



**BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
June 23, 2014**

PRESENT: Commissioner Mike Moreash, Chair
Commissioner Phil Read, Vice Chair
Commissioner Fred Honsberger
Commissioner Linda Mosher
Commissioner Barry Dalrymple

REGRETS: Commissioner Tim Outhit

STAFF: Chief Jean Michel Blais, HRP
Chief Superintendent Rolland Wells, RCMP
Deputy Chief Bill Moore, HRP
Mr. Richard Butts, Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. Ashley Dutcher, Solicitor
Mr. Liam MacSween, Legislative Assistant

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

The agenda, supporting documents, and information items circulated to the Board of Police Commissioners are available online:

<http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/bpc/140623bpcAgenda.php>

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 p.m., the Board moved into an In Camera session at 1:36 p.m. and reconvened at 2:15 p.m. the Board adjourned at 2:16 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.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 12, 2014

MOVED by Commissioner Read, seconded by Commissioner Dalrymple that the minutes of May 12, 2014 be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions:

Item No. 8.1.1 – Discussion of upcoming Canadian Association of Police Governance Conference

Deletions:

Item No. 7.1.8 – Amendments to Administrative Order 58 – Respecting the Delegation of Certain Authorities

MOVED by Commissioner Honsberger, seconded by Commissioner Read that the agenda be approved as amended.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS – NONE

7. REPORTS/DISCUSSION

7.1 STAFF

7.1.1 HRP Reports

The following was before the Board:

- *The HRP Reports dated May, 2014.*

The HRP reports were received by the Board as submitted.

7.1.2 RCMP Dashboard Report

The following was before the Board:

- *The RCMP Dashboard Report dated June 23, 2014.*

Chief Superintendent Wells provided a summary of the RCMP Dashboard Report and noted a 20% increase in cell phone Summary Offense Tickets (SOT's). He provided commentary on efforts to increase roads safety in RCMP districts through the use of check points. C/Supt. Wells advised of reductions in vehicle collisions and SOT's related to speeding.

Commissioner Dalrymple commented on the effectiveness of checkpoints and noted that as a result fewer t accidents and incidents will occur. He noted that he is happy to see them being used and noted that check points are the most visible form of policing.

The RCMP Dashboard Report was received by the Board as Submitted.

7.1.3 RCMP Reports

The following was before the Board:

- *The RCMP Reports dated May, 2014.*

The RCMP Reports were received by the Board as Submitted.

7.1.4 HRP Public Safety Office Report

Staff Sargent Scott MacDonald provided a verbal update with respect to the HRP public Safety Office. He commented that the Ceasefire HRM program is operational and noted that staff have been hired and are currently at work. He explained that HRP does not administer this program but actively supports it.

S/Sgt. MacDonald provided an overview of the Youth Advocate and Souls Strong projects and noted that both are underway in the community of North Preston. He advised that the community was identified as an area of concern with respect to at risk youth and commented on an informal agreement that was reached with Ceasefire Program, on how Souls Strong and Ceasefire will operate in North Preston which will be reviewed in August.

Commissioner Moreash thanked S/Sgt MacDonald for the update and noted that more feedback with respect to the Youth Advocate Program should be provided to the Board as the Board is responsible for the oversight of the program.

Commissioner Read echoed Commissioner Moreash's comments and requested that a briefing document relating to the Youth Advocate Program be made available for the next meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners.

Staff Sargent MacDonald provided commentary on a new initiative with Art Gallery of Nova Scotia which aims to engage youth in Criminal justice issues. He noted that work with respect to this initiative is ongoing and that updates will be provided to the Board as it progresses.

7.1.5 HRM Police Response to Major Shooting Events in Moncton

Chief Superintendent Wells provided background information to the Board respective firearms inventory, equipment, and the ongoing training available to RCMP officers in the Halifax District to deal with a major shooting event. He noted that he is very confident in the level of training provided to RCMP officers in the Halifax District to respond to a major shooting event if one were to occur. He further noted that in conversations with Chief Blais, there is essentially one response to a situation which took place Moncton; a well co-ordinated joint response from the RCMP and HRP to neutralize the situation and ensure that public safety is protected.

Chief Blais commented that HRP also has access to the same type of equipment that is available to members of the RCMP. He commented that the equipment has been utilized on occasions when HRP officers have responded to gun issues within the city. He commented on recent changes to the Emergency Response Team (ERT) model so that Officers have immediate access to their equipment and can quickly respond to an issue if one arises. Chief Blais further commented that the ERT have undergone training for rapid deployment and officers are trained and prepared to deal with that type of threat. He echoed C/Supt Wells comments regarding a joint response with the RCMP and noted that he is very confident in the abilities of both forces to respond to an event if one were to occur.

7.1.6 Spryfield Police Office Temporary Closure

Commissioner Mosher provided background information with respect to the recent temporary closure of HRP's Community Office in Spryfield. She noted that there has been some concern within the community respecting the closure of the office. She further commented that the HRP logo and signage on the outside of the building is in disrepair and does not project a positive image. She requested further information as to whether or not the office will be re-established.

Staff Sargent Scott MacDonald commented that the office will be re-opened on July 2, 2014 from Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. He stated that the office was closed for the past several months due to a staffing issue. He commented that citizens in the area have been able to go to the Community Office on Mumford Road, HRP Headquarters on Gottingen Street and the Bedford Police station if they require non-emergency assistance.

Deputy Chief Moore commented that the staffing model for that particular office is currently being reassessed and that there are no plans to permanently close the Spryfield Community Office. He further noted that the signage issue will also be dealt with.

7.1.7 Alternative Meeting Dates

Commissioner Honsberger commented that it would be beneficial for the Board to set an alternate meeting day in the event that a meeting is postponed. He suggested that the Board consider the following Friday as a back-up if the usual Monday meeting gets postponed.

Further discussion ensued with the Board of Police Commissioners agreeing by consensus to consider Fridays as an alternate meeting day should a future meeting be postponed due to lack of quorum or other logistical issues.

7.1.8 Amendments to Administrative Order 58 – Respecting the Delegation of Certain Authorities

This item was deleted from the agenda during the approval of the order of business. Please see page 2.

7.2 COMMISSIONER UPDATES

7.2.1 Updates

Commissioner Dalrymple provided background information regarding his trip to Moncton to attend the funeral for the RCMP members who were involved in the shooting incident. He noted that he was proud to attend the ceremony in Moncton as a member of the Board of Police Commissioners as well as a former RCMP officer. He also expressed his thanks to Chief Blais and his Wife for inviting him to travel with them to attend the funeral.

Commissioner Dalrymple expressed his pride in both the RCMP as well as the HRP for their work in supporting their fellow colleagues in Moncton. He commented that the response from personnel in both organizations was tremendously impressive. He explained that many HRP and RCMP Officers from Halifax volunteered to work double shifts and provide coverage on their days off so their colleagues could attend the service. He noted that the largest commitment of Police Officers in Moncton, aside from the RCMP, was that of the Halifax Regional Police.

Commissioner Dalrymple commented that the integration of the RCMP and HRP forces in HRM has worked very well. He noted that Halifax has the best of both worlds in terms of policing in Canada. He concluded by expressing how well the police officers handled themselves during that difficult time.

Chief Superintendent Wells expressed his thanks to the Halifax Regional Police for help received from in covering shifts for members of the RCMP. He commented on the great deal of support from other law enforcement organisations as well as the public

Chief Blais also thanked the individual members of HRP who offered to replace RCMP members so that they could attend the service. He commented that many RCMP members thanked him personally for HRP members who were ready to backstop for them. He stated the he was very fortunate to attend the service and that a very strong contingent from HRM, many of whom were on their days off, were able to attend. He further thanked staff at Metro Transit who organized the transportation of 180 individuals from HRM to Moncton to attend the funeral. He reiterated that HRM was the second largest contingent of police personnel outside of the RCMP.

Commissioner Mosher provided an update of the Joint Police Services Advisory Committee meeting of which she recently attended. She advised that the committee reviewed various RCMP

and municipal Police service agreements and began work on the Terms of Reference for the committee. She commented that the next meeting will focus on the economics of policing and that she will continue to provide updates to the Board as the work continues.

Commissioner Honsberger noted that work is still ongoing with respect to the 2014-2015 Board of Police Commissioners project work plan and that he intends to have a document prepared for discussion at the next meeting.

Commissioner Read noted that he was away over the past several weeks and announced the birth of his second granddaughter. He stated that while he was away in Calgary the incident in Moncton was front page news. He noted that he was very impressed to see the level of commitment from Halifax Police Services and that he wished he could have been there to attend the service in person.

Further discussion ensued.

Deputy Chief Moore commented that he sits on the Board of the HomeBridge Youth Society, a non-profit charitable organizations that provides support to children and youth under the care of Community Services. He explained that HomeBridge has an award of appreciation for outstanding service which it grants annually. He remarked that this year it was awarded to Halifax Regional Police Constable Jason Mitchell. He commented that Const. Mitchell makes every effort to drop in and get to know the youth in the facilities. He noted that Const. Mitchell always finds time for a game of road hockey with the kids or to drop by during his supper break. He further commented that when Const. Mitchell was made aware that he was being awarded by the group, he humbly suggested that the award be granted to front line staff that work with kids on a day to day basis, which speaks volumes toward his character.

Deputy Chief Moore, speaking on behalf of the Halifax Regional Police commented that he is very pleased with the selection of Const. Mitchell for the award as it most certainly reflects the work that he does on behalf of HRP in that community.

Commissioner Moreash on behalf of the Board of Police Commissioners commended Constable Jason Mitchell for his hard work and dedication. He noted that a letter will from the Board would be sent regarding his outstanding award.

8. ADDED ITEMS

8.1.1 Discussion of upcoming Canadian Association of Police Governance Conference

Commissioner Phil Read gave an overview of the CAPG website and noted that the upcoming conference will take place at the Westin Hotel in Halifax from August 19 to 23, 2014.

Commissioner Mosher provided background information to the Board with respect to the Charity Golf Tournament.

Commissioner Read noted that volunteers consisting of off duty and retired police officers or Commissionaires will likely be required to help out with the conference. Chief Blais remarked that Superintendent Don MacLean and Inspector Jeff Dowling are currently working to make arrangements for volunteers.

Further discussion ensued.

MOVED by Commissioner Read, seconded by Commissioner Mosher that the Board of Police Commissioners convene to In Camera to discuss and Operational and Personnel Matter. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The Board of Police Commissioners convened to In Camera at 1:37 p.m. to discuss the following matters:

9. IN CAMERA

9.1.1 Halifax Regional Police Operational Matter

This matter was dealt with in an In Camera Session. No further action taken.

9.1.2 Personnel Matter

This matter was dealt with in an In Camera Session. No further action taken.

The Board of Police Commissioners reconvened to public session at 2:00 p.m.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING –July 14, 2014

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:01 p.m.

Liam MacSween
Legislative Assistant