



**BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
October 17, 2014**

PRESENT: Commissioner Mike Moreash, Chair
Commissioner Fred Honsberger
Commissioner Barry Dalrymple
Commissioner Linda Mosher
Commissioner Tim Outhit

REGRETS: Commissioner Phil Read, Vice-Chair

STAFF: Chief Jean-Michel Blais, HRP
Chief Superintendent Roland Wells, RCMP
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/141017bopc-agenda.php>

The meeting was called to order at 12:37 p.m. adjourned to an In Camera session at 2:17 p.m. and reconvened at 3:20 p.m. The Committee adjourned at 3:22 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:37 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 8, 2014

Commissioner Mosher noted an omission in the minutes of September 8, 2014 pertaining to the CAPG conference. She provided further information regarding acknowledgements to conference volunteers and sponsor organizations.

MOVED by Commissioner Dalrymple, seconded by Commissioner Mosher that the minutes of September 8, 2014 be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions:

Item No. 8.1 Memorandum from Superintendent S. Auld, dated September 6, 2014: Re: Crosswalk Staffing Criteria Review

MOVED by Commissioner Honsberger, seconded by Commissioner Outhit 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

6.1 Correspondence – NONE

6.2 Petitions – NONE

6.3 Presentations

6.3.1 Halifax Regional Police Strategic Plan and 2015 Directional Priorities

Ms. Kathleen Patterson, Business Initiatives Coordinator, Halifax Regional Police provided background information and an overview with respect to the Strategic Plan and 2015 Directional Priorities for Halifax Regional Police.

Commissioner Mosher commented that the Board had only just received the information pertaining to the Strategic Plan and 2015 Directional Priorities and did not have a great deal of time to review the material to provide effective feedback.

Ms. Patterson noted the quick turnaround on the material and advised that the timelines regarding the strategic plan and directional priorities are tight, given that the document is utilized for the Budget process.

Commissioner Moreash inquired if it would be feasible to bring the matter to the next meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners to allow members to provide better feedback.

Commissioner Dalrymple suggested that Board consider holding a special meeting to consider this matter alone. He suggested that the Special meeting take place on Wednesday, October 22, 2014.

MOVED by Commissioner Honsberger, seconded by Commissioner Mosher that the Board of Police Commissioners hold a Special Meeting to consider the Halifax Regional Police Strategic Plan and 2015 Directional Priorities on October 22, 2014 at 12:30 p.m.

MOTION OUT AND PASSED.

Commissioner Moreash noted that he had a brief period of time to review the documentation and commended Ms. Patterson and the Halifax Regional Police for the work on that they had conducted so far. He commented that he looks forward to further discussion on the matter.

Commissioner Dalrymple echoed Commissioner Moreash's comments and noted that the documentation as presented is very impressive. He inquired if all of the 41 deliverables can be achieved within a year.

Chief Blais commented that Halifax Regional Police is preparing to launch a ten year strategic plan. He commented that the intention of the document is to combine business planning with a strategic plan. He noted that some of the deliverables as outlined in the strategic priorities will be a part of the ten year plan.

7. REPORTS

7.1 STAFF

7.1.1 HRP Dashboard Reports

The following was before the Board:

- *The HRP Dashboard Reports*

Chief Blais noted that the HRP Dashboard reports are as submitted and provided an overview of Halifax Regional Police Human Resources as of September 1, 2014.

Commissioner Honsberger stated that the HRP Dashboard report is a very useful document and provides great insight in to HRP's Human Resources in an easy to read document.

Chief Blais noted a correction to the future retirement projections for males on the second page of the report should read ten as opposed to nine.

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

7.1.2 HRP Reports

The following was before the Board:

- *The HRP Reports*

The HRP Reports were received by the Board as submitted.

7.1.3 RCMP Dashboard Reports

The following was before the Board:

- *The RCMP Dashboard Reports*

Chief Superintendent Wells provided a brief overview of the RCMP Dashboard Report and noted a decrease of 33% in assault offences. He noted that the RCMP have noticed significant decreases in many other crime events such as property crime and impaired driving. He commented, however, that theft from motor vehicles has spikes by 37% which is due primarily to motorists leaving valuables inside

vehicles and not locking doors. He noted that the RCMP is actively monitoring this situation and that a crime analyst is gathering geographic information on reported incidents so that the appropriate resources can be deployed to those areas.

Commissioner Mosher inquired if more can be done with respect to public relations to ensure that people within the hotspots are aware that they need to lock the doors of their vehicle.

Chief Superintendent Wells agreed with Commissioner Mosher's assessment and noted that RCMP officers will canvass the neighbourhood if a car break-in is reported. He provided further commentary with respect to social media messaging particularly with the holiday season approaching.

Further discussion ensued.

The RCMP Dashboard Reports were received as submitted.

7.1.4 RCMP Reports

The following was before the Board:

- *The RCMP Reports:*

The RCMP Reports were received as submitted.

7.1.5 HRM Public Safety Office

The following was before the Board:

- *A Presentation pertaining to the HRM Public Safety Office*

Mr. Chris Bryant, Senior Advisor, Government Relations and External Affairs provided a presentation on the HRM public safety office.

Mr. Bryant concluded his presentation by noting that a strong relationship between the Police Services and HRM's Administration is essential in ensuring that the services provided by the Public Safety Office are offered in the most appropriate way. He cited other municipalities such as Waterloo and Thunder Bay which have implemented similar offices.

The Chair thanked Mr. Bryant for his presentation and asked for questions of clarification of the Committee

Commissioner Mosher expressed her concern that administrative staff will not have a sufficient experience in public safety, restorative justice, community policing and dealing with mental health issues. She commented that people in the community would likely have more respect for the office if the police component is upheld.

Mr. Richard Butts, Chief Administrative Officer stated that the problems facing the city as identified in Dr. Clairmont's report deal with broader social issues particularly surrounding the interdependencies of services and programs as they relate to public safety. He noted that HRM administration has been undertaking work on programming related to immigration and building healthy communities. He further commented that the new Public Safety Office will be another component of this work which is being conducted for the benefit of the community. Mr. Butts further advised that Halifax Regional Police and RCMP will remain as a vital component of that transition and that HRM administration will rely on police services for advice, support and program development.

Chief Blais agreed with Mr. Butts' assessment and commented that the majority of the work being conducted by the Public Safety Office as it currently stands will be continued by Halifax Regional Police. He noted that there is recognition that the solution to many issues pertaining to public safety can be addressed through hybrid hub models with civilian organizations. He cited successful programs that HRP

does not administer like, the CEASEfire program. He concluded by noting that there will always be a police presence with respect to the Public Safety Office.

Chief Superintendent Wells echoed both Mr. Butts and Chief Blais comments and noted that he has every confidence that HRM will hire exceptionally well trained staff for the public safety office. He further noted that the RCMP is prepared to take a team approach and will certainly provide the support that is needed.

Commissioner Outhit expressed his concern that there may be duplications of services and inefficiencies as HRM administration will be involved with the Public Safety Office.

Mr. Butts assured Commissioner Outhit that HRM will not open an office which does not have focus or direction. He noted that HRM will ensure that value for the investment that will be made in the Public Safety Office.

In response to a question from Commissioner Moreash, Mr. Butts noted that he would be happy to follow up with the Board after the Public Safety Office is up and running.

Staff Sargent Scott Macdonald provided background information pertaining to the Public Safety Office. He noted the completion of a level one training course which included internal Planning and Development staff pertaining to crime prevention through environmental design.

Staff Sargent Macdonald provided an update on the Fourth Wall project with the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia which was launched in September. He commented that it is a way to encourage and empower youth through art work. He advised that a number of candidates that made it to the finals and that the exhibit will be open to the public until January.

With respect to the TAGs graffiti conference, Staff Sargent Macdonald acknowledged Ted Aubut, in the Councillor Support Officer, Constable Gerry Murney, and Commissioner Mosher for their hard work and commitment to hosting a very informative and well run conference.

7.1.6 Enforcement of Cycling on Sidewalks

Commissioner Mosher commented that she had received many emails on this issue and spoke to the Divisional Commander regarding individuals cycling on sidewalks, which is prohibited. She inquired as to how this issue can be more effectively enforced.

Chief Blais noted that he will bring the issue forward with senior management at HRP and will inform colleagues in Traffic and Right of Way. He commented that in some areas of the municipality there is a lack of bicycle infrastructure which is likely a contributing factor toward this issue. He advised that a public educational program may be in order.

Chief Superintendent Wells agreed with Chief Blais assessment and added that the public needs to be made aware of the issues and must report incidents where the occurrences take place so that Police can deploy resources to the area.

7.1.7 Trauma Awareness Skills Courses

Commissioner Mosher provided information to the Board regarding Trauma Awareness Skills Courses and noted that there have been many cases across the country where first responders have had difficulty coping with traumatic events that they have witnessed. She referenced peer based programs to help assist those who are likely to face, or have faced traumatic events and commented that that it may be in the interest of the Board to have a presentation on this matter. She further noted that Halifax Regional Police and the RCMP may wish to assess programs of this nature for the benefit of staff.

Chief Blais commented that trauma awareness it is an excellent initiative, and forms a part of HRP's Directional Priorities for 2015, specifically the development of a Health and Wellness plan for HRP members, civilian and sworn. He noted that HRP has been to developing a framework for health and wellness. He noted that he will review the documentation provided by Councillor Mosher and come back to the Board with more information.

Sargent Julia Cecchetto, Halifax Regional Police commented that all officers in HRP will be participating in a tow hour session on Health and Wellness, starting in January, of which trauma awareness will be a major part. She commented that HRP is currently investigating another program for officers entitled the Road to Readiness for Mental Preparedness and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Chief Superintendent Wells commented that the RCMP in Nova Scotia will be rolling out a mental health Resiliency program which involves peer to peer to support. He commented that he would happy to bring back information on that for the next meeting.

Further discussion ensued.

7.2 Commissioner Updates

7.2.1 Updates

Commissioner Mosher provided an update on the TAGS Anti-Graffiti conference which was held in Halifax on October 15 & 16. She extended her thanks to Sargent Valerie Spicer, from Vancouver who spoke at the conference and to Chief Blais for his opening remarks and attendance. She noted that there was a wonderful presentation regarding Graffiti Tourism from Constable Colin Saysell of the British Transport Police and many other valuable presentations from invited guests from all over the country. She extended thanks to Mayor Mike Savage, Chief Superintendent Wells, Ted Aubut, Staff Sargent Scott Macdonald and Constable Gerry Murney. She concluded by stating that that the TAGS conference was a fantastic learning opportunity and was very good for Halifax.

Chief Blais commented that the Conference was a fantastic and that he would have preferred to have been there longer if his schedule would have permitted it. He commented that he is quite familiar with Dr. Spicer as he had worked with her in the past. In addition to this, Chief Blais noted that Graffiti can lead to many other issues, particularly for at risk youth.

Commissioner Dalrymple provided an update respecting the Nova Scotia Police Chiefs and Police Board conference held in Sydney, Nova Scotia which he attended with Commissioner Moreash. He commented on the excellent representation from HRP and noted that the overall theme of the conference was that of police governance.

Commissioner Outhit noted that he is very pleased with the response from HRP within his District in helping to alleviate traffic issues and community issues. He inquired as to how the Board of Police Commissioner and Council can assist with the economics of policing.

Commissioner Moreash noted that the economics of policing are at the forefront of issues with respect to policing in Canada. He cited a recent Frasier institute report and agreed with Commissioner Outhit in that the Board should conduct further work on this issue.

Chief Superintendent Wells commented that it is a difficult job to measure suppression and ensuring that resources are in the right spot given the complexity of crime as it is being committed. He noted that the RCMP uses the opportunity to speak to the public on these issues when possible, to further educate about the importance of police resources.

Chief Blais echoed Chief Superintendent Wells' comments and noted that HRP has been working on actively on accountability measures and spending for impact in terms of police resources. He provided

commentary on the changing face of crime due to technological advancements and noted initiatives such as the real time crime centre to deal with these issues.

Further discussion ensued.

Commissioner Honsberger provided an update on work that he is conducting on an orientation manual for new and existing Commissioners. He commented that he is gathering materials and has established contact with some of the presenters at the recent CAPG conference and has found them to be a valuable resource by providing insight in to how other Police Commissions operate.

Commissioner Honsberger noted that the orientation manual that he is currently working on will try and address the need to balance the legislative demands of the Police Commission with that of the participatory role that is required of a member. In addition to this, he noted that he views the document as very useful in terms of succession planning and noted that he would like the support of the Commission to keep working on the material.

Commissioner Dalrymple commended Commissioner Honsberger for his work on this matter and thanked him for his hard work on a very useful and informative document. The Board, by consensus, expressed their support for Commissioner Honsberger's work.

Commissioner Moreash provided an update respecting his recent attendance at the Nova Scotia Association of Police Governance Meeting. He provided further information respecting a meeting with Justice Minister Lena Diab, on September 16th regarding the the Boots on the Street Program as well as the webinar held regarding Organized Crime and Terrorism. He noted that the webinar dealt mostly with the international drug trade but was very informative. He further commented that he met with Chief Blais on October 7, 2014 regarding the need for information as a Board, upcoming events, and preparations for the budget. He stated that these meetings will be ongoing. He further mentioned that he was in attendance at swearing in ceremony for three new and promising HRP officers.

Commissioner Moreash also noted upcoming 32nd Annual Law Enforcement Memorial Service which will take place Sunday, October 19, 2014 beginning at Grand Parade at 9:30 a.m. culminating at St. Mary's Basilica for a service at 10:30 a.m.

8. ADDED ITEMS

8.1 Memorandum from Superintendent S. Auld, dated September 6, 2014: Re: Crosswalk Staffing Criteria Review

Sargent Julia Cecchetto provided a presentation regarding the Crosswalk Staff Criteria on behalf of Superintendent Sean Auld. She commented on work that was conducted by HRP in reviewing the Transportation Association of Canada (TAC) guidelines and best practices in other jurisdictions. She noted that as a city, in many instances HRM is exceeding what is recommended by the TAC guidelines in terms of staffing criteria. She advised that a survey has been conducted with other jurisdictions and it unlikely that there will be changes made to HRM's staffing model for crosswalks. She concluded by stating that the data that is being collected still requires further analysis and it will be a few more weeks before a final report on this matter is submitted.

9. IN CAMERA

9.1 Contractual Matter

9.1.1 Presentation – RCMP Contract

This matter was dealt with during an In Camera Session.

MOVED by Commissioner Outhit, seconded by Commissioner Dalrymple that the Board of Police Commissioners convene to In Camera to discuss a contractual matter.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The Board of Police Commissioners convened to in camera at 2:17 p.m. and reconvened to public session at 3:20 p.m. No further action was required.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – November 10, 2014

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:22 p.m.

Liam MacSween
Legislative Assistant