



**BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES  
January 12, 2015**

PRESENT: Commissioner Mike Moreash, Chair  
Commissioner Phillip Read, Vice-Chair  
Commissioner Fred Honsberger  
Commissioner Linda Mosher  
Commissioner Russell Walker  
Commissioner Stephen Adams

STAFF: Chief Jean-Michel Blais, HRP  
Chief Superintendent Roland Wells, RCMP  
Deputy Chief Bill Moore, HRP  
Mr. Martin Ward, Senior Solicitor  
Mr. Richard Butts, Chief Administrative Officer

*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/index.php>*

*The meeting was called to order at 12:35 p.m., and adjourned at 2:30 p.m.*

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Commissioner Mike Moreash, Chair called the meeting to order in Halifax Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax

- **Swearing In – Councillors Walker and Adams**

Mr. Martin Ward, Senior Solicitor, Legal Services swore in Councillors Adams and Walker as Commissioners of the Board. Introductions amongst the meeting's attendees followed.

- **Election of Chair & Vice-Chair**

Commissioner Adams suggested that the Election of Chair & Vice-Chair be deferred to the March, 2015 meeting to allow for the vacant citizen positions on the Board to be filled. He further suggested that Commissioner Moreash remain as Chair until that time.

**MOVED by Commissioner Adams, seconded by Commissioner Walker that the election of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board of Police Commissioners be deferred to the March, 2015 meeting to allow for new citizen membership to fill the vacant Board positions and that Commissioner Moreash remain as Chair until such time.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 14 (Special) & December 8, 2014**

**MOVED by Commissioner Read, seconded by Commissioner Adams that the minutes of November 14 (special) & December 8, 2014 be approved as circulated.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

Additions:

Item No. 8.1 – CAPG Conference – April, 2015

Deletions:

Item No. 6.3.1 Presentation from RCMP re: Hybrid Hub - An approach to Youth Intervention

Chief Superintendent Wells, RCMP noted that due to the Board's heavy agenda, his presentation can be provided at another time to allow for a more robust discussion.

**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 – NONE**

**5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS**

**5.1 December 8, 2014 - Proposed 2015-2016 Halifax Regional Police Operating Budget**

The following documentation was before the Board:

- *The Proposed Halifax Regional Police 2015/16 Operating Budget Situation (Summary)*
- *Correspondence from Mr. Robert Purcell, Executive Director, Public Safety and Security Division, Nova Scotia Department, dated January 6, 2015.*

Chief Blais, HRP and Mr. Craig Horton, Budget Coordinator, HRP provided a presentation to the Board pertaining to the Proposed 2015/16 Operating Budget.

**MOVED by Commissioner Read, seconded by Commissioner Honsberger that Board of Police Commissioners recommended that Halifax Regional Council approve the proposed Halifax Regional Police 2015/16 Operating Budget.**

Chief Blais noted that one of the key recommendations of Professor Clairmont's report on public safety is that the Public Safety Officer's position be moved out of HRP and put under a civilian authority within the office of the Chief Administrative Officer. He advised of cost recovery measures to offset the public safety coordinator position and noted that funding from reserves will make up the difference with respect to the proposed move. He remarked that no further increase to the HRP budget is required because of this transition.

Chief Blais circulated correspondence to the Board from the Department of Justice and advised that the \$100,000 funding commitment from the province for the Public Safety Office will not be provided on a go forward basis, as the position will not be staffed by a Police officer when it move. He advised that Boots on the Street program for which HRP received the funding stipulates that it must be used for policing.

Commissioner Mosher inquired as to why HRP cannot keep a sworn officer on staff to act as a liaison from HRP to the new HRM public safety office.

Chief Blais replied that HRP is acting on Council's request to move the public safety office to HRM administration.

The following supplemental motion was proposed for the Board's consideration:

**MOVED by Commissioner Mosher, seconded by Commissioner Adams that the Board of Police Commissioners recommend that Halifax Regional Council request a staff report examining the implications of augmenting the proposal in the 2015-16 Halifax Regional Police Operating Budget to include the addition of a Sworn Officer as a Police Liaison for the HRM Public Safety Office.**

Commissioner Mosher inquired if an amendment to the HRM Charter is required to move the Public Safety Office from HRP to HRM Administration.

Mr. Richard Butts, Chief Administrative Officer commented that Legal Services had conducted work respecting whether or not a Charter amendment is required to move the office. He further advised that the decision of the province with respect to the Boots on the Street program is an unintended negative outcome that staff will work to rectify as part of the budget process which has just begun.

Mr. Butts noted that the best practise model used in other jurisdictions is to not have the public safety office a part of the police department.

In response to a question from Commissioner Honsberger, Chief Blais clarified that the funding for the Public Safety Officer position is being discontinued for the fact that a police officer will no longer continue to act as the public safety officer as per the stipulation of the Boots on the Street agreement.

Chief Blais further advised that the position of the officer who is currently working as the Public Safety Officer will remain and commented that the only loss to HRP is the funding from the province.

Commissioner Adams commented that there is no downside to getting extra funding from the province and advised that it makes sense to pursue the motion that Councillor Mosher put forward.

Deputy Chief Moore noted that if HRP kept a police officer in the public safety role, the cost of transferring the office to HRP administration still remains. He advised that the \$100,000 figure from the province is not a full cost recovery number.

Commissioner Walker inquired if the public safety officer position has been advertised and whether or not the position could be filled by a police officer.

Chief Blais noted that the position has been advertised and that a police officer could apply for the position if they so choose. He advised that a police officer would likely have to give up being a sworn officer to do so.

Mr. Butts clarified that there seems to be two issues at play, the idea of pursuing a policy decision in moving the office outside of HRP to HRM administration or the loss of \$100,000. He reiterated that it is early in the budget process and options may be presented to rectify the problem.

Further discussion ensued.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

With respect to the main motion:

Commissioner Walker inquired about the replacement of body armour in the 2015-16 proposed budget.

Deputy Chief Moore advised that the line item in the budget is respecting replacing regular duty armour. He advised that the manufacturer's warranty stipulates that the armour needs to be replaced every five years. He commented that HRP replaced 100 pieces of armour per year.

Commissioner Walker inquired about the Youth Advocate program being transferred to Community and Recreation Services.

Chief Blais stated that the program will be formally transferred to Community and Recreation Services (CRS) as part of the budget process. He advised that the HRM Charter stipulated that the program had to be actualized by HRP as it is a public safety matter. He remarked that the youth advocate program has always been administered by CRS but for accounting purposes has been shown in HRP's budget.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Chief Blais commented that the budget presentation requires executive review prior to being submitted to Council. He advised that following his upcoming meeting with the Chief Administrative Officer, the Chair has asked that the presentation be sent out to the Board prior to submission to the Municipal Clerk's Office. He commented that the earliest the document can be sent to the Board is Friday with commentary from the Board submitted by Sunday. He apologized for the tight deadline and noted that any comments from the Board will be considered before the final submission to the Municipal Clerk's Office.

**6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS**

**6.1 Correspondence**

**6.1.1 Correspondence from the Hon. Diana Whalen dated November 24, 2014 re: Criminal Record Check fees for Volunteers Groups**

The following documentation was before the Board:

- Correspondence from the Hon. Diana Whalen dated November 24, 2014 re: Criminal Record Check fees for Volunteer Groups

Deputy Chief Moore noted that he volunteer groups are looking for reduced costing for criminal record checks. He provided commentary with respect to the current costs associated with criminal record checks and noted that it is done so on a cost recovery basis, given that in some cases, finger printing, and secondary background checks are required.

In response to a question from Councillor Adams, Deputy Chief Moore advised that the costs of criminal record checks increase when a vulnerable sector check is required which searches the sex offender registry. He noted in some cases of individuals with the similar names, finger printing is required.

**MOVED by Commissioner Honsberger, seconded by Councillor Adams that the Board of Police Commissioners request that the Chair send a response in coordination with HRP noting that criminal record checks are conducted on a cost recovery basis.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**6.1.2 Correspondence from Mr. Neil Price dated December 18, 2014 re: Community Assessment of Police Practices Research Project**

The following documentation was before the Board:

- *Correspondence from Mr. Neil Price dated December 18, 2014 re: Community Assessment of Police Practices Research Project*

Chief Blais provided commentary with respect to the proposed project and noted that the practise of carding is not used in the Halifax Regional Municipality.

**MOVED by Commissioner Read, seconded by Commissioner Honsberger that Board of Police Commissioners receive the correspondence and send a response to Mr. Price declining participation in the research project.**

**6.2 Petitions – NONE**

**6.3 Presentations – NONE**

**6.3.1 RCMP - Hybrid Hub – An approach to Youth Intervention**

This item was removed from the agenda. Please see page 2.

**7. REPORTS**

**7.1 STAFF**

**7.1.1 HRP Dashboard Reports**

The following was before the Board:

- *The HRP Dashboard Reports*

Chief Blais provided an overview of the Dashboard report and noted that HRP will be hiring seventeen new police officers to backfill positions as a result of retirements and departures. He advised that a swearing in ceremony is scheduled for mid-February and noted that invitations will be sent to the Board.

Commissioner Walker inquired if there are plans to run a police school program for those interested in a career with HRP.

Chief Blais noted that the market is fairly flush with good individuals and advised that HRM receives resumes from individuals who have an interest in joining the force from across the country. He commented that if HRP plans in the future, to start a training program it will be intensive. He further advised that HRP would consider giving priority to females and other individuals from diverse backgrounds.

Chief Blais stated that of the seventeen individuals that have been hired, four are women, one of which comes from a First Nations background. He further commented that of the remaining men, one individual is from a Sikh background, while several others are bi-lingual.

Further discussion ensued.

**MOVED by Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Read that the HRP Dashboard Reports be received by the Board as submitted.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

#### **7.1.2 HRP Reports**

The following was before the Board:

- *The HRP Reports*
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**MOVED by Commissioner Adams, seconded by Commissioner Read that the HRP Reports be received by the Board as submitted.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

#### **7.1.3 RCMP Dashboard Reports**

The following was before the Board:

- *RCMP Dashboard Reports*

Chief Superintendent Wells, RCMP provided an overview of the RCMP Dashboard reports. He commented that the RCMP have identified areas where impaired driving is the most prevalent and noted that members were able to take 29 impaired drivers off the road over the Christmas break. He further advised that over the calendar year, 301 individuals within the Halifax District were charged with impaired driving.

Chief Superintendent Wells provided commentary with respect to project Hawkeye and remarked that people were very interested to see officers checking vehicles in mall parking lots over the Christmas season. He commented that the operation was a proactive way to step up enforcement in crime hotspots. Overall, he noted that it was a very good campaign and very successful Christmas Season for the RCMP in Halifax District.

Commissioner Mosher requested that copies of the operation Hawkeye poster be provided to members of the Commission for public outreach purposes.

**MOVED by Commissioner Read, seconded by Councillor Adams that the RCMP Dashboard Reports be received by the Board as submitted.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

#### **7.1.4 RCMP Reports**

The following was before the Board:

- *The RCMP Reports*

**MOVED by Commissioner Read, seconded by Commissioner Honsberger that the RCMP reports be received by the Board as submitted.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

#### **7.1.5 HRM Public Safety Office**

Staff Sargent Scott Macdonald, Public Safety Officer, gave an update to the Board respecting the Public Safety Office and provided commentary with regarding the Brave program of which, the Public Safety Office is a community partner. He advised that the program is funded by the federal government and administered by Bryony House. He stated that the program provides support to at risk girls between the ages of six to eleven who are involved in acts of bullying or other troubling behaviours to help create opportunities for change.

Commissioner Walker inquired if the current public safety officer will still report to the Board with respect to public safety issues in HRM.

Chief Blais noted that HRP has no intention of renegeing on any of its duties with respect to public safety in the municipality. He commented that the work of the public safety office and public safety officer will still play a vital role with respect to community policing initiatives in HRM.

#### **7.1.6 Draft 2015/16 Board of Police Commissioners Budget**

The following was before the Board:

- *The Proposed 2015/16 Board of Police Commissioners Budget*

Commissioner Read commented that the Board's budget has been developed by reviewing all board expenses, such as conference attendance, membership dues, travel and catering. He noted that the numbers have increased slightly due to cost increases in membership dues and conference attendance.

**MOVED by Commissioner Read, seconded by Commissioner Honsberger that the proposed 2015/16 Board of Police Commissioners Budget of \$29,750.00 be approved as presented.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

#### **8.1 Canadian Association of Police Governance Conference – April, 2015**

Commissioner Moreash noted that the upcoming Canadian Association of Police Governance conference to be held in Toronto in April and should be considered by the Board as it is of particular importance. He advised that representation from the Board would be beneficial, but depending on the cost it may preclude Commissioners from attending other workshops.

Commissioner Walker inquired if there is enough funding within the Board's budget to accommodate the April conference.

Commissioner Moreash commented that there are several other conferences such as the Nova Scotia Association of Police Board's conference as well as the Canadian Association of Police Chiefs conference in Ottawa which will require Board representation.

Commissioner Honsberger commented that depending on the registration fees associated with the CAPG conference in April, it will likely require \$2000.00 per attendee for travel, registration, and accommodations.

**MOVED by Commissioner Walker, Seconded by Commissioner Read that the Board of Police Commissioners request that Halifax Regional Council approve an increase of \$8,000 to the 2015-**

**16 Board of Police Commissioners Budget to allow for Board representation at the April 7, 2015 Canadian Association of Police Governance Conference in Toronto, Ontario.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**7.1.7 Update – Proposal for Crosswalk Enforcement Unit**

The following was before the Board:

- *A memorandum from Superintendent Cliff Falkenham dated December 10, 2014*

Deputy Chief Moore provided an overview of Superintendent Cliff Falkenham's report and thanked Mr. Collins for taking the time to put together the information respecting the report. He advised that HRP is not recommending the creation of an enforcement unit at this time and is currently undertaking a more in depth enforcement strategy with respect to crosswalk safety.

Commissioner Mosher commended Superintendent Falkenham for his work on the report and noted that it is very good work.

**MOVED by Commissioner Mosher, seconded by Commissioner Adams that the Board of Police Commissioners accept the report as submitted.**

Commissioner Adams inquired if HRP can identify the top ten or twenty crosswalks that are the most problematic within the municipality.

Deputy Chief Moore commented that HRP is currently in the process of compiling that data as most of it is and was paper based. He commented that it is being entered in to a system which will identify trends over the last three years. He advised that HRP's main goal is to come back with hard data to help identify the most problematic areas.

Commissioner Adams further inquired if it would it be possible for cameras to be installed on some sidewalks to monitor behaviour for both motorists and pedestrians.

Chief Blais commented that the installation of cameras is a possibility but advised that until HRP can actually identify why people are getting hit in crosswalks, with hard data, it is tremendously hard to come up with solutions. He further advised that crosswalk safety is a priority for HRP.

Deputy Chief Moore noted that HRP is looking at increasing enforcement in crosswalks and reiterated an earlier point respecting obtaining more comprehensive data.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**7.1.8 Briefing – Superintendent Sean Auld – Real Time Crime Centre**

The following was before the Board:

- *A presentation pertaining to the Real Time Crime Centre*

Superintendent Sean Auld, Halifax Regional Police provided a presentation with respect to the Real Time Crime Centre.

The Chair thanked Superintendent Auld for his presentation.

Chief Superintendent Wells noted future plans to integrate the Real Time Crime Centre (RTCC) to include the RCMP as well.

Chief Blais noted that there will be opportunities for the Board Members to see it live in action to see it as it is now operational.



Commissioner Walker noted that there is only one crime analyst for the RCMP in Halifax District and noted if there are plans to hire another.

Chief Superintendent Wells replied in the affirmative and noted that business plan will be included for the hiring of another analyst in the RCMP's budget which will be before the Board in the near future.

In response to a follow up question from Commissioner Moreash, Chief Blais noted that the entire area of HRM is included will be included in the RTCC. He commented that the RTCC is about putting the right people in place right to respond to an emergency right away.

Commissioner Honsberger inquired if HRP is contemplating an increase in the usage of video screens to help fight crime.

Deputy Chief Moore commented that police monitoring private video feeds is a complicated issue in terms of privacy legislation and advised that there is no desire on the part of HRP or the RCMP to do so. He provided a scenario of a shooting at a mall, and noted that police, with this type of technology could connect to the mall's video feet should that type of event occur. He noted that police would need permission to do so and advised of the advantage that this could give both the police and the public in terms of emergency response if a shooting event like this were to occur.

Commissioner Honsberger noted his prior background in corrections and advised that the main benefit of video streaming is the play back mechanism.

Chief Superintendent Wells provided commentary on the difference between security and oversight and noted that the RTCC is not intended for surveillance.

Commissioner Read left the meeting at 2:06 p.m.

Commissioner Mosher inquired about police response to threatening issues identified on social media.

Deputy Chief Moore advised of further training being provided for officers with respect to social media.

Further discussion ensued.

#### **7.1.9 Appointment of Nova Scotia Association Police Governance NSAPG Representative**

Commissioner Honsberger suggested that the Nova Scotia Police Governance Representative be aligned with the position of Chair and suggested that this matter be deferred until such time as the election of Chair.

**MOVED by Commissioner Honsberger, seconded by Councillor Walker that the Board of Police Commissioners defer this matter until the election of Chair and Vice-Chair is held.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

#### **7.1.10 CAPG Webinar on Board effectiveness**

The following was before the Board:

- Documentation from CAPG regarding the Webinar of Board Effectiveness

Commissioner Moreash stated that if any members of the Board are interested in joining the webinar to contact him directly. He advised that it will take place on January 15, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. and will last for approximately one hour.

#### **7.2 COMMISSIONER UPDATES**

### 7.2.1 Commissioner Honsberger

The following was before Board:

- *Draft Table of Contents for the Board of Police Commissioners Orientation and Policy Manual*

Commissioner Honsberger provided background information with respect the ongoing work being conducted on the Policy and Orientation Manual. He advised that the Board determined in the fall of 2013 that there was a need for greater clarity regarding the role, work and focus of the Board of Police Commissioners.

Commissioner Honsberger explained that a subcommittee was struck to begin work on the document in 2013. He advised that the subcommittee was Chaired by himself and included then Board Chair, Mickey Ruth and Commissioner Mike Moreash. He noted that the subcommittee referred to the legislation (Police Act and By-laws) and extracted all references to the Board, grouping the accountabilities and obligations of the board into six functional areas. He further stated that this was achieved with input provided by Kathleen Patterson, Policy and Business Initiatives Coordinator, HRP and Ashley Dutcher, Solicitor, Legal Services.

Commissioner Honsberger commented that a Terms of Reference and Work Plan document for the Board of Police Commissioners and RCMP Advisory board was produced and reviewed with Chief Blais, HRP and Chief Superintendent Wells, HRP with assistance from Commissioner Phil Read on the Budget portion. He explained that following further review and discussion, the Terms of Reference and work plan were accepted by the Board in July 2014.

Commissioner Honsberger noted that the Canadian Association of Police Governance Conference was held in Halifax in August, 2014 and explained that the sessions were informative and included discussion about Board Governance and the need for policy manuals. He stated that the Halifax Board recognized that it was time to prepare a manual based on the Conference discussion and the fact that such a manual is required under the Police Act.

Commissioner Honsberger noted that the Terms of Reference sub-committee was reactivated – consisting of himself and Commissioner Mike Moreash after the departure of Commissioner Mickey Ruth from the Board. He advised that the approach to the task was based on Churchill's saying: "if you want to have a clear vision for the future, you need to have a clear understanding of the past". He further noted that background documents for research included board minutes that were available for the past fifteen years, two consultant reports prepared by Perivale and Taylor in 2002 and 2009, and a costing report by Deloitte prior to 2012. He advised that support for a proposed manual was mentioned in previous board minutes.

Commissioner Honsberger commented that a review of current source material was conducted including police commission policy manuals from Vancouver, Edmonton, London, Niagara and Ottawa. He advised that Department of Justice Orientation material, comments by Justice Morden in his review of the police response to the G-20 in Toronto, writings by Queens Univ. professor Andy Graham and information from the Canadian Association of Police Governance were also referenced.

Commissioner Honsberger stated that the first draft of the manual was completed in December, 2014 and was prepared for three purposes including:

1. Orientation of new Board members.
2. Guide for existing Board.
3. Framework for future Boards

He commented that similar to all manuals, it will be a living document and evolve over time and advised that the draft will be reviewed with the Chief, Chief Superintendent, Kathleen Patterson and Ashley Dutcher in upcoming weeks and will hopefully be presented to the Board in February for Board input. He concluded by expressing his view that the manual will be in final form by March or April.

Commissioner Honsberger requested a future discussion, perhaps In Camera, to apprise the Board of issues relating to terrorism and policing. He noted three areas of interest: Threats, the protection of the Muslim Community, and an understanding of what is happening with respect to terrorism and security.

Commissioner Mosher provided commentary respecting a meeting of the Joint Police Services and Community Safety Advisory Committee on which took place January 2, 2015. She advised of multiple topics for discussion such as the economics of policing and the study conducted respecting national resourcing. She noted that the committee is comprised of public servants and elected officials from all over the province and noted the positive working relationships with other committee members.

Commissioner Moreash advised that he is attending a Governance Standards Committee meeting at Department of Justice in the near future as well as a Nova Scotia Association of Police Governance which he will attend.

Commissioner Moreash requested the creation of a Board email address so that members of the public can email the Commission directly, but has yet to hear a response.

Commissioner Walker advised that members of the public can reach Commissioner through the Municipal Clerk's Office and commented that any information of an operational nature should not be communicated to the Board via email but rather through telephone.

Chief Blais noted his request for secondary employment to continue his work as a minor hockey referee and requested the Board's approval.

**MOVED by Commissioner Adams, seconded by Commissioner Mosher that Chief Blais request for secondary employment be approved by the Board of Police Commissioners.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**8. ADDED ITEMS**

**8.1 Canadian Association of Police Governance Conference – April, 2015**

This item was dealt with earlier in the meeting. Please see page 7.

**9. IN CAMERA – NONE**

**10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – February 9, 2015**

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Liam MacSween  
Legislative Assistant

**Information Items**

- 1. Community Assessment of Police Practices report dated November 2014 re: A Community Based Assessment of Police Contact Carding in Division 31**