



**BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
December 8, 2014**

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

REGRETS: Commissioner Phillip Read, Vice-Chair
Commissioner Tim Outhit

STAFF: Chief Jean-Michel Blais, HRP
Chief Superintendent Roland 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 Board are available online:
<http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/bpc/141208bopc-agenda.php>*

The meeting was called to order at 12:36 p.m., moved into an In Camera session at 1:31 p.m. and reconvened at 1:46 p.m. The Board adjourned at 1:48 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:36 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 22 (Special Meeting) & November 10, 2014

MOVED by Commissioner Honsberger, seconded by Commissioner Dalrymple that the minutes of October 22 (Special Meeting) & November 10, 2014 be approved as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

The Chair noted that Item No. 7 - Proposed 2015-2016 Halifax Regional Police Operating Budget will need to be deferred to the next scheduled meeting and advised that Item No. 8.1.7 – Update – Reorganization of Halifax Regional Police must be dealt with In Camera as it deals with matters relating to personnel.

MOVED by Commissioner Dalrymple, 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

6.2 Petitions

6.3 Presentation

6.3.1 Mr. Norm Collins re: Crosswalk Enforcement Unit in HRM

The following documentation was before the Board:

- *A presentation dated December 8, 2014*
- *Correspondence from Mr. Norm Collins, dated December 8, 2014*

Commissioner Mosher expressed her opposition to the presentation being given and noted that the matter should have been dealt with as correspondence to the Board to determine whether or not a presentation is warranted.

The Chair noted Commissioner Mosher's concerns and expressed his view that the Board will work on a clear policy for presentations. He further noted that it is within the Board's interest to hear the presentation as the matter relates to public safety and policy.

Chief Blais noted the presence of Superintendent Cliff Falkenham, West Division who may provide preliminary remarks after the presentation has concluded.

Mr. Norm Collins provided a presentation to the Board regarding a proposed Crosswalk Enforcement Unit in HRM.

The Chair thanked Mr. Collins for his presentation and requested questions of clarification from members.

Deputy Chief Moore thanked Mr. Collins for his presentation and commented that he would like to see more information pertaining to the resources required for the proposed enforcement unit as well as revenue which would be collected from the issuance of Summary Offence Tickets.

Commissioner Mosher noted that she takes exception to the assertion that HRM has not been doing enough in the area of Crosswalk Safety for pedestrians. She advised that she has a great deal of information pertaining to Crosswalk safety initiatives undertaken by the Municipality, which she is willing to submit to the Board as information items.

7. Proposed 2015-2016 Halifax Regional Police Operating Budget

The following documentation was before the Board:

- *The proposed 2015-2016 Halifax Regional Police Operating Budget*

This matter was deferred to the next meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners to take place on January 12, 2015. Please see page 2.

8. REPORTS

8.1 STAFF

8.1.1 HRP Dashboard Reports

The following was before the Board:

- *The HRP Dashboard Reports*

Chief Blais provided an overview of the HRP Dashboard report and noted that their usage has been reinstated after a brief reprieve. He provided further commentary on the COMSTAT information located on the second page.

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

8.1.2 HRP Reports

The following was before the Board:

- *The HRP Reports*

The HRP Reports were received by the Board as submitted.

8.1.3 RCMP Dashboard Reports

The following was before the Board:

- *The RCMP Dashboard Reports*

Chief Superintendent Roland Wells provided an update of the RCMP Dashboard Reports noting a significant increase in highway and school zone checkpoints and provided commentary respecting preventing impaired and aggressive driving. He advised that targeted enforcement in this area will be increased over the holidays.

Chief Superintendent Wells provided further commentary on Operation Hawkeye which emphasizes patrols during peak shopping hours and the tracking of prolific offenders in that area.

Commissioner Dalrymple noted that the Christmas season is coming up and inquired if there will be emphasis place on the enforcement of the usage of cell phones while driving. Chief Superintendent Wells replied in the affirmative and noted that both impaired driving and the usage of cell phones will be a primary focus of the RCMP.

Deputy Chief Moore advised that the usage of cell phones while driving continues to be an issue for law enforcement officials and advised of several public education initiatives to help spread the message around to citizens.

Chief Superintendent Wells agreed with Deputy Chief Moore's assessment and noted that the RCMP has been noticing more cases of distract driving such as texting, having a dog on the drivers lap, eating while driving.

Commissioner Mosher inquired if the recent change, requiring the usage of area codes when dialing, has affected hands free driving capabilities for motorists.

Superintendent Wells asserted that the hands free device would likely need to be reprogrammed to encompass the usage of area codes. He commented that a public service announcement on this would be beneficial as a reminder to motorists.

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

8.1.4 RCMP Reports

The following was before Board:

- *The RCMP Reports*

The RCMP Reports were received by the Board as submitted.

8.1.5 HRM Public Safety Office

Staff Sargent Scott MacDonald provided an update from the Public Safety Office. He commented on Police Officers providing coat drives, food drives and other community initiatives as the holiday season approaches. He commented that in two day- time, HRP will have approximately 50 youth at the Halifax Shopping Centre for the 10th annual Cop Shop program.

Staff Sargent MacDonald commented that impaired driving is a concern for the public safety office and noted that participating in operation Christmas to help combat impaired driving. He provided commentary on a new initiative pertaining to domestic violence with Transition House entitled we can just talk. He concluded by stating that he is looking forward for the new public safety officer position and noted that crossing guards will be soon be managed by HRM administration as opposed to HRP.

8.1.6 Update – 2015-2016 Halifax Regional Police Directional Statement

Chief Blais provided an update on the 2015-2016 Halifax Regional Police Directional Statement which is publish on HRP's social media platforms. He noted that within the directional statement HRP wanted to provide a report card on the work that was undertaken over the past year and to express HRP's intentions for the following year. He commented that he will be presenting the Directional Statement to the Executive Management Team and will submit the document to the Board for feedback.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

8.1.7 Update – Reorganization of Halifax Regional Police

This matter was moved to an In Camera session during the Approval of the Order of Business. Please see page

8.1.8 HRP – Crosswalk Staffing Criteria Review

The following was before the Board:

- *A Memorandum from Superintendent Sean Auld dated November 24, 2014.*

Superintendent Sean Auld provided a presentation respecting the Cross walk staffing criteria and noted that the current criteria can be better aligned with HRM priorities. He commented that HRP has looked at other jurisdictions across the country and advised the following criteria for the staffing of crosswalks:

- Utilized in relation to elementary schools and their students
- A minimum of 10 students and 200 vehicles during peak hour (this would be independent of other factors)
- Elimination of gap analysis (if minimum volumes are met crosswalk will be staffed regardless of the number of gaps)
- Collision history of greater than 1 collision per year over last three years where the actions of a crossing guard may have prevented same.
- Geographical conditions; for example number of traffic lanes
- Traffic speeds, understanding that no crossing guard will be placed at any location with a speed limit of higher than 60 Km/hr.
- Input from Traffic Management

Commissioner Mosher thanked Superintendent Auld for the detailed report and noted that it represents a very good jurisdictional review. She further expressed her support for the report.

MOVED by Commissioner Mosher, seconded by Commissioner Honsberger that the Board of Police Commissioners accept the report regarding the HRP Crosswalk Staffing Criteria Review as submitted.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

8.1.9 Proposed 2015 Board of Police Commissioners Meeting Schedule

The following was before Board:

- *The proposed 2015 Board of Police Commissioners Meeting Schedule*

MOVED by Commissioner Mosher, seconded by Commissioner Honsberger that the Board of Police Commissioners approve the proposed 2015 meeting schedule as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

8.2 Commissioners

8.2.1 Updates

Commissioner Dalrymple extended his thanks and appreciation to the all officers working over the holidays.

Commissioner Honsberger echoed Commissioner Dalrymple' s comments and provided commentary to the Board regarding his recent attendance at an open house event held at a local Mosque. He noted that he received a great deal of literature regarding the Muslim community in Halifax and had a very good time.

9. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

10. IN CAMERA

10.1 Approval of In Camera Minutes – November 10, 2014

The following motion was approved in public session:

MOVED by Commissioner Dalrymple, seconded by Commissioner Dalrymple that the In Camera Minutes of November 10 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The Board convened to an In Camera session at 1:31 p.m. regarding Item No.8.1.7 as the presentation from Halifax Regional Police involved discussions pertaining to Personnel Matters.

The Board reconvened to public session at 1:46 p.m. No further action was required.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – January 12, 2015.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:48 p.m.

Liam MacSween
Legislative Assistant