



**BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
November 10, 2014**

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

REGRETS:

STAFF: Chief Jean-Michel Blais, HRP
Deputy Chief Bill Moore, HRP
Inspector Trish MacCormack, RCMP
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 Board are available online:
<http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/bpc/141110bopc-agenda.php>*

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 p.m. the Board moved into an In Camera session at 2:00 p.m. and reconvened at 2:17 p.m. the Committee adjourned at 2:18 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order in Halifax Hall, 2nd Floor City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 17, 2014

MOVED by Commissioner Honsberger, seconded by Commissioner Dalrymple that the minutes of October 17, 2014 be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED

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

Additions:

- 8.1 Special Meeting – 2015-16 Halifax Regional Police Preliminary Budget Presentation
- 8.2 Commissioner Dalrymple – Pawn Shops/Municipal By-laws

MOVED by Commissioner Read, seconded by Commissioner Honsberger 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 Presentation – NONE

7. REPORTS

7.1 STAFF

7.1.1 HRP Reports

The following documentation was before the Board:

- *The HRP Reports*

Commissioner Honsberger noticed a reference to Home Invasions which have increased over the previous year. He commented as to whether or not in many of the circumstances of home invasion, if the perpetrators are known by the victims.

Chief Blais commented that some individuals who commit break and enters are known to one another. He also noted that home invasions, in many cases are related to drug or money disputes.

Deputy Chief Moore agreed with the Chief's assessment and commented that oftentimes, home invasions can be classified as drug "rip off" cases. He commented that he would be able to provide more data respecting home invasions to the Commissioner if requested.

Further discussion ensued.

The HRP Reports were received by the Board as Submitted.

7.1.2 RCMP Dashboard Reports

The following was before RCMP:

- *The RCMP Dashboard Reports*

Inspector Trish MacCormack, RCMP gave an overview of the RCMP Dashboard Reports.

In response to a follow up question, Inspector MacCormack commented that the RCMP does not wear body worn cameras, but noted that an RCMP detachment in Saskatchewan is piloting the usage of body worn cameras. She commented that the RCMP are monitoring this project very closely and may have a policy in the future pertaining to body worn cameras.

Commissioner Outhit inquired about the use of dashboard cameras in police vehicles.

Deputy Chief Moore commented that the Majority of marked police vehicles have in car cameras and noted that HRP is currently assessing technological improvements to store digital recording from these cameras. He noted that many of the issues surrounding the use of camera, body worn, or in car, relates to the storage, retention and access to the footage.

Inspector MacCormack provided a brief update on RCMP objectives relating to the prevention of youth involvement in crime, a focus on hybrid hub training and the collaboration with outside partners to identify risk screening tools in schools.

With respect to Cyber Crime, she commented that the RCMP is focused on educating both internal and external clients in the reduction of cybercrime.

In response to a follow up question regarding the Cyberscan Unit from Commissioner Moreash, Inspector MacCormack commented that if a case of bullying within a school does not meet the threshold for criminal charges from the RCMP, it is referred to the Cyberscan team.

Inspector MacCormack noted that the RCMP has been working to strategically enhance safety throughout Halifax District. She noted that the RCMP has already exceeded its target and is continuing work related to public education and communication in this regard.

In response to a follow up question from Commissioner Outhit, Inspector MacCormack commented that the RCMP has worked heavily with HRM's Traffic Authority and the citizenry through town hall meetings to help enhance traffic safety.

Deputy Chief Moore commented about ongoing interaction between police services and traffic engineers regarding a more holistic approach to traffic safety. He commented that through these discussions, significant strides were made respecting the collecting of traffic information. He noted that the way that police are taking reports may not be useful to engineers to help solve problems and advised that HRP as well as the RCMP are actively working on improvements in this regard with the Traffic Authority.

The RCMP Dashboard Reports were received by the Board as Submitted.

7.1.3 RCMP Reports

The following was before the Board:

- The RCMP Reports

The RCMP Reports were received by the Board as submitted.

7.1.4 HRM Public Safety Office

Staff Sargent Scott Macdonald provided an update from the Public Safety Office. He commented that he attended a conference in Montreal pertaining to similar Public Safety Organization across the country. He noted that the focus of the conference was to ensure that all the cities that have public safety offices have a similar approach to pursuing public safety initiatives. He advised that he sits as a member of the National Steering Committee and was pleased to announce that the network has received some federal funding to add more meetings, and training for crime prevention and public safety officers. He stated that HRM is a leader on many fronts pertaining to public safety particularly in the area of youth advocate programs. He concluded by citing a well written article in the latest issue of Halifax Magazine which outlines Ceasefire program in HRM.

Staff Sargent Macdonald noted that Chief Blais retired Cruise, the HRP horse recently. He advised that Cruise has gone to spend the rest of his days on a farm and that the hunt is on for his replacement.

Chief Blais commended the service that Cruise provided to the Force and advised that his retirement was a welcome and good public service announcement as people love animals.

Commissioner Honsberger inquired if there was any discussion about the recent shooting events in Ottawa among public safety officers at the recent conference.

Staff Sargent Macdonald noted general conversations pertaining to outreach for diverse communities and the establishment of a cultural diversity group to assist with issues surrounding radicalization when such events occur.

Chief Blais noted an upcoming conference in 2015 which will deal with the issue of radicalization and public safety and noted that HRP will be recommending a presence from the Board for attendance.

7.1.5 HRP Human Resources Skills Map

Deputy Chief Bill Moore provided commentary regarding a database module which was purchased to assist in the digitalization of HRP employee records. He noted that work is ongoing in this regard and that it has been identified as a priority area for HRP in the 2015 Strategic Plan. He commented that he would provide updates to the Board regarding the status of this matter.

7.2 Commissioner Updates

Commissioner Mosher thanked Chief Blais and Constable Carver for their participation in a community open house event at a local Mosque in her district. She noted that a number of individuals from the Muslim Community are invited and that she is looking forward to the event.

Commissioner Mosher provided commentary on an upcoming motion that she will be tabling at the next meeting of Regional Council suggesting that the recommended graffiti taskforce, as discussed at the recent TAGs conference be placed under the new Public Safety Office.

Commissioner Outhit expressed his thanks to the HRP for the proactive patrolling in his District on Halloween night. He commented that the police presence was welcome in the community, especially to parents with young children, as they set out on trick or treat activities for the evening.

Commissioner Read commented that he will not be seeking re-nomination to the Board of Police Commissioners when his term expires at the end of 2014. He stated that he wishes to formally thank the

Commissioner for allowing him to serve and noted that it has been a wonderful experience. He noted that he will be involved during the discussions on the budget but will be away over the next few weeks on work related activities.

The Chair stated that he is very sorry to hear that Commissioner Read will not be applying for reappointment and that his contribution has been invaluable. He noted that there will be a more focused recognition of Commissioner Read's tenure with the Board at a future meeting.

8. ADDED ITEMS

8.1 Special Meeting – 2015-16 Halifax Regional Police Preliminary Budget Presentation

Commissioner Moreash noted that a special meeting of the Board of Police Commissioner is required for a preliminary presentation on the 2015-16 Budget.

The Legislative Assistant noted that the special meeting can be held on November 14, 2014 which provides adequate public notification of the meeting.

The Board agreed by consensus to hold the Special meeting on November 14, 2014 in the Miesner Room at Police Headquarters, 1975 Gottingen Street, Halifax.

8.2 Commissioner Dalrymple – Pawn Shops/Municipal By-laws

Commissioner Dalrymple commented that he would like more information pertaining to the enforcement of the sale of stolen property at Pawn Shops in HRM. He referenced that a former Councillor who passed a motion in this regard several years ago, but noted that a report on the matter did not materialize. He commented that there may be a need to enhance the current By-law respecting the regulation of pawn shops to ensure that those who sell goods to pawn shops are required to provide identification as a measure of identifying those who sell stolen goods.

Chief Blais stated that he has consulted both the RCMP and the Municipal Clerk's Office regarding a report request for updates to the current By-law and noted that the request could not be found. He commented that both HRP and the RCMP can investigate this matter from a policing perspective to assist the Commissioner in bringing forth a motion for the consideration of Regional Council at a later date.

Deputy Chief Moore advised of a program undertaken by the Vancouver Police Department which utilizes a computer system to cross references pawn shop inventories with stolen goods records. He commented that this type of system in HRM may be useful in helping to identify and recover stolen property.

Commissioner Dalrymple noted that he is looking to make the identification of stolen property easier for law enforcement officials, and the proper identification of those that initially sold stolen goods.

Commissioner Moreash provided a brief update on the current By-law respecting the regulation of Pawn Shops and noted that there are reporting mechanisms currently in place to identify stolen goods, but they would likely need to be updated.

Commissioner Mosher commented that this issue was discussed by the Board of Police in 2002 and did not seem to materialize.

Ms. Ashley Dutcher, Solicitor noted that she will make inquiries regarding the enforcement of the current By-law.

Chief Blais noted that he will speak to Superintendent MacLean of HRP as well as requesting the assistance of an RCMP inspector to draft a 2-3 page document on this matter. He noted that he will have the information back to the Board for consideration in January.

9. IN CAMERA

9.1.1 Approval of In Camera Minutes – October 17, 2014

The following motion was passed in public session:

MOVED by Commissioner Honsberger, seconded by Commissioner Outhit that the Board of Police Commissioners approve the In Camera Minutes of October 17, 2014 as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The Board convened to In Camera at 2:00 p.m. to discuss the following:

9.2 Contractual Matter

A matter pertaining to contractual negotiations and legal advice.

9.2.1 Halifax Regional Police – Contractual Matter

Motion:

To convene to In Camera to discuss a contractual matter.

The Board reconvened to public session at 2:17 p.m. No further action was required.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – December 8, 2014.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned at 2:18 p.m.

Liam MacSween
Legislative Assistant