



**BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
April 13, 2015**

PRESENT: Commissioner Linda Mosher, Chair
Commissioner Russell Walker, Vice-Chair
Commissioner Steve Adams
Commissioner Jeff Mitchell
Commissioner Sylvia Parris

REGRETS: Commissioner Fred Honsberger

STAFF: Chief Jean-Michel Blais, HRP
Chief Superintendent Roland Wells, RCMP
Deputy Chief Bill Moore, HRP
Mr. John Traves, Municipal Solicitor
Mr. Richard Butts, Chief Administrative Officer
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/150413bopc-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 2:15 p.m. the Committee adjourned at 2:16 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

- **Swearing In – Commissioners Mitchell and Parris**

Mr. John Traves, Municipal Solicitor, swore in Commissioners Mitchell and Parris as Commissioners of the Board. Introductions amongst the meeting's attendees followed.

- **Introduction – Superintendent Colleen Kelly**

Chief Blais introduced Superintendent Colleen Kelly who will replace Superintendent Don MacLean as the liaison from HRP to the Board of Police Commissioners. Introductions amongst the meeting's attendees followed.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 9, 2014

MOVED by Commissioner Adams, seconded by Commissioner Walker that the minutes of March 9, 2015 be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions: None

MOVED by Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Adams that the agenda be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

6.1 Correspondence

6.1.1 Correspondence from Paul F. McKenna, Dalhousie University dated March 20, 2015 re: Letter of Thanks to Chief Blais – Guest Speaker Legal Literature & Librarianship Course, March 12, 2015

Commissioner Mosher noted correspondence received by the Board from Mr. Paul F. McKenna, Dalhousie University which thanked Chief Blais for his participation as a guest speaker. Commissioner Mosher thanked Chief Blais on behalf of the Board for his participation at the event.

6.2 Petitions - NONE

6.3 Presentation – 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 a brief overview of the HRP Dashboard Reports. He noted that staff has set up a working an email groups which provide notification of press releases to HRM councillors and members of the Board of police commission after they have been released by HRP.

Chief Blais advised of an upcoming orientation session which will take place at HRP Headquarters for new members of the Board of Police Commissioners. He stated that information pertaining to the event will be sent out to the Commissioners in the near future. He further advised that HRP and RCMP staff are preparing a comprehensive list of commonly used acronyms to assist the Board with its understanding of police services.

Chief Blais provided further information pertaining to Block Training Activities by members of HRP and advised of various activities in which officers assisted HRM Winter operations to assist with street cleaning through street closures. He noted his attendance, as well as the attendance of several other members of the Halifax Regional Police at the Cornwallis Street Baptist Church to celebrate the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination which took place on March 22, 2015. He commented that the contingent from HRP formed the choir section of the service.

Chief Blais provided further commentary respecting Impaired Driving Operations noting that for the month of February, 37 drivers were charged with impaired driving. He advised that individuals charged with impaired driving ranged from 20-70 years of age.

Chief Blais advised of Prescription Drug Drop-Off Day which is a coordinated effort by HRP, Halifax District RCMP as well as the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, Health Canada, Public Safety Canada, Partnership for a Drug Free Canada, Canadian Pharmacists Association and Canadian Medical Association. He commented that officers will be on hand Saturday, May 9, 2015 at the Halifax Shopping Centre to collect unneeded prescription drugs. He further advised of a 23% increase in HRP twitter followers since January 1, 2015.

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

7.1.2 HRP Reports

The following was before the Board:

- *The HRP Reports*

The HRP Reports were received by the Board as submitted.

7.1.3 RCMP Dashboard Reports

The following was before the Board:

- *The RCMP Dashboard Reports*

Chief Superintendent Wells provided an overview of the RCMP Dashboard reports. He advised that the Halifax District RCMP, from April 2014 to March 2015 had received 198 impaired driving complaints from the public. He advised that this number is positive showing that individuals are becoming more actively involved in reporting potential impaired drivers.

Chief Superintendent Wells provided further information respecting RCMP training activities and targeted goals, particularly in the area of Cybercrime, and noted decreases in theft and motor vehicle theft. He further advised of increased screening activities which have taken place at the airport which yielded results in seizing illegal weapons. He provided further commentary in reductions in property crime which is down by 8.4 percent in RCMP Districts.

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

7.1.4 HRP Reports

The following was before the Board:

- *The RCMP Dashboard Reports*

The HRP Reports were received by the Board as submitted.

7.1.5 Update – Public Safety Officer

Staff Sargent MacDonald, HRP commented that the current public safety office is in the midst of National Volunteer week. He advised that both the RCMP and HRP rely heavily on volunteers, who are very much appreciated. He advised that the Public Safety Office has over 100 volunteers and noted an upcoming event which will formally recognize the contributions of volunteers.

Staff Sargent MacDonald reiterated an earlier item mentioned by Chief Blais in relation to Prescription Drug Drop off Day which is a coordinated effort by HRP, Halifax District RCMP as well as the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, Health Canada, Public Safety Canada, Partnership for a Drug Free Canada, Canadian Pharmacists Association and Canadian Medical Association. He commented that officers will be on hand Saturday, May 9, 2015 at the Halifax Shopping Centre to collect unneeded prescription drugs.

7.1.6 Update – Boots on the Street Position

Chief Blais provided a brief overview of the Additional Officer Program or the “Boots on the Streets Program” of which the Province provides a level of funding for 39 police officer positions in HRM to assist in augmenting public safety at the community level. He provided commentary regarding the history of the program as well as a breakdown of how the resources are deployed within the communities they serve. He advised that the current Public Safety Officer position, which is staffed by a HRP police officer, receives \$100,000.00 in provincial funding under the “Boots on the Street” program. He further advised that because of the proposed move of the public safety office from HRP to HRM administration, the province had provided notice in January that the funding for the public safety office will no longer be provided as it will no longer be administered by the police.

Commissioner Mosher requested that Commissioner Walker take over as Chair to speak on the matter. Commissioner Walker assumed the position of Chair

Commissioner Mosher expressed her concern that HRP is losing \$100,000.00 in funding for the public safety position. She advised of a motion which was passed by Regional Council to look at augmenting the public safety officer position in such a manner so that a position would not be lost and the provincial funding can be maintained. .

Chief Blais advised that HRP has not yet lost the funding for the current public safety officer. He noted that only when the new Public Safety Office incumbent assumes the role is when the funding will cease. He remarked that to maintain the funding, the public safety officer position would have to stay within HRP. He noted the HRP does look forward to having a civilian in the role and that he has consulted with other police Chief's across the country which have undertaken the same process with respect to civilian public safety coordinators and has been assured that the move is very beneficial.

Commissioner Mosher reassumed the position of Chair and thanked Chief Blais for his comments.

7.1.7 Halifax Urban Report - Citizen Survey

Ms. Theresa Rath, Manager of Public Relations, noted that from 1999 to 2013 HRP and RCMP collaborated with CRA to do an annual citizen satisfaction survey. She noted that since 2013 the survey has been facilitated by the Board of Police Commissioners as the Board is the conduit to the public. She noted that the last survey was completed in 2013 at a total cost of \$4140. She noted that the last survey consisted of five or six questions and advised that if the Board wishes to proceed, the survey would require a tender as the total cost is greater than \$1000.00. She further advised that the Board would also need to assist in determining what questions would need to be included and set out a framework for the survey.

Commissioner Parris inquired what was learned through past surveys.

Ms. Rath stated that the surveys dealt primarily with perceptions of safety, response times and peace and order in the community. She provided further commentary with respect to benchmarking and metrics. She further advised that police services in HRM tended to score highly among the public in these categories.

MOVED by Commissioner Mitchell, seconded by Commissioner Parris that the Board of Police Commissioners request a report which examines the participation of the Board in a Citizen Survey including budget availability.

Deputy Chief Moore commented that staff could put together information from the past three surveys to assist with obtaining further information.

Commissioner Parris provided commentary on other survey options available to the Board such as various outreach through social media.

Commissioner Mitchell inquired as to the where financial resources for the proposed survey are drawn.

Mr. John Traves, Solicitor commented that that the Board is supported by HRP and RCMP staff and noted that the requested report would identify the funding sources for the proposed survey along with providing a recommendation on the matter.

Further discussion ensued.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7.1.8 Update – Increase to Account Budget Increase – CEO 20001 – Police Services Replacement Equipment

The following was before the Board:

- *A staff report dated April 1, 2015 (for information only)*

Deputy Chief Moore, HRP provided an overview of the staff report which was before the Audit & Finance Standing Committee on March 27, 2015. He advised of a change in HRM's tangible Capital Asset Policy, and noted that as a result, HRP has created a project account, which will allow for the replacement of police services equipment. He advised that the new account will facilitate the reporting of capital budgeting along with operational budgeting. He further commented that this item will be before Regional Council for consideration at the April 14, 2015 meeting.

7.1.9 Update - Reorganization Halifax Regional Police

Chief Blais provided an overview of the proposed organizational chart. He advised that HRP will bring forward its Strategic Plan in June which will provide further information with respect to the reorganization. He advised that he and Deputy Chief Moore will be consulting with every employee prior to the release of the strategic plan to gain input before it is presented to the Board. He provided further detail with respect to the reorganisation and ranking structure.

Chief Blais noted that all costs for the reorganization are internal and noted that the total cost will be rolled out over the next five years at a total cost of \$901,960.00. He provided a breakdown of the annual costs and commented that it will be absorbed within the operational budget for the dedicated year. He further advised that the internal costs do not include savings from retirements or backfilled positions. He stated that another Chief's update, as well as a media release with all the senior management positions as well as the names of the individuals who will fill them is forthcoming.

In response to a follow up question from Commissioner Adams, Chief Blais commented that the new rank structure is consistent with other similar police forces across the country and noted that in some instances Superintendents report to other Superintendents.

7.1.10 Overview – Canadian Association of Police Governance Conference (CAPG)

Commissioner Walker provided an overview of the CAPG conference which was on April 6, 2015 in Toronto. He noted that the conference dealt with governance for Police Boards and noted that many Ontario Police Boards are restructuring. He advised that the subject matter touched on Board involvement in operational and policy matters.

Chief Blais noted that the conference was Ontario-centric and provided background information regarding the restructuring of Police Board's in the jurisdiction as outlined in Justice Morden's report. He advised that the meeting dealt with consultation protocol for Board involvement in major events such as the G20 Summit as well as other topics such as executive orientation for Board members, better frameworks for accountability and enhancing reporting models.

Chief Superintendent Wells provided commentary on the importance of public accessibility and building confidence in policing through the Police Board. He advised that this aspect was a major take away from the conference. He expressed his opinion that the Board Model is very effective in terms of openness and transparency and is regarded as such by other Boards across the Country.

Commissioner Mosher noted that the Halifax Board is the only Board which has the provision for strategic direction as outlined in the 1999 Memorandum of Understanding between HRP/RCMP and the Halifax Regional Municipality. She advised that the Board has a significant role to play in terms of the strategic direction of policing within the municipality and noted that she can pursue more opportunities for involvement with the CAPG.

Mr. John Traves, Municipal Solicitor, provided commentary on the Memorandum of Understanding as referenced by the Councillor and noted that the Commissioners should look at it with carefully, as it outlines the roles of the RCMP/HRP, the Board, and the Municipality. He commented that Legal Services will provide a presentation on this matter at the next meeting.

Commissioner Walker commented that the conference was as a good opportunity to network with other members of police board's across the country and to provide information regarding Halifax's Police Board model.

7.1.11 Update - New Member Orientation

Commissioner Mosher commented that the May meeting will be held at the RCMP H Division Headquarters in Burnside. She further commented that the Strategic Plan for HRP will be introduced in June and noted that it would be a good idea to invite community stakeholders to the meeting. She requested that members of the Board contact her with suggestions.

C/Supt Wells noted H Division Headquarters has exterior and interior point of entry security and noted that it may appear that there are obstructions in terms of building accessibility, that the building is open to the public and media. He advised that several presentations of RCMP police equipment and resources will be included as part of the visit to H Division Headquarters, prior to the commencement of the meeting.

He noted that the presentation will be a good way to showcase the resources that are available to both the HRP and RCMP in HRM.

Chief Blais noted discussions with the Chair in including a short educational presentation on the agenda regarding policing services in HRM. He noted that the presentations will take approximately twenty minutes and will not dominate the entire meeting. He advised that the presentations will likely begin in July or August. He further advised that he can arrange for new members to participate in a ride along with HRP officers, to provide further insight as to how policing works in the community.

7.2 Commissioner Updates

7.2.1 Updates

Commissioner Mosher noted the appointment of Mr. Stephen W. Graham as the provincial representative to the Halifax Regional Municipality Board of Police Commissioners. She commented on Mr. Graham's 38 year experience in leadership roles with the RCMP in Atlantic Canada and advised that Mr. Graham will be sworn in as a member of the Halifax Regional Municipality's Board of Police Commissioners at the May meeting.

Commissioner Parris commended the RCMP regarding its recent participation at an event at the Nova Scotia Black Cultural Centre. She advised that the event was very well attended and well received.

8. ADDED ITEMS

9. IN CAMERA

9.1 Approval of In Camera Minutes – March 9, 2015

The Board of Police Commissioner moved to an In Camera session to discuss the March 9, 2015 minutes. The following motion was ratified in public session:

MOVED by Commissioner Adams, seconded by Commissioner Walker that the In Camera Minutes of March 9, 2015 be approved as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.2 Personnel Matter

This matter was dealt with during an In Camera Session.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – May 11, 2015

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:16 p.m.

Liam MacSween
Legislative Assistant