Commissioner Honsberger, Kathleen Patterson and a representative from HRM Legal Services.

Commissioner Honsberger noted that it is the Chief's responsibility to put a business process in place and the Board's role to make sure the process is there.

## **7.2 Commissioners**

### **7.2.1 Board of Police – External Communications**

The Chair suggested this item could be discussed at the aforementioned sub-committee.

### **7.2.2 Updates**

Commissioner Mosher noted that she is meeting soon with the members of law enforcement and the provincial government on the placement of offenders in group

homes, which is creating a number of issues in her area. As the Provincial appointee to the Board, Commissioner Ruth indicated she would be willing to assist.

The Chair indicated that she and Commissioner Read are attending the national Canadian Association of Police Boards conference where they will give a presentation on next year's conference which is in Halifax.

Commissioner Honsberger asked how many attendees the conferences generally have, with the Chair responding between 200-300 participants.

**8. ADDED ITEMS – NONE**

**9. IN CAMERA**

**The committee voted to move In Camera at 1:55 p.m. for the purposes of:**

**10.1 Approval of Minutes – July 8, 2013**

This matter was dealt with In Camera.

**10.2 Onboarding Programme**

This matter was discussed In Camera.

**10.3 Operational Issue**

This matter was discussed In Camera.

**11. NEXT MEETING DATE – September 9, 2013**

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:37 p.m.

Matt Godwin  
Legislative Assistant