



**BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES  
February 9, 2015**

PRESENT: Commissioner Mike Moreash, Chair  
Commissioner Fred Honsberger  
Commissioner Linda Mosher  
Commissioner Russell Walker  
Commissioner Stephen Adams

REGRETS: Commissioner Phil Read, Vice-Chair

STAFF: Chief Jean-Michel Blais, HRP  
Inspector Martin Marin, 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 the Board of Police Commissioners are available online: <http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/bpc/150209bopc-agenda.php>*

*The meeting was called to order at 12:33 p.m. and adjourned at 1:47 p.m.*

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:33 p.m. in Halifax Hall, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 12, 2015**

**MOVED by Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Mosher that the minutes of January 12, 2015 be approved as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

Additions:

Item 8.1 – Commissioner Adams – Chair

**MOVED by Commissioner Adams, seconded by Commissioner Mosher 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 – NONE**

**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 HRP Dashboard reports and advised that the new reporting structure with respect to the Dashboards will coincide with the COMSTAT reports which are compiled every three weeks.

Commissioner Adams noted that he has reviewed the HRP/RCMP combined statistical reports for 2013 and 2014 and noted a discrepancy in the numbers reported in relation to homicides for 2013. He commented that the numbers that were presented to the Board at the year-end in that year and those represented in the current report before the Board differ. He inquired as to why the number of homicides reduced from eight to six.

Chief Blais noted that the numbers that are given are based on Statistic Canada's interpretation of what constitutes a homicide. He noted that the numbers reduced by two because vehicular homicides are not considered as traditional homicides under the statistics. He noted that the numbers that were given at the end of the year reflect homicides in the traditional sense.

Commissioner Adams noted further discrepancies in the 2013 and 2014 combined statistical reports related to robbery, assault, attempted murder.

Deputy Chief Moore commented that a robbery may be reported today as a robbery but may change to theft charge over the course of an investigation. He advised that there is constant movement within the

types of calls that police respond to over a given year. He further noted that a percentage of calls that are reported will change as charges are laid. He commented that he has asked analysts to assist in clarifying the methodologies used in compiling the statistics.

Commissioner Mosher inquired as to who conducts the analysis of the statistics to ensure that the figures are accurate. She requested further clarification with respect to changes in figures respecting assaults in the combined statistics reports.

Chief Blais noted that HRP's Criminal Analysis Unit is responsible for compiling statistics for Halifax Regional Police and reiterated an earlier point made by Deputy Chief Moore's respecting the changing nature of statistics as investigations progress. He noted that both HRP and RCMP endeavor to get the most up to date information in reports and noted that he would like to have a second look at the figures and report back to the Board.

**MOVED by Commissioner Honsberger, seconded by Commissioner Mosher 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 Board:

- *The HRP Reports*

In response to a follow up question from Commissioner Mosher, Deputy Chief Moore noted that HRP's Divisional Commanders include a break-down of Summary Offense Tickets (SOTs) which encompass all of the monthly themes included in the reports. He advised that the themes cover subject matter related to individual driving by crosswalks, distracted driving, and driving while on a cell phone.

**MOVED by Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Mosher 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:

- *The RCMP Dashboard Reports*

Inspector Martin Marin provided an overview of the RCMP Dashboard reports and noted a significant reduction in property damage over the past month due to targeted enforcement.

**MOVED by Commissioner Honsberger, seconded by Commissioner Walker 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 Walker, 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 gave an overview of the initiatives being conducted by the Public Safety Office. He provided an update on the Crime Free Multi Housing project which is being conducted in partnership with the Atlantic Community Safety Association. He commented that there had been some momentum issues with respect to obtaining the licensing required to certify properties to obtain the crime free designation. He noted that there is a three phased approach to obtaining the license and remarked that that the training session related to the first phase was heavily attended by homeowners and landlords. He commented that the following phases of the certification which involve an audit of the property by Officers to identify areas of improvement has been a slower process as some properties need work in this regard. He advised of progress being made due to the hard work conducted by Constable Bart MacLean, RCMP and Constable Dwight Hennigar, HRP to help property owners achieve a higher standard for their properties. As a result, he noted that there are now several properties which are close to attaining certification. He remarked that this program was highlighted in the public safety review and hopes the program will eventually be rolled out in greater detail in public housing neighbourhoods in HRM.

Commissioner Mosher requested further information with respect to the certification process.

Staff Sargent Macdonald noted that the first phase of the certification process requires property owners to attend a one day training session. He commented that the next phases require officers to conduct and audit on the quality of deadbolts, lighting, and security of the property to determine deficiencies in this regard. He further commented that Officers also check to see if the property owners are engaged and involved in community watch activities. He advised that there can be expenses involved in bringing the properties up to the Atlantic Community Safety Associations standard which is where the loss of momentum in the program has been identified. He concluded by noting that this type of program is very popular in British Columbia and has yielded positive results in that jurisdiction.

In response for a follow up question from Commissioner Mosher, Staff Sargent Macdonald noted that property owners must successfully complete an annual visit from Officers to maintain the certification on their property.

Commissioner Walker commented that the program sounds very promising but noted that declaring a rental property or home crime free is a bold statement. He commented that he would be interested in locations of the properties that achieve the standard.

Staff Sargent Macdonald commented that there is only one property that has received the certification and it is located on Almon Street in Halifax. He commented that he hopes that more properties will attain the certification in the near future.

Commissioner Adams inquired if the Investment Property Owners Association of Nova Scotia (IPONS) had been approached regarding the program.

Staff Sargent Macdonald replied in the affirmative and noted that IPONS was approached during the initial phases of the program.

**7.1.6 Update – 2015-16 Halifax Regional Police Draft Budget and Business Plan**

The following was before the Board

- *An Updated 2015-16 Halifax Regional Police 2015-16 Budget Situation (Summary)*

Chief Blais gave an overview of the updated 2015-16 Halifax Regional Police Draft Budget and Business Plan and noted that there was a modification made at the Committee of the Whole session held on January 28, 2015. He advised that the modification involved keeping the Youth Advocate Program budget

within HRP's budget as opposed to that of Community and Recreation Services based on a legal review. He further commented that there have been no other changes to the budget that is currently before the Board and that the dollar figure that is represented within the document will be the dollar figure presented to Regional Council in March pending the Board's approval.

Commissioner Adams requested further clarification with respect to discussions held at the January 28, 2015 Committee of the Whole related to a police liaison for the new Public Safety Office. He commented that he did not recall a discussion on that matter being held with the Board.

Chief Blais commented that he is currently working on a staff report in this regard which will be submitted to the Chief Administrative Officer in the near future. He advised that there will be a new position under the Chief Administrative Office for a Public Safety Coordinator who will eventually take over responsibilities for the public safety office. He noted that Staff Sargent Macdonald is currently responsible for the public safety office, among other responsibilities within HRP, and will maintain that roll until the new position is staffed. He stated that when the Public Safety coordinator is moved to the Chief Administrative Office, Staff Sargent Macdonald will act as a police liaison from HRP, to the Public Safety Coordinator to ensure that there is strong connection with Police. He noted that all of this information will be detailed in the report to Regional Council.

Commissioner Mosher noted that she moved the motion at Committee of the Whole on January 28, 2015 and noted that it also requested that the HRP look at options to augment or enhance the Boots on the Street program so that the funding from the provincial government for the program can be maintained.

Commissioner Walker inquired if the budget is complete. Chief Blais replied in the affirmative and noted that the only change to the budget from the last time it was presented to the Board was funding for the Youth Advocate Program which he had previously outlined.

**MOVED by Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Honsberger that the Board of Police Commissioner recommend that Halifax Regional Council approve the 2015-16 Halifax Regional Police Budget and Business Plan of \$77,082, 800.00.**

Commissioner Adams requested further information with respect to the proposed reorganization and changes to the ranking structure of the Halifax Regional Police. He inquired if these changes require approval from the Board under the Police Act.

Chief Blais noted that the reorganization of management, as an internal process, has gone through HRM's Human Resources process and it approved by the Chief Administrative Officer. He further advised that there is no new money within the budget is required to institute the proposed organizational changes.

Ms. Ashley Dutcher, Solicitor commented that the proposed reorganization is an internal management decision that does not involve new money as part of the budget process. She stated that there is no requirement under the Police Act to obtain Board approval to do so.

Commissioner Adams requested further information with respect to the proposed reorganization.

Chief Blais commented that two and a half years ago HRP had a total of eleven senior managers and advised that there are currently nine. He commented that one Deputy Chief had retired and that another position was modified to create a Staff Sargent position that Staff Sargent Macdonald now occupies. He commented that before filling the positions, he wanted to do a review and identify needs. He commented that presently, HRP has individuals in the senior management team who work in excess of 60 hours per week and noted that a reorganization of the rank structure would be best to effectively provide police services in HRM. He noted that the proposed changes will allow HRP to have an introductory senior officer rank that will take care of various operations, and some administrative duties. He advised that with the proposed changes, HRP will still light on senior management personnel when compared to other police services of the same size.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Those in favour: Commissioner Walker; Mosher; Moreash; Honsberger

Those Against: Commissioner Adams

Not Present: Commissioner Read.

Commissioner Walker inquired as to when the Board will see the budget numbers for the RCMP.

Inspector Marin commented that the RCMP detachment does not receive the numbers until mid-May but noted that some preliminary numbers could be prepared for the Board in the interim.

**7.1.7 Update – Draft Board of Police Commissioners Policy and Orientation Manual**

Commissioner Honsberger distributed a draft Orientation and Policy Manual dated February 7, 2015 to the Commissioners, Chiefs and Chief Administrative Officer for their consideration and discussion at a later date and noted that background information was provided at the last meeting. He advised that the 63 page draft distributed today is probably the 10th version since the first draft was prepared in mid-December, 2014.

Commissioner Honsberger noted that he and Commissioner Moreash met on a number of occasions in early January to do a page by page review. He thanked Commissioner Moreash for his valuable insights regarding legal interpretation, tone, public transparency and governance balance which impacted almost every page of the document. He advised that Commissioner Read helped with the Budget section and all discussions with the Board in 2014 had been positive and supportive.

Commissioner Honsberger stated that a draft of the manual was reviewed with Chief Blais and Chief Superintendent Wells in January. Both indicated support for the draft and provided comments which were incorporated. Chief Superintendent Wells has proactively asked that the RCMP be held to a similar standard of oversight as HRP in a number of areas despite limitations in legislation. He commented that those suggestions have been incorporated.

Commissioner Moreash noted that the draft had also been shared with several sources who contributed to the project including Professor Andy Graham of Queens University, Jennifer Malloy, Executive Director of the Canadian Association of Police Governance (CAPG) and Nova Scotia Dept. of Justice Director Fred Sandford.

Commissioner Honsberger commented that the document is based on the 2004 Police Act and best practice models elsewhere as per the acknowledgement section. He remarked that early sections cover the unique experience in Halifax and advised that the manual will be useful for new members to gain an early understanding of the Board's governance issues. He commented that the key areas of work focus are the same as the framework document that was approved by commissioners the summer of 2014 and includes policy, planning, budget, community representation and evaluation of the Chiefs. He suggested that overall tone of the manual is to achieve balance in governance between the legislated obligations of the Board and the subject matter expertise of the police.

Commissioner Honsberger noted that a review by the Board is the most important level and commented that among others, an area of special input will need to be the work plan details that fall from each category of accountability. He advised that the structure of the monthly calendar of activities is essential to ensure follow up and monitoring. He commented that Kathleen Patterson, Business and Policy Initiatives Coordinator and Ashley Dutcher, Solicitor will need to be involved with the next level of review.

Commissioner Honsberger to determine a process for review, suggesting either a special meeting or a set time at the next meeting after Commissioners have had a chance to review the material. The timeframe and process for review will depend on the extent of change that is anticipated by each commissioner.

Commissioner Honsberger stated that an electronic copy of the manual will be distributed to the Committee later in the day. He asked that all members review the document carefully, given the many additional and interconnected suggestions for advancement based on the experience of other boards with similar accountabilities. He further suggested that the Board of Police Commissioners schedule a special meeting in the future to discuss the manual after the Board has had a chance to review.

Commissioner Moreash thanked Commissioner Honsberger for his work on this project and noted the extraordinary effort that he has put in to it.

Commissioner Walker thanked Commissioner Honsberger for his work on the matter and commented that the Board will need to review the draft manual in great detail. He agreed that a meeting should be held with the draft manual as the only item on the agenda.

Commissioner Mosher thanked Commissioner Honsberger for his work on the manual and agreed with Councillor Walker's assessment. She commented that she would need time to review the manual in further detail and suggested that the manual focus on the legislative accountabilities of the Board and that they should be separated from some of the other information that has been incorporated in the draft.

Commissioner Honsberger commented that the final draft of the manual will focus on the legislative requirements of the Board. He further commented that the final draft will be predicated on discussions held by the Board regarding the manual.

Further discussion ensued with the Board agreeing that representatives from both HRP and RCMP should be in attendance when a meeting is held to discuss the proposed orientation manual.

#### **7.1.8 CAPG Conference – April, 2015**

Commissioner Moreash gave an overview of the upcoming Canadian Association of Police Governance (CAPG) Conference taking place in April in Toronto which was approved in the Board's budget at the meeting held in January. He advised that it is possible for Commissioners to fly up and back in the same day. He commented that he would like to get the Board's authorization for those who wish to attend the conference.

Commissioner Honsberger noted that he will be unavailable at that time.

Commissioner Walker, Moreash, Adams and Mosher noted that they would be able to attend the upcoming conference.

**MOVED by Commissioner Honsberger, seconded by Commissioner Walker that the Board of Police Commissioners authorize Commissioners Walker, Moreash, Adams and Mosher to attend the April 2015 CAPG Conference in Toronto.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

#### **7.2 Commissioner Updates**

##### **7.2.1 Updates**

Commissioner Moreash provided an overview of the Nova Scotia Association of Police Governance Meeting which took place on January 15, 2015.

There were no further updates from Commissioners.

#### **8. ADDED ITEMS**

## 8.1 Commissioner Adams - Chair

Commissioner Adams noted that at the last meeting, he had requested that the Board delay the election of Chair and Vice-Chair to allow for potential new membership as several current members have term limits that have reached an end or are set to expire.

The Chair noted that his term limit had expired on March 31, 2014 and commented that his term was extended until October 31, 2014, to assist with the CAPG conference which was held in August. He advised that his term continues until another person is appointed by Regional Council or he is reappointed to serve another term. He further stated that he has reapplied to serve another term on the Board of Police Commissioners.

Commissioner Adams requested that the Board of Police Commissioners consider holding the Election of Chair and Vice Chair at the present time. He stated that his request is in no way a reflection of the current Chair's performance but rather as a measure to ensure that there is a person in place for continuity if it is the case that there is new membership on the Board of Police Commissioners in the near future.

**MOVED by Commissioner Adams, seconded by Commissioner Mosher that the Election of Chair and Vice-Chair be held.**

Commissioner Mosher commented that she serves on the Joint Police Services and Community Safety Advisory Committee and noted that she has had discussions at its January meeting with provincial officials, including the Minister of Justice who indicated that they have not yet began their recruitment for a provincial appointee on the Board. She advised that the positions have been re-advertised for the Citizen Appointments to the Board of Police Commissioners and that it is unlikely that a decision will be made by Regional Council with respect to new appointees until March or April, as the matter will have to be presented to the Executive Standing Committee. She further commented that it would not be fair to new members, if appointed, to select a Chair without a full understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the Commission.

Commissioner Honsberger requested that the Board not hold the election of Chair to keep consistent with the motion that passed at the last meeting. He further advised that the election of Chair and Vice-Chair should take place after a more robust discussion is held pertaining to the proposed policy and orientation manual which speaks to the roles, responsibilities and composition of the Board.

Commissioner Moreash noted that the concern seems to be that if it was the case that he was not reappointed to the Board, and new members are appointed, that there would effectively not be a person in the position of Chair.

Commissioner Adams agreed with Commissioner Moreash's assessment and added that in terms of continuity for the benefit of potential new members, it would be beneficial to not have a person who has reached the end of their term limit in the position in the event that there are new members appointed to Board. He reiterated an earlier point that his request is not a reflection of the current Chair's performance and advised that the composition of the Board would remain unchanged with the exception of the position of Chair and Vice-Chair.

Commissioner Mosher, with respect to the proposed policy and Orientation manual, commented that she believes that a special meeting should take place but expressed her opinion that the manual should not be set in stone. She commented that there will be at least one new citizen member as well a provincial appointee on the Board in the near future who may want to provide input in the document before a final decision is made. She commented that she will support the motion to hold the election of Chair and Vice-Chair.



Commissioner Walker commented that there have been situations in the past where the composition of committees has been completely changed by Regional Council. He advised that it can be frustrating at times given the very important work that is undertaken by Boards and Committees.

Commissioner Honsberger agreed with Councillor Walker's assessment and expressed his view that a great deal of volunteer time and commitment is involved with serving on a Board or Committee and noted that Council should take that in to consideration when making appointments.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Those in favour: Commissioners Adams; Walker; Mosher.

Those Against: Commissioner Honsberger; Moreash

Not present: Commissioner Phil Read

The Legislative Assistant called for nominations for the position of Chair.

**MOVED by Commissioner Adams, seconded by Commissioner Walker that Commissioner Mosher be nominated for the position of Chair. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**MOVED by Commissioner Honsberger, seconded by Commissioner Moreash that Commissioner Moreash be nominated for the position of Chair. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

The Legislative Assistant called three times for any further nominations, there were none. Nominations ceased and the Legislative Assistant distributed ballots to members of the Board of Police Commissioners for the Election of Chair.

The Legislative Assistant collected the ballots and noted that Councillor Mosher was elected as Chair of the Board of Police Commissioners.

The Chair opened the floor for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair.

**MOVED by Commissioner Adams, seconded by Councillor Mosher that Commissioner Walker be nominated for the position of Vice-Chair. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**MOVED by Commissioner Moreash, seconded by Commissioner Adams that Commissioner Honsberger be nominated for the position of Vice-Chair. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

The Chair called three times for further nominations. Nominations ceased and Commissioner Honsberger declined his nomination for the position of Vice-Chair.

Councillor Walker was elected as Vice-Chair of the Board of Police Commissioners.

**9. IN CAMERA**

**9.1 Approval of In Camera Minutes – December 8, 2015**

The following motion was ratified in public session:

**MOVED by Commissioner Moreash, seconded by Commissioner Honsberger that the In Camera Minutes of December 8, 2015 be approved as circulated.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:46 p.m.

Liam MacSween  
Legislative Assistant