



**BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MINUTES**  
**May 12, 2014**

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

REGRETS: None

STAFF: Chief Jean-Michel Blais, HRP  
Deputy Chief Bill Moore, HRP  
Chief Superintendent Roland Wells, RCMP  
Inspector Trish MacCormack, RCMP  
Ms. Ashley Dutcher, Solicitor

*The following does not represent a verbatim record of the proceedings of this meeting.*

*The agenda, supporting documents, and information items circulated to Board of Police Commissioners are available online: <http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/bpc/140512bopc-agenda.html>*

*The meeting was called to order at 12:30 p.m. and adjourned at 2:04 p.m.*

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

▪ **Election of Chair and Vice-Chair Board of Police Commissioners**

It was suggested by several Commissioners that this item be moved to the end of the agenda.

**MOVED by Commissioner Mosher, seconded by Commissioner Read that the Election of Chair and Vice-Chair be moved to the end of the agenda. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

This item was dealt with later in the meeting please see page 7-8.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 14, 2014**

**MOVED by Commissioner READ, seconded by Commissioner Honsberger that the minutes of April 14, 2014 be approved as presented.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

Additions/Deletions: None

**MOVED by Commissioner Dalrymple, seconded by Commissioner Mosher that the agenda be approved as presented.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES**

**5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE**

**5.1.1 Naming of Nova Scotia Association of Police Boards Representative**

The Chair commented that as she is leaving, the Nova Scotia Association of Police Boards will require a representative from HRM's Board of Police Commissioners. She provided an overview of the Nova Scotia Association of Police Board Representatives and noted that in the last two instances, the Chair of the Board of Police Commissioners has been named as the representative from HRM.

**MOVED by Commissioner Read, seconded by Commissioner Dalrymple that Naming of the Nova Scotia Association of Police Boards Representative be moved to the end of the agenda, after the election of Chair and Vice-Chair.**

This matter was dealt with later in the meeting. Please see page 8.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS**

**6.1 Correspondence - NONE**

**6.2 Petitions - NONE**

**6.3 Presentation - NONE**

**7. REPORTS/DISCUSSION**

**7.1 STAFF**

**7.1.1 Board of Police Commissioners 2014-15 Work Plan**

The following was before the Board:

- *A draft work plan dated May 5, 2014*

Commissioner Honsberger gave an overview of the draft work plan and commented that it would be beneficial for the Board to have a work plan in place. He noted that this will require a change in the time commitment for appointed Commissioners to approximately 9 hours per month to deal with Board issues.

Commissioner Honsberger advised that elected Commissioners may be interested in holding public forums during their community meetings in which the Board can take an active role and discuss public safety and policing issues. He further noted that a discussion of the work plan at the upcoming Canadian Association of Police Governance conference would be beneficial and that he would support the Chair in this endeavor.

Commissioner Mosher thanked Commissioner Honsberger for his work on the draft work plan. She noted that several years ago newly appointed Commissioners were given a tour of HRP and RCMP headquarters as part of their orientation. She noted that this gave the new commissioners a general overview, of policing services in and an insight in to day to day operations. She concluded by noting her support for developing more comprehensive orientation material.

Commissioner Moreash echoed Councillor Mosher's statements and noted that new Commissioners would benefit significantly from more information about how both police forces work and how they operate.

Chief Blais, Halifax Regional Police, commented that he had not had an opportunity to review the document in more detail and that he would like to come back to the Board with more commentary. He noted that the draft work plan is very ambitious and he would be happy to provide the Board with feedback.

Commissioner Moreash suggested that the Subcommittee on Governance continue its work on further developing the work plan.

**MOVED by Commissioner Mosher, seconded by Commissioner Read that the Board of Police Commissioner refer the 2014-15 Work Plan to the Subcommittee on Governance for further revision and development.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

### **7.1.2 HRP Dashboard Reports**

The following was before the Board:

- *HRP Dashboard report to April 23, 2014*
- *HRP Dashboard report to May 5, 2014*
- *HRP Human Resource Report – May 1, 2014*

Deputy Chief more provided an overview of the HRP Dashboard reports.

Commissioner Honsberger inquired if information pertaining gender is captured when producing crime statistics for Dashboards.

Deputy Chief Moore, Halifax Regional Police commented that information on gender is not typically captured when there is a call for service. He noted however, that a subset of data relating to gender can be produced in instances where charges have been laid.

With respect to the Human Resources Dashboard Report, Commissioner Dalrymple requested further information with respect to the projected retirement numbers of Police Officers.

Chief Blais noted that retirement numbers are increasing slightly for 2015-2016. He commented that HRP is monitoring this very closely. He commented that overall, HRP is a fairly service and that it is anticipated that retirement numbers will level off over the next few years.

Deputy Chief Moore noted that HRP went through a significant hiring increase over the past eight years. He noted that many of the Officers that have been hired are approximately the same age and that HRP is working diligently to help create internal mobility opportunities within the service.

Chief Blais noted that HRP is currently looking to increase the number of woman and visible minorities by having an in house class which will provide leadership and training opportunities to new recruits from diverse backgrounds. He further advised that HRP is interested in hiring the

best people for the job and the in-house class will focus greatly on this aspect, as opposed to hiring individuals based on their background alone.

Deputy Chief Moore further noted that the retirement numbers as outlined in the Dashboard report are based on those who are eligible to retire. He noted that typically one third of those eligible to retire do so early.

Further discussion ensued.

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

### **7.1.3 HRP Reports**

The following was before the Board:

- *HRP Reports dated April 2014*

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

### **7.1.4 RCMP Dashboard Reports**

The following was before the Board:

- *RCMP Dashboard Report dated May 12, 2014*

Chief Superintendent Wells, RCMP gave an overview of the RCMP Dashboard report. He noted that theft from motor vehicles spiked from January 1 to March 31. He noted that the spikes occurred in the RCMP's COMSTAT hotspots and that the suspects have been arrested.

Chief Superintendent Wells thanked the Commissioners for their participation in the RCMP's Community meeting which were held in April. He noted that there were 56 people in attendance at the top end and 12 people in attendance at the low end. He commented that if there were more significant community issues there would likely have been more people at the meetings.

Chief Superintendent Wells provided background information with respect to the themes and projections as illustrated in the RCMP Dashboard report. He referenced the break and enter instances which were identified in the report and noted that took place in areas where new constructions is taking place. He commented that the RCMP is currently working on a Community Messaging strategy to effectively communicate that new construction is being targeted.

Chief Superintendent Wells noted that the RCMP and HRP are working on a presentation for the Board respecting the current contract with HRM. He further commented that the RCMP is working with the Chief Administrative Officer and HRP to include the new Halifax Brand on RCMP cruisers. He noted that updates will be provided to the Board on both of these endeavours.

**The RCMP Dashboard reports were received by the Board as submitted.**

#### **7.1.5 RCMP Reports**

The following was before the Board:

- *RCMP Reports dated April 2014*

**The RCMP reports were received by the Board as submitted.**

#### **7.1.6 HRP Public Safety Office Report**

Staff Sargent Scott MacDonald, Public Safety Officer, noted provided an update from the public safety office. He commented on ongoing work with respect to safe prescription drug drop offs with pharmacies across HRM.

### **7.2 BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS UPDATES**

#### **7.2.1 Updates**

Commissioner Outhit noted some puzzling news regarding a recent report which came out about Moncton and Halifax having chronicling an increase in illegal guns. He inquired if HRM should be doing more with respect to gun amnesty programs.

Staff Sargent Scott MacDonald, Public Safety Officer, noted ongoing work respecting a gun safety campaign which aims at educating residents about the safe storage of firearms. He noted that most of the illegal firearms in HRM are not imported from other countries but are legal firearms that have been stolen. He also noted the Ceasefire HRM program which is not administered by Police but is well supported by the policing community.

Chief Blais noted that it is important to look at the trends with respect to homicides in HRM. He noted six homicides in HRM in which some involved guns but the majority did not. He noted that two homicides were related to the drug subculture, two were a result of domestic violence, one was an altercation in which alcohol was involved and the other involved an elderly person with dementia.

Deputy Chief Moore provided an update on the police blotter and noted that it is almost ready to be launched. He noted ongoing work which needs to be undertaken with respect to access and privacy and that he hopes to have further information available for the next Board meeting.

Commissioner Dalrymple inquired if the Clairmont report will be discussed. The Chair advised that the Clairmont Report would be discussed by Regional Council at a Committee of the Whole session to be held on May 13.

Commissioner Honsberger noted that recommendation to move the Public Safety Office from HRP to HRM administration is worth discussion. He commented that the Board can provide valuable insight in to this move.

Commissioner Moreash noted that one facet of the report is the proposition that somehow the Board of Police Commissioners did not have the time or the interest to provide guidance to the Public Safety Office. He noted that when the strategic plan for the Public Safety Office came before the Board, with no recommendation to be carried forward or acted upon. He noted that many Commissioners were not aware that the board was responsible for public safety. He noted that the failure to provide guidance to the Public Safety Office from the Board was not borne out of lack of interest but rather that the Board was not clear in its role.

Commissioner Mosher stated that she believed that the Board of Police should have been consulted more with respect to the move. She noted her support for moving the Public Safety Office under the CAO but the Board can provide valuable insight in this regard.

Mr. Richard Butts, Chief Administrative Officer, commented that the core of the report is more about how crime has changed in HRM over the past seven years. He noted that there will be no decision made with respect to the Public Safety Office until a recommendation is passed. He commented that feedback from the Board of Police Commission will be welcomed and encouraged in this regard.

Further discussion ensued with the following motion being passed:

**MOVED by Commissioner Moreash, seconded by Commissioner Dalrymple that the Board of Police Commissioners request that Halifax Regional Council not direct the CAO to implement the relocation of the Public Safety Office function from the Halifax Regional Police to the HRM administration, as described in the Mayor and Council Review of Task Force on Violence and Public Safety until such time as it has been reviewed by the Board of Police Commissioners.**

**8. ADDED ITEMS – NONE**

**9. IN CAMERA – NONE**

- **Election of Chair and Vice-Chair Board of Police Commissioners**

The Legislative Assistant called for nominations for the position of Chair.

**MOVED by Commissioner Honsberger, seconded by Commissioner Outhit that Commissioner Mike Moreash be nominated as Chair. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

The Legislative Assistant called three more times for further nominations, as there were none it was **MOVED by Commissioner Dalrymple, seconded by Commissioner Mosher that nominations cease. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Commissioner Moreash was elected Chair of the Board of Police Commissioners.

Commissioner Moreash assumed the position of chair and called for nominations for Vice Chair.

**MOVED by Commissioner Honsberger, seconded by Commissioner Dalrymple that Commissioner Phil Read be elected as Vice-Chair.**

The Chair called three more times for further nomination. As there were none, it was **MOVED by Commissioner Ruth, seconded by Commissioner Honsberger that the nominations cease. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Commissioner Read was elected Vice-Chair of the Board of Police Commissioners.

**5.1.1 Naming of Nova Scotia Association of Police Boards Representative**

**MOVED by Commissioner Mosher, seconded by Commissioner Read that Commissioner Mike Moreash be named as the HRM Board of Police Representative to the Nova Scotia Association of Police Boards.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Chief Superintendent Wells and Chief Jean Michel Blais presented Ms. Micki Ruth with gifts on behalf of the RCMP and HRP and its respective employees and thanked her for her years of service on the Board. Commissioner Ruth thanked the Chief Superintendent Wells and Chief Blais for the kind gifts and words. She further expressed her thanks and best wishes to her colleagues on the Board.

**10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – June 23, 2014**

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:04 p.m.

Liam MacSween  
Legislative Assistant