

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES

November 18, 2013

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

REGRETS: Commissioner Honsberger
Commissioner Outhit

STAFF: Ms. Ashley Dutcher, Solicitor
Chief Jean Michel Blais, Halifax Regional Police
Deputy Chief Bill Moore, Halifax Regional Police
Superintendent Roland Wells,
Inspector Trish McCormick, RCMP
Mr. Liam MacSween, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:31 p.m. in the in the Meisner Room, Police Headquarters, 1975 Gottingen Street, Halifax.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 7, 2013

The minutes were approved with the following amendments:

Item No. 7.1.4 – Public Safety Office

Staff Sergeant MacDonald noted that response to this particular incident should have been a Joint Rescue Coordination Center effort possibly along with the Coast Guard. There is usually a fire-rescue boat available to be dispatched from the Department of Defense Dockyard, but more research would be required for him to provide a comment on response time in this matter.

MOVED by Commissioner Dalrymple and seconded by Commissioner Read that the minutes be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

There were no additions to the agenda.

The following agenda items were moved on the agenda:

- Item No 6.3 - HRM Budget presentation to take place after Item No. 7 - HRP Budget Discussion.
- Item No. 8.2. - Commissioner Updates to follow Item No. 7 - Commissioner Read – 2014-15 Police Commissioners Budget.

MOVED by Commissioner Dalrymple and Seconded by Commissioner Read to approve the agenda as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES – NONE

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

6.1 Correspondence - None

6.2 Petitions - None

6.3 Presentation

6.3.1 HRM Budget Process

Please see page 7.

7. HRP BUDGET DISCUSSION

Chief Blais commented that this agenda item represents the beginning of the budget discussions with the Board. He further noted that Deputy Chief Moore would provide an outline of the operational and administrative priorities with respect to the budget. Chief Blais further commented that Mr. Craig Horton, Financial Coordinator, Halifax Regional Police will give a high level overview of the numbers for the 2014/15 budget which would be followed by a presentation from Mr. Greg Keefe, Chief Financial Officer for the Halifax Regional Municipality, outlining HRM's budget consultation process.

Deputy Chief Moore began the budget presentation by noting that HRP had conducted an internal review with respect to the Budget and identified several operational priorities that HRP will be focusing on with respect to the 2014-15 Budget.

Deputy Chief Moore commented that domestic violence is an upfront operation focus and that HRP have developed a comprehensive plan including documented prevention methods. He commented that HRP is currently looking at doing a full preventative program in consultation with the Province and the RCMP.

Deputy Chief Moore remarked that continuing to curb gun violence is also a key priority. He noted that this will be achieved primarily by targeting of prolific and violent offenders through the Guns and Gangs Unit.

Commissioner Dalrymple requested further clarification as to where the guns are coming from.

Deputy Chief Moore replied by stating that most guns are locally accessed and are being seized through break and enters. He noted that HRP has reached out to the Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters to help get this message out to the public. He noted that HRP is currently looking at putting together a comprehensive program that encompasses both enforcement and prevention.

Commissioner Moreash asked how many legal guns are in HRM with respect to licensing.

Deputy Chief Moore stated that HRP receives information regarding legally owned firearms notwithstanding long guns, as the former Long Gun Registry has been discontinued.

Deputy Chief Moore commented that HRP will be focusing on the downtown alcohol and bar area as an operation priority. He commented that numbers are trending down

in this area and noted outreach and public education that has been undertaken with universities, downtown business owners and HRP.

Deputy Chief Moore stated that instance of sexualized violence is also a key operational priority for HRP. He commented on resources required with respect to the training of front line patrol officers investigating sexual assaults. He referenced consultations that have taken place with organizations such as the Avalon Sexual Assault Centre to assist in this regard. He noted that HRP will work on opening lines of communication with sex trade workers to gather intelligence on potential sexual predators.

Deputy Chief Moore identified traffic safety as another key priority. He noted that this is a much broader piece that will look at key reporting metrics to improve traffic safety and to ensure that HRP is further aligned with national standards.

Deputy Chief more commented that managing cold cases represents another key priority for 2014-15. He stated that HRP has had some success with respect to cold cases but there is more work to be done in this regard.

Deputy Chief Moore commented that there are also administrative and support priorities that will be reflected in the Budget. He noted programming with respect to ethics and professionalism or HRP employees.

Deputy Chief Moore stated that information management is another priority and that HRP is reviewing how it manages information. He further commented that HRP has a great deal of data and is currently putting together a strategy to manage it well.

Deputy Chief Moore strategic planning is another key priority with respect to the budget and referenced several initiatives in this regard.

In conclusion, Deputy Chief Moore identified Security and Cyber security are a key priority. He commented that hacking attempts are on the rise in Canada and that ensuring that HRP buildings are secure and that Occupational Health and Safety issues are recognized.

Commissioner Mosher asked what can be done from a public education standpoint with respect to crime reporting and traffic safety.

Deputy Chief Moore replied by stating that elected official should inform residents to report crime and traffic safety issues to HRP immediately when they happen. He noted that HRP will increase messaging in this regard. He further noted that neighbourhood watch organizations can play an important role in this process and that residents should be keeping an eye out for suspicious people.

Chief Blais noted that this type of messaging speaks to strategic planning priorities and that HRP will be emphasizing these priorities going forward.

Commissioner Dalrymple noted that that the budget priorities are very positive. He commented that numbers with respect to overtime were brought down and that specific youth programming has not been mentioned in the budget. Commissioner Dalrymple stated the large strides that have been made in the area of youth programming.

Deputy Chief Moore commented that some matters related to youth programming will permeate through the key priorities such as sexualized violence and tracking young people being approached to enter the sex trade.

The Chair noted preventative measures with respect to domestic violence as a key priority. She further inquired as to whether or not HRP will be working with other agencies or levels of government to work with the family and the accused that are uncured.

Staff Sergeant MacDonald noted that HRP is part of a provincial interagency group whereby there is extra attention at correction centres for the accused and extra attention with Community Services for effected families that provide support.

Further discussion ensued.

Mr. Craig Horton, Budgeting Coordinator, gave an overview of the proposed operating budget for 2014/15.

Mr. Horton noted a funding gap of 2.94 percent in the next budget. He stated that the largest driver behind this is a result of collective bargaining agreements. He noted that HRP had to factor in step increases and service pay which equates to roughly \$1.7 million. He further commented that contracts with NSUPE and CUPE are not yet known and that it is estimated that a 3.1 percent is likely for the Commissionaires who oversee HRP facilities.

Mr. Horton commented on service enhancements with respect to the budget. He noted that there is a requirement for two functional Analysts in the Statistical Training Unit, the HRP Information Technology department. Mr. Horton commented that these individuals will be the people that will harvest data, support enhancements in crime mapping, and consult on Research and Development initiatives.

In response to a question from Commissioner Moreash, Mr. Horton remarked that Analysts have a computer science background and are not computer forensic officers. He noted that HRP is currently looking to have the positions filled in the current fiscal year and have them funded through budget efficiencies mainly the \$100,000 saved through decreases in legal costs. He further noted that if the Analyst positions are not approved in the current fiscal year, HRP will seek approval in next year's budget.

Further discussion ensued with staff answering questions from the Commissioners with respect to reevaluating criminal record check fees.

6.3.1 HRM Budget Process

Mr. Greg Keefe, Chief Financial Officer, gave a presentation detailing HRM's Budget Process.

Mr. Keefe noted that budget deliberations will take place during Committee of the whole session of Regional Council and gave an overview of the schedule. Mr. Keefe commented that public consultation sessions with respect to the budget will take place at Community Council meetings and "open mike sessions" at Committee of the Whole. In addition to this, there will also be an online budget tool that will facilitate public education with respect to the budget.

Commissioner Read inquired as to whether live numbers were used in budget allocation tool.

Mr. Keefe replied in the affirmative and noted that numbers used in the budget allocation tool are based on previous year's budget.

Mr. Keefe explained that debt per dwelling unit is declining and that capital from operating is increasing. He stated that finance is trying to focus on the tax burden and that residential and commercial tax bills are expected to grow slightly. He noted that the budget projections are based on revenue increases from new growth and inflation. He further stated the Gross Domestic Product is nominal and that is expected to remain flat until the Shipbuilding Project commences in 2016.

Mr. Keefe stated that the municipality expenditures currently sit at \$824 million and that HRP represents the third largest expense commitment at \$104.5 million.

Mr. Keefe responded to further questions from Commissioners.

The Chair thanked Mr. Keefe for his presentation.

8.2.1 Updates

Commissioner Moreash provided an update regarding his attendance at the Canadian Police Association Conference in Toronto.

He noted a presentation from the Parliamentary Budget Office with respect to the costing of the criminal justice system in Canada. He commented that the cost that the Office arrived at is \$582 per person, per year across Canada. He recalled presentations regarding the operational reviews of Police Departments in Vancouver and Winnipeg and provided insight with respect to academic work being undertaken in the U.K.

Commissioner Mosher noted that she would like to speak to the Provincial Minister of Justice regarding group homes across the province. She commented that many group homes have closed in other parts of the province and that individuals are being sent to HRM, where overcrowding is an issue. She noted that she would like to set up a

meeting with the Minister and with the Deputy Police Chief to discuss what can be done in this regard, and to identify the route-cause this issue.

8.2.2 Commissioner Read – 2014-15 Police Commissioners Budget

The following documentation was before the Board of Police Commissioners:

- HRP Board of Police Commissioners Budget (By-Line Item)

Commissioner Read gave a presentation on his work regarding the Police Commissioners 2014-15 Budget.

He noted that he placed a \$5000 contingency in the 2014-15 Budget for the upcoming Canadian Association of Police Board convention in Halifax. He commented that there is an expected Regulators Conference that will take place sometime in 2014.

Commissioner Read noted that he will produce the budget when the Chief presents HRP's budget. He noted that he will increase the amount reserved for conferences up to \$2000.

Commissioner Moreash inquired as to whether or not there is hospitality or ceremonial expenses involved in hosting the upcoming Canadian Association of Police Board Convention. Commissioner Read replied that there will likely be a dollar value in that regard that the Board will need to budget for.

Commissioner Read stated that costs related to the catering of Board meeting should be reevaluated. He noted that efficiencies from catering can be put toward travel funds and that he will present the Board budget along with the HRP budget.

8. REPORTS

8.1 Staff

8.1.1 HRP Dashboard Reports – October 7- 20 & October 21 - November 3

The following documentation was before the Board of Police Commissioners:

- HRP Dashboard reports dated, October 7-20, 2013
- HRP Dashboard Reports dated, October 21 – November 3, 2013

Chief Blais referred to the homicide chart and noted that HRM eight so far. He provided background information with respect to the homicide numbers and commented that this represents a considerable drop that that of previous years.

The HRP Dashboard Reports were received by the Board as submitted.

8.1.2 HRP Reports

The following documentation was before the Board of Police Commissioners:

- The HRP Reports

The HRP reports were received by the Board as submitted

8.1.3 RCMP Reports

The following documentation was before the Board of Police Commissioners:

- The RCMP Reports

Inspector Trish MacCormick noted figures regarding pedestrian cross-walk accidents and responded to questions from Commissioners.

The RCMP reports were received by the Board as submitted.

8.1.4 HRM Public Safety Office

The following documentation was before the Board of Police Commissioners:

- HRM Public Safety Office Report dated, November 2013.

Staff Sargent Scott MacDonald provided feedback from school Liaison Officers with respect to an Anti-Bullying By-Law. He noted that he has been working with the Cyber Safety Unit and Legal Services in this regard and commented that the work is in the preliminary stages. He remarked that he will provide an update on this matter at a future meeting.

The HRM Public Safety Office report was received by the Board as submitted.

8.1.5 PR Responsibility

Chief Blais provided an update on work that is taking place with respect to providing Public Relation services to the Board of Police Commissioners. He noted consultations with HRM Corporate Communication staff and HRP Public Relations staff and noted that the Board would be best served by HRM Corporate Communications as opposed to HRP. He further commented on work being conducted by Commissioner Honsberger and Bruce DeBaie, Managing Director of Corporate Communications at HRM in relation to this matter.

The Chair noted that the Board does not have clerical or administrative support to assist with PR responsibilities. She further commented that the Board of Police Commissioners has a mandate to be able to reach out to people and doing so should be a priority.

Commissioner Dalrymple inquired about the possibility of having Corporate Communications provide a presentation to the Board.

Commissioner Moreash noted that Commissioner Honsberger is currently looking to set up another meeting with Corporate Communications staff.

8.1.6 Strategic Planning Update

Deputy Chief Moore stated that HRP staff had taken two days to review the strategic plan and that a discussion regarding the next steps will include two additional half day sessions. He noted that work with respect to strategic planning is progressing well.

Deputy Chief Moore commented that participation by Regional Police was first rate. He noted the use of sensing groups (fact finders) to explore different ways of gathering information outside of Police Services which provides a new perspective on policing.

8.2 Committee Members

8.2.1 Updates

Please see page 7-8.

8.2.2 Commissioner Read – 2014-15 Police Commissioners Budget

Please see page 8.

9. ADDED ITEMS - NONE

10. IN CAMERA

10.1 Approval of the In Camera Minutes – October 7, 2013

The following motion was passed in open session:

MOVED by Commissioner READ and seconded by Commissioner Moreash that the In Camera minutes of October 7, 2013 be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

11. NEXT MEETING DATE – December 9, 2013

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:43 p.m.

Liam MacSween
Legislative Assistant