



**BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES**

November 14, 2014

SPECIAL MEETING

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

REGRETS: None

STAFF: Chief Jean-Michel Blais, HRP
Deputy Chief Bill More, 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/141014specialbopc-agenda.php>

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 p.m. and adjourned at 1:27 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order in the Meisner Room, Halifax Regional Police Headquarters, 1975 Gottingen Street, Halifax.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – NONE

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

Additions/Deletions: None

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

4. Preliminary 2015-2016 Halifax Regional Police Operating Budget

The following documentation was before the Board:

- *The Halifax Regional Police 2015/16 Operating Budget Situation (Summary)*

Chief Jean-Michel Blais introduced Mr. Craig Horton, Budget Coordinator, Halifax Regional Police and gave and provided an overview of the Preliminary 2015-2016 Halifax Regional Police Operating Budget document.

Chief Blais advised of a projected budget gap of \$1,073,500 and outlined estimated budget pressures such as a three percent annual increase for Crossing guards, wage step increases as a result of collective bargaining agreements and non-union cost adjustments.

Chief Blais noted other budget pressures for the upcoming year such as the secondment of an HRP officer to Correctional Services Canada, as well as increased costs related to training. He further noted that the Ballistic Body Armour used by HRP officers have reached the end of their five year life cycle and need to be replaced.

Chief Blais provided further commentary on inflationary cost pressures such as facility operating costs and increases pertaining to Canadian Commissionaire contracts.

Chief Blais advised of the following service enhancements being considered by HRP in consultation with HRM management:

- The development of Research and Development Specialist position.
- The development of a Crime Analyst position
- The development of a Junior Communications Advisory position.
- The Conversion of 8 Part Time Intercept Monitors to two full time positions.
- Updating and replacement of covert and tactical investigation tools and equipment.
- A Firearms Training Range solution.
- A pilot study relating to the usage of Body Worn Cameras

With respect to the conversion of the 8 part time Intercept Monitors, Chief Blais noted that HRP strives to spend for impact citing that having two full time employees as opposed to eight part time individuals allows for more flexibility. He provided further commentary on the roles of intercept monitors and advised that the job entails intercepting communications between individuals and preparing transcriptions to assist investigators during investigations.

Commissioner Outhit inquired if the reduction in Intercept Monitor positions will ultimately increase overtime costs.

Deputy Chief Moore commented that HRP has had difficulty retaining part time workers in the past given that Intercept monitor work cannot always be promised, as it must be judicially authorized. As a result, he noted that employees tend to find other work that is more lucrative. He noted that the proposed full time employees, when not intercepting communications for investigations, would be able to assist in other administrative work, as opposed to utilizing police officers for the same purposes.

With respect to equipment upgrades, Chief Blais noted that items such as the Bomb Suit used by HRP have best before dates. He commented that typically items such as these are one-time purchases made every decade. He noted that HRP is in the process of converting these items for inclusion in the Capital Budget, but because of industry requirements pertaining to the equipment, it must be dealt with now in the operational budget.

Chief Blais commented that HRP is currently investigating a more permanent area to conduct firearms training and will submit a business plan in that regard in the near future. He provided commentary regarding research on the usage of body worn cameras and commented that other Cities such as Calgary, Vancouver and Kelowna are also looking in to the issue. He noted that HRP is following this research very closely and has set some funding aside in the budget for a potential pilot project in this regard.

Commissioner Mosher noted that the RCMP is currently looking in to this matter in other jurisdictions and inquired if HRP will coordinate their efforts with RCMP in this regard. Chief Blais replied in the affirmative, and noted that more information is required pertaining to the storage of the information captured by the cameras, particularly as it relates to the current legislation which governs privacy and access to information.

Councillor Outhit inquired if body worn cameras will eventually augment the usage of cameras installed in police cars.

Deputy Chief Moore commented that there is no further funding within the budget for additional equipment, he commented that the money that is set aside is available for a pilot, subject to legislative and privacy concerns.

Commissioner Read advised of the difficulties which may face police departments in terms of freedom of information requests for videos captured on body worn cameras. He commented that more work would likely need to take place regarding the legal and intellectual property issues from there usage.

Deputy Chief Moore advised that HRP is working with the guidelines that are already in place and is looking forward to further discussions and recommendations from other jurisdictions regarding the usage of body worn cameras.

Commissioner Dalrymple expressed his interest in the work taking place on body cameras in other jurisdictions. He commented that currently HRP does not have cameras in patrol cars and would like to see the costs associated with the installation of cameras in patrol cars.

Deputy Chief Moore commented that further work needs to be conducted on the electronic file management system for the storage of the information obtained from patrol car cameras. He commented that he is confident that once the work is completed on this, subject to capital budget approval that HRP will be able to install the hardware necessary to allow for cameras in patrol cars.

In response to a follow up question from Commissioner Honsberger, Deputy Chief Moore commented that Ballistic vest is the standard vest worn by HRP officers. He commented that the manufacturer suggests replacement after five years. He noted that HRP is currently in year one year and a half into the

replacement process and strives to be in the position where one hundred vests per year are being replaced.

Commissioner Honsberger inquired if the RCMP has access to a rifle range. Deputy Chief Moore replied by stating that the RCMP currently uses the Bull Meadow rifle range and noted that unfortunately, it is not of sufficient capacity to allow HRP members to train at the same facility.

Commissioner Honsberger inquired if any consultant work has been commissioned regarding the establishment of a new headquarters for Halifax Regional Police. Deputy Chief Moore commented that a feasibility study was approved by Committee of the Whole and that there will be funding available for work on that matter.

Chief Blais noted that HRP will be developing a business plan with HRM administration for the establishment of a new headquarters.

Commissioner Dalrymple inquired if the funding within the proposed budget for a firearm range solution is to explore possible options.

Deputy Chief Moore replied in the affirmative and noted that there are not many indoor facilities left in the province in which HRP can utilize for firearms training. He commented that the funding is to there to examine as whether or not there is a range suitable for HRP to train in. He further advised that it may be the case that HRP will have to capitalize and build its own range. He advised that the first plan is to identify the options available.

Commissioner Dalrymple commented that the Municipality owns lands which may be appropriate for a rifle range. He further advised that HRP should consider approaching the federal government pertaining to potential partnerships to assist in this regard.

Commissioner Mosher inquired if HRP no longer has an arrangement with a local range. Deputy Chief Moore replied in the affirmative and noted that the range can no longer be used due to an Occupational Health and Safety complaint against the facility, he further advised that the range was not able to provide HRP with the information needed to continue the arrangement.

Commissioner Honsberger inquired as to what range the military, army and navy use.

Deputy Chief Moore noted that the military has access to the Bedford range, but noted that HRP can only book it in the morning subject to Department of National Defence schedules. He further advised that HRP will be developing a business plan in this regard.

Chief Blais provided an overview respecting revenue and cost recovery increases. He commented that currently there are two UN missions which are pending approval. He advised that HRP will not send more than two officers at a time on UN missions.

Further discussion ensued with HRP staff answering questions from the Board relating to the budget.

MOVED by Commissioner Read, seconded by Commissioner Honsberger that the Board of Police Commissioners approve the preliminary direction of 2015-16 Halifax Regional Police Operating Budget.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5. Briefing – Consideration of Amendments to Administrative Order 58, Respecting the Delegation of Certain Authorities

Ms. Ashley Dutcher, Solicitor provided a briefing to the Board regarding the consideration of Amendments to Administrative Order 58, Respecting the Delegation of Certain Authorities.

She commented that Legal Services is in the processes of amending the Administrative Order (policy) pertaining to the delegation of Certain Authorities which is applicable to all Business Unit Directors across the entire organization. She advised that the amendments are simply housekeeping matters which clarify the authorities of Business Unit Directors. She noted that the Chief of Police is considered a Director of Business Unit but his title, as Chief of Police, does not reflect this. She advised that the language in the policy has to be updated to reflect his title and to make this distinction.

Commissioner Dalrymple commented that this matter is one that Regional Council will be considering in near future but noted that it is being provided to the Board for input as it pertains to the Chief.

Mr. Richard Butts, Chief Administrative Officer commented that the language in the proposed Administrative Order is important to provide clarity regarding the role of the Chief. He commented that it is part of an ongoing process to make sure that HRM's Admin Orders are current and provide as much clarity as possible.

Further discussion ensued

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:27 p.m.

Liam MacSween
Legislative Assistant