



**BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
May 11, 2015**

PRESENT: Commissioner Linda Mosher, Chair
Commissioner Russell Walker, Vice-Chair
Commissioner Stephen Adams
Commissioner Stephen Graham
Commissioner Fred Honsberger
Commissioner Jeff Mitchell
Commissioner Sylvia Parris

STAFF: Chief Jean-Michel Blais, HRP
Chief Superintendent Roland Wells, RCMP
Mr. John Traves, Municipal Solicitor
Ms. Ashley Dutcher, Solicitor
Ms. Cathy Mellett, Municipal Clerk
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/150511bopc-agenda.php>

The meeting was called to order at 12:34 p.m., the Committee moved into an In Camera session at 2:10 p.m. and reconvened at 5:04 p.m. the Committee adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order in the Rotunda of RCMP H Division Headquarters, 80 Garland Avenue, Burnside.

- **Swearing In – Commissioner Graham**

Mr. John Traves, Municipal Solicitor, swore in Stephen Graham as a Commissioner of the Board. Introductions amongst the meeting's attendees followed.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 13, 2015

MOVED by Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Adams that the minutes of April 13, 2015 be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions:

8.1 Call for Nominations to the CAPG Board of Directors

MOVED by Commissioner Mitchell, seconded by Commissioner Adams that the agenda be approved as amended (2/3 Majority vote required).

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 RCMP Strategic Direction

Chief Superintendent Wells introduced Ms. Donna Jewers, Manager of Strategic Planning and Client Services, RCMP who provided a presentation on the RCMP Strategic Direction.

Commissioner Mosher thanked Ms. Jewers for her presentation and requested questions of clarification from members of the Commission.

In response to a follow up question from Commissioner Adams, Chief Superintendent Wells commented that geographically, Halifax District is the largest RCMP detachment east of the Rocky Mountains and is comprised of 242 Employees (Regular Members, Civilian Members & Public Service Employees) and approximately 300 volunteers.

Commissioner Parris requested further information with respect to diversity initiatives undertaken by the RCMP. Chief Superintendent Wells commented that Diversity inclusion is a national priority for the RCMP and noted that "H" division supports the national direction in that regard. He provided further commentary with respect to formal discussions held with leadership in First Nations communities respecting community policing. He advised of the RCMP's commitment to meet with diverse communities to address issues within the community and find solutions.

Further discussion ensued.

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 senior management staff is currently in the process backfilling four Staff Sargent positions as a result of new restructuring initiative. He provided further commentary with respect to recent training activities and noted the transition to an encrypted radio system which is no longer broadcast on a public forum.

Chief Blais advised that HRP had charged 29 drivers for impaired driving over the month of April and commented that over the month of May, there will be a stronger focus on crosswalk and pedestrian safety. He provided further commentary with respect to pedestrian safety statistics and upcoming activities related to Police Week.

Chief Blais noted that work is ongoing with respect to the citizen satisfaction survey report and advised that it will be forthcoming for a future meeting. He commented that to date, staff has met with a research firm with respect to identifying methodology for the survey and that consultation with HRM staff has taken place to ensure there is no duplicating efforts with respect to the HRM citizen satisfaction survey.

In response to a follow up question from Commissioner Mosher, Ms. Theresa Rath noted that she is in consultation with other police agencies to determine how citizen satisfaction surveys are conducted by agencies in other jurisdictions. She commented that the results will be included in the upcoming report.

Commissioner Graham inquired if citizen satisfaction surveys have been conducted in the past. Chief Blais clarified that the survey has been incorporated with HRM's citizen satisfaction survey in the past. He advised that the report will provide options as to whether or not future surveys should be conducted by the Board.

Commissioner Adams inquired if the mischief charges as outlined in the report were as a result vandalism to bus shelters. Chief Blais commented that he would follow up with the Commissioner as he did not have the information readily available.

In response to a follow up question from Commissioner Adams, Chief Blais noted that nine individuals applied for the newly formed Inspector positions with HRP.

Commissioner Walker inquired if the new radio system protects against hackers.

Staff Sargent Sean Auld, HRP commented encryption keys for the new radio systems will be sent out on a monthly basis and advised that the system would be quite difficult to break. He advised that he is comfortable that the system will remain fully encrypted and will not be corrupted.

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 Roland Wells gave an overview of the Dashboard reports and commented that the RCMP has stepped up enforcement with respect to traffic safety. He commented that the highest risk weekends for impaired driving falls on the Victoria Day, Labour Day, and Thanksgiving weekends. He provided further commentary with respect to enforcement activities within the Halifax District.

Chief Superintendent Wells provided a breakdown of the RCMP's priority areas for 2015-16 advising that remain the same as the previous year in that Crime Reduction, Cybercrime, and Road Safety will be particular areas of interest for H Division.

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

7.1.4 RCMP Reports

The following was before the Board:

- *The RCMP Reports*

The RCMP Reports were received by the Board as submitted.

7.1.5 Update – Public Safety Officer

Staff Sargent Scott Macdonald provided an overview of the recent National Prescription Drug Drop off program which took place on May 9, 2015 at the Halifax Shopping Centre. He advised that the program was a success noting that RCMP and HRP officers were joined by ten pharmacists from the Nova Scotia Health Authority Central Zone. He noted that five large buckets and several garbage bags were filled with unused prescription drugs and have been taken away for disposal. He advised that it will be number of days before a total number of the amount to controlled substances that were collected will be available. He concluded by noting that success was found more so in identifying the issue and spreading awareness.

Staff Sargent Macdonald provided commentary with respect to HRM Bike week and noted that both agencies will be participating in the promotion and education of safe cycling. He advised of several initiatives that will be taking place in this regard and gave an overview of the Youth Problem Oriented Policing Unit, which involves participant from both agencies in partnering with local schools to patrol areas via mountain bike.

7.1.6 Presentation HRM Legal Services and Municipal Clerk's Office – Overview of Board Legislation

The following was before the Board:

- *A presentation from HRM Legal Services dated May 11, 2015*
- *A presentation from the Office of the Municipal Clerk dated May 11, 2015*

Mr. John Traves, Municipal Solicitor and Director of HRM Legal Services provided a presentation with respect to the Legislative Roles and Responsibilities of the Halifax Board of Police Commissioners.

Ms. Cathy Mellett, Municipal Clerk provided a presentation on Administrative Order One, Record and Access and Privacy.

Commissioner Mosher thanked Mr. Traves and Ms. Mellett for their presentation and requested questions of clarification from members of the Board of Police Commissioners.

Commissioner Adams requested further information with respect to the 1999 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Board of Police Commissioners, HRP, Halifax Regional Municipality and the RCMP and inquired if it is legally binding.

Mr. Traves provided background information with respect to the MOU and noted that it has formed the basis for By-law P-100 which was adopted by Regional Council as a formal policy outlining the Legislative Accountabilities for the Board of Police Commissioners. He further commented that the Province has also made amendments to the Police Act with respect to Board's duties as an Advisory Board to the Provincial Police Service (RCMP) based on the MOU. He further noted his opinion that the MOU is enforceable as an adopted policy of Regional Council.

In response to a follow up question from Commissioner Adams, Mr. Traves noted that Council has delegated its authority under the HRM Charter to approve management restructuring to the Chief Administrative Officer. He commented that this is consistent with the policy that has been approved by Regional Council and the Police Act.

Further discussion ensued.

7.2 Commissioner Updates – NONE

8. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

8.1 Call for Nominations to the CAPG Board of Directors

The following documentation was before the Board:

- Documentation from the Canadian Association of Police Governance (CAPG)

Commissioner Mosher gave an overview of the documentation provided by the CAPG she commented that she has had discussions with the CAPG leadership and noted that the Halifax Board should have a representative on its Board of Directors. She noted that the financial commitments for a representative on the Board would need to be confirmed by staff and requested if members of the Commission would be interested in putting a name forward as a nominee.

Commissioner Graham noted that there is not a vacancy in Nova Scotia and inquired if there has been advocating for another seat on the Board.

Commissioner Mosher commented that the same number of provincial representatives would remain. She advised that there are currently two provincial representatives on the Board who have expressed interests in retaining their positions but noted that the HRM Board should be in the running given its size and governance model.

Commissioner Mosher opened the floor for nominations to the CAPG Board of Directors

MOVED by Commissioner Adams, seconded by Commissioner Parris that Commissioner Walker be nominated as the HRM Board of Police Commissioners representative to the CAPG Board of Directors. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Commissioner Graham, seconded by Commissioner Honsberger that Commissioner Graham be nominated as the HRM Board of Police Commissioners representative to the CAPG Board of Directors. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Commissioner Mosher called three for further nominations, there were no further nominations.

MOVED by Commissioner Adams, seconded by Commissioner Mitchell that nominations for the CAPG Board of Directors cease. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Commissioner Graham noted that he has extensive experience working with police boards and governing bodies, governments at all levels, as well as experience with the Canadian Association of Police Boards and Canadian Association of Police Governance. He noted that as a citizen appointee he would be able to bring balance and a fresh perspective to the Board as representative from the municipality. He commented that the CAPG does very important work and that the HRM Board should be represented given its size and influence in the area. He concluded by stating that he would be a suitable candidate.

Commissioner Walker noted that he would be an acceptable candidate for the CAPG Board. He advised that HRM Board of Police Commissioner should be represented on the CAPG Board of Directors. He noted that he has a great deal of the competencies that the Board is seeking given his extensive experience on other Boards such as the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

The Legislative Assistant distributed ballots. Mr. Traves announced that Commissioner Graham would be nominated as the Nova Scotia Representative to the CAPG Board of Directors on behalf of the HRM Board of Police Commissioners.

9. IN CAMERA

9.1 Approval of In Camera Minutes – April 13, 2015

The following motion was passed in public session:

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Adams that the In Camera Minutes of April 13, 2015 be approved as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The Board of Police Commissioners moved to an In Camera session to deal with the following:

9.2 Legal Matter – Correspondence from Pink Larkin Lawyers dated April 21, 2015

This matter was dealt with during an In Camera session.

9.3 Contractual Matter – Discussion respecting a contractual matter

This matter was dealt with during an In Camera session.

9.4 Personnel Matter – Discussion respecting personnel conduct

This matter was dealt with during an In Camera session.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – June 8, 2015

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Liam MacSween
Legislative Assistant