

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES

September 9, 2013

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

REGRETS:

STAFF: Chief Jean-Michel Blais
Deputy Chief Bill Moore, Halifax Regional Police
Inspector Trish McCormick, RCMP
Mr. Matt Godwin, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m. in the Meisner Room, Police Headquarters.

2. Citizen Recognition

This item was deferred until later in the meeting.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – August 12, 2013

The minutes of August 12, 2013 were before the Board.

MOVED by Commissioner Dalrymple, seconded by Commissioner Honsberger that the minutes of August 12, 2013 be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

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

- The citizen recognition item will remain at 12:30 p.m.
- Addition: Commissioners session with Burst Consulting.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES – NONE

6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS – NONE

8. REPORTS

8.1 Staff

8.1.1 RCMP Reports

The August RCMP reports were before the Board.

The September Dashboard was circulated. Inspector McCormick highlighted a reduction of home invasions in Sackville.

Commissioner Dalrymple further noted that the Waverley-Fall River area did not contain any hot-spots with respect to crime.

Inspector Dan Murchison has arrived from Manitoba to assume the position of Inspector McCormick and will attend future meetings.

The August RCMP reports were received by the Board.

8.1.2 HRP Reports

The August HRP reports were before the Board.

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

The August HRP reports were received by the Board.

8.1.3 Fee Approval – No License / No Insurance

The report dated August 27, 2013 was before the Board.

MOVED by Commissioner Moreash, seconded by Commissioner Read that approve the service fee for withdrawal of Section 64 and 230(1) tickets.

Commissioner Dalrymple noted that residents from rural areas of HRM will have to drive downtown to address this fee and asked if there isn't a better way to process this fee. He further noted there should be an onus on the insurance companies to enforce expired insurance.

On the first point, Deputy Chief Bill Moore indicated that this process had been previously carried out by the Province, but has been returned to the HRP as processing became too great a burden for the courthouses. Additionally, Deputy Chief Moore reported that he has communicated with the Department of Motor Vehicles on the possibility of using other methods for assessing validity of insurance.

Commissioner Mosher entered the meeting at 12:12 p.m.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

8.2 Commissioners

8.2.1 Life Preservers – Halifax Waterfront

Councillor Linda Mosher referenced correspondence, dated August 12, 2013 that she has received from Councillor Bill Karsten regarding waterfront safety.

Councillor Mosher summarized, indicating Councillor Karsten's wish that the HRP investigate the possibility of having life-saving equipment located on the waterfront following the recent death of someone who had accidentally fallen into the water.

Deputy Chief Moore responded that all police vehicles will carry resuscitative assists. With respect to placing life-assist devices on the waterfront, this decisions would be up to the Waterfront Development Corporation.

Councillor Mosher asked if the HRP could connect with the Waterfront Development Corporation on this, along with Fire Services, as it is a good precautionary measure.

The Chief indicated that his staff could engage the Healthy Communities group on this item.

Commissioner Outhit entered the meeting at 12:18 p.m.

Commissioner Honsberger noted that the Board of Police Commissioners sub-committee on governance has met once and have reviewed legislation and regulations related to the Board. Another meeting will be convened.

Commissioner Moreash noted that his meeting with Kit Waters regarding the Mayor's Roundtable on Violence was very productive.

Commissioner Read offered his commendations for the Chair regarding HRM's participation at the recent meeting of the Canadian Association of Police Governance (CAPG) conference.

Commissioner Mosher noted her upcoming meeting with the Deputy Minister of Community Services regarding group homes. She requested a conversation with Deputy Chief Moore in advance of this meeting.

Commissioner Ruth indicated that the Executive Director of the CAPG, Jennifer Malloy, will be in Halifax for meeting pertaining to the 2014 conference this September.

With respect to the 2013 annual CAPG conference, Commissioner Ruth noted that the focus of the meeting was on mental illness. There was a consensus that there is a better way forward with respect to addressing mental health and law enforcement.

2. Citizen Recognition – Deferred from earlier in the meeting

Chief Blais recognized Mr. Eric Richard and Mr. Andrew Leonard for their attempt to save the life of a man who had accidentally fallen into Halifax harbour. Despite their efforts, the man could not be revived.

8.2.2 Board of Police Commissioners Budget – Expected Remaining Expenditures

Commissioner Ruth asked the CAO for details on the standing of the Board of Police Commissioners budget. She noted that the Board budgets for two Commissioners to attend out-of-town conferences and for Commissioners to attend the Nova Scotia Association of Police Boards (NSAPB) conference.

Mr. Richard Butts, CAO, noted that the Board budget was recently transferred to his office and travel claims have come in in excess of the line for this item. He suggested that the travel line for the Board has always been exceeded, but in past the HRP covered this expense.

Commissioner Moreash asked if there are upcoming expenses which cannot be covered, with Commissioner Ruth indicating that the NSAPB conference attendance fees are being covered by the HRP.

Commissioner Read noted that much of the budget was set aside for association memberships and not for travel expenses.

The CAO committed to meeting with the Chief on this matter and that he will offer the Board recommendations.

On another note, Chief Blais offered his congratulations to Scott MacDonald on his promotion to Staff Sergeant.

9. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

10. IN CAMERA

10.1 Approval of Minutes – August 12, 2013

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

MOVED by Commissioner Dalrymple, seconded by Commissioner Read that the Board of Police Commissioners accept the minutes of August 12, 2013 as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

11. Commissioners session with Burst Consulting.

Ms. Lesley Southwick Trask and Ms. Patricia Cuttell Busby lead a strategic planning session for Board of Police Commissioners.

A public document containing the results of this consultation process will be available in the fall of 2013.

12. NEXT MEETING DATE – October 7, 2013

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Matt Godwin
Legislative Assistant