

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES

January 13, 2014

PRESENT: Commissioner Micki Ruth
Commissioner Fred Honsberger
Commissioner Phillip Read
Commissioner Mike Moreash
Commissioner Tim Outhit
Commissioner Linda Mosher
Commissioner Barry Dalrymple

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	CALL TO ORDER.....	3
2.	APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 18 & December 9, 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
	6.1 Correspondence	3
	6.2 Petitions	3
	6.3 Presentation - NONE	3
7.	REPORTS	3
	7.1 Staff	3
	7.1.1 HRP Dashboard Reports	3
	7.1.2 HRP Reports.....	4
	7.1.3 RCMP Reports	4
	7.1.4 Public Safety Office.....	5
	7.1.5 HRP/RCMP Citizen Satisfaction Survey	6
	7.2 Commissioners	7
	7.2.1 Updates.....	7
8.	ADDED ITEMS	8
	8.1 RCMP Dashboard Reports – January 13, 2013.....	8
9.	IN CAMERA.....	8
	9.1 Personnel Matter	8
10.	NEXT MEETING DATE – February 10, 2014.....	8
11.	ADJOURNMENT	8

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order 12:30 p.m. in Halifax Hall, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 18 & December 9, 2013

MOVED by Commissioner Moreash 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

Additions:

Item No. 8.1 – RCMP Dashboard Report – January 13, 2014.

MOVED by Commissioner Moreash and seconded by Commissioner Honsberger that the agenda be approved as amended. 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

6.2 Petitions

6.3 Presentation - NONE

7. REPORTS

7.1 Staff

7.1.1 HRP Dashboard Reports

The following documentation was before the Board.

- HRP Dashboard Reports
- HRP Quarterly Human Resources Dashboards

Commissioner Outhit entered the meeting at 12:33 p.m.

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

7.1.2 HRP Reports

The following documentation was before the Board:

- HRP Reports

Commissioner Dalrymple stated that he enjoyed reading the public relations and human interest story regarding the charitable and community work undertaken by Police Officers at Christmas. He asked if there is there a way that the Police Commission can send a word back to HRP personnel stating that their work was noted and appreciated.

Ms. Theresa Rath, Public Relations Manager, HRP commented that she will make arrangements with HRP administration to get message from the Board out to personnel.

Councillor Outhit echoed Commissioner Dalrymple's statement about community work undertaken by HRP Officers and noted that the Police Commission as well as HRP staff should do more to spread this type of positive news in the community.

Commissioner Mosher inquired about the upcoming changes from the Federal government in regarding grow-ops and the effect that it will have on the targeted deployment of police resources and reporting.

Chief Superintendent Wells stated that it will be difficult to measure whether or not drug trafficking activity will increase as a result of the Federal government decision on grow ops. He noted that there will definitely be an increase in drug offenses if resources are directed in that area. He stated that the RCMP has currently been targeting low level property based crime which often leads to higher degrees of criminality such as drug trafficking. He noted that this is captured in ComStat (Computer Statistics) reports.

In response to a comment from Commissioner Mosher, Chief Blais referenced the New York model of ComStat (Computer Statistics) reporting. He stated that ComStat originated in New York and that it was introduced as an accountability tool by the Commissioner of Police to address problem areas of criminality in the city. He stated that HRP does not view COMSTAT as a management tool but rather as a tactical deployment tool to coordinate police resources in certain areas.

Commissioner Mosher cited many articles showing how New York reduced their murder rate using the COMSTAT model.

Further discussion ensued.

The HRP Reports were received by the Board as submitted.

7.1.3 RCMP Reports

The following documentation was before the Board:

- RCMP Reports

The RCMP Reports were received by the Board as submitted.

7.1.4 Public Safety Office

The following documentation was before the Board:

- Public Safety Office Report

S/Srvt. Scott MacDonald stated that the holiday season was busy for the Public Safety Office. He credited a great deal of the success of initiatives such as the Cops'n'Kids program to a team of dedicated volunteers and co-operation with other community partners. He stated that he will be travelling to Chicago with other law enforcement officials to learn about the Cure Violence Cease Fire Model and will be touring several different communities in the area where violence is an ongoing issue. He further stated that he will be assisting with an academic study with Mount Saint Vincent University in this regard.

Commissioner Outhit inquired about the addition of mascots for RCMP and HRP and the reaction in the media with respect to traffic and crosswalk safety.

S/Srvt MacDonald referenced the RCMP Safety Bear and Blue the Dog from HRP as mascots to generate discussion and public education, particularly for young children, on traffic safety. With respect to Crosswalk safety, he noted that there have been no fatalities in recent months but the phenomena of cross walks accident tend to pick up during the winter which is likely due to road conditions and increased traffic. He noted that it requires the full attention of both pedestrians and motorists to safely cross the street.

Commissioner Outhit inquired as to whether there are more tickets being issued for people Jay walking or not yielding to pedestrians.

Chief Blais commented that an analyst is currently looking at that option. He noted that the statistics indicate that the time change in November also correlates with a considerable amount of accidents in crosswalks.

Commissioner Ruth remarked that the vast majority of people reported by HRP are hit in crosswalks, while the vast majority reported by the RCMP are hit in parking lots. She noted that the latest statistics are down and that there is a great deal of proactive measures being taken in the urban core to address these issues.

Commissioner Dalrymple noted that as Chair of the Crosswalk Advisory Committee he is very pleased with police actions in both forces, in addressing this issue. He noted a previous lack of data with respect to crosswalk statistics that is now being captured and analysed. He cited a great deal of work that has been completed through the committee

on a crosswalk safety plan which is currently 85% complete. He stated that the plan is on track to go before the Transportation Standing Committee in the near future.

Commissioner Mosher stated that during a recent blizzard there was a directive that police cars and personnel would only be deployed if there was an accident or an emergency. She expressed concern that this may have been an unintentional invitation for people to commit crimes while police resources were drawn back.

Ms. Theresa Rath, Public Relations Manager, noted that the directive was voiced over radio communications to Police Officers only. She stated that the directive was given for the safety of HRP personnel. She noted that some media outlets had picked up the communication and reported on it.

S/Srgt. MacDonald noted that the same approach was used for Police Officers working through Hurricane Juan and that there was no media coverage at that time.

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

7.1.5 HRP/RCMP Citizen Satisfaction Survey

The following documentation was before the Board:

- Corporate Research Associates: The Urban Report – Final Results
- IPAC Case Study Program – The Calgary Police Commissioner Survey Process Creating Actionable Results.

Commissioner Ruth referenced the Client Satisfaction Survey and the IPAC Case Study Program from the Calgary Police Commission. She noted that the Calgary Police Commission was very happy with the results of the survey which examined how to improve police services by interviewing employees and citizens. She commented that the organization which conducts the survey is interested in more police organizations participating to obtain benchmarking. She further remarked that the survey would be conducted at reduced price and that it is something worth discussing as a Board.

Chief Blais commented that staff is currently looking at standardizing the Citizen Satisfaction survey and noted his interest in the performance management and benchmarking aspects of the Calgary Study.

Commissioner Ruth commented on the potential learning opportunities associated from having the Police Commission conduct the survey as opposed to Police Services.

Commissioner Moreash commented that the Board must gain more information regarding the costs associated with conducting a survey and proceed from there.

Commissioner Dalrymple requested further information regarding internal response rate on the most recent internal survey of police services.

Chief Blais stated that 146 of a potential 600 employees had completed the most recent internal survey and commented that he would like to see a higher response rate. He further noted that it would be beneficial to see the comparisons with other municipalities.

Commissioner Read stated that the Calgary Police Commission has an expanded role in terms of its mandate. He commented that the Calgary Police Commission has five full-time employees and cited concerns that the Board may not have the resources to conduct and administer a survey like that of Calgary.

Commissioner Read asked if it is necessary for the same company to conduct the work on the survey and achieve the benchmarking.

Commissioner Ruth stated that if the questions are similar than the analysis could be conducted separately. She pointed out the benefit of having the same company conduct both the survey and analysis.

Ms. Theresa Rath, Manager of Public Relations, HRP, stated that if the cost to conduct the survey are above \$1000.00, it would have to go out to tender to comply with procurement guidelines.

Chief Superintendent Wells commented about the benefits of having the survey conducted by the Board of Police Commissioners. He noted that both the RCMP and HRP are trying very diligently to stay within their respective budgetary frameworks and that this would need to be taken under consideration.

MOVED by Commissioner Read and seconded by Commissioner Moreash that the Board of Police Commissioners explore the possibility of managing the Citizen Satisfaction Survey and investigate the financial and administrative implications of doing so. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7.2 Commissioners

7.2.1 Updates

Commissioner Honsberger provided a brief update with respect to the Subcommittee on Governance. He stated that a draft work plan regarding Terms of Reference will be ready to present to the Board at the next meeting.

Commissioner Read inquired about the status of the 2014 Canadian Association of Police Governance Conference (CAPG).

Commissioner Ruth stated that she had updates with respect to the upcoming conference and suggested that they be discussed at the conference subcommittee meeting. She noted that CAPG is putting together a short promotional video for the Conference to be held in Halifax and has requested that the Board contribute to the project.

Chief Superintendent Wells thanked the Board for their participation at the Regimental dining event. He noted an upcoming tour of the new RCMP headquarters and invited the Board to attend. He noted upcoming public consultation events in HRM and invited Board members to attend. He further requested that the Board write a letter of appreciation to the Stetsons and Spurs Youth Group which focuses on young persons between the ages of 13-18 who want to learn more about policing in their community.

8. ADDED ITEMS

8.1 RCMP Dashboard Reports – January 13, 2013

The following documentation was before the Board:

- RCMP Dashboard Reports – January 13, 2014

Chief Superintendent Roland Wells provided a summary of personal and property crimes and noted a 21% decrease in offenses. He commented about the predictive nature of ComStat reporting with respect to targeted enforcement of personal and property crimes. He further noted that theft from vehicles in commercial areas has decreased by 35% over the past year. He stated that there are currently no existing clusters of criminality with respect to personal and property crimes in RCMP districts.

The RCMP Dashboard Reports were received as submitted.

9. IN CAMERA

9.1 Personnel Matter

The Board convened to In Camera at 1:38 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter.

MOVED by Commissioner Honsberger and seconded by Commissioner Outhit to convene to in camera to discuss a personnel matter. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10. NEXT MEETING DATE – February 10, 2014

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:41 p.m.

Liam MacSween
Legislative Assistant