



**BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
September 14, 2015**

PRESENT: Commissioner Linda Mosher, Chair
Commissioner Russell Walker, Vice-Chair
Commissioner Stephen Adams
Commissioner Stephen Graham

REGRETS: Commissioner Sylvia Parris
Commissioner Jeff Mitchell

STAFF: Chief Jean-Michel Blais, HRP
Chief Superintendent Roland Wells, RCMP
Deputy Chief Bill Moore, HRP
Mr. Richard Butts, Chief Administrative Officer
Mr. John Traves, Municipal Solicitor
Ms. Ashley Dutcher, Solicitor
Ms. Cathy Mellett, Municipal Clerk
Ms. Phoebe Rai, 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/Agendas.php>*

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 p.m. and recessed at 1:55 p.m. The Board reconvened and moved into an In Camera session at 2:00 p.m. The Board adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

The Chair noted regrets from Commissioners Parris and Mitchell.

Chief Superintendent Roland Wells introduced Constable Patrick Gamache, Constable Isabelle Pinard, and Inspector Trudy Bangloy to the Board. Staff Sergeant Scott Macdonald introduced the Board to new Public Safety Advisor Ted Upshaw. The Chair welcomed the new RCMP officers and Public Safety Advisor on behalf of the Board.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 6, 2015

MOVED by Commissioner Adams, seconded by Commissioner Walker

THAT the minutes of July 6, 2015 be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

MOVED by Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Graham

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES – NONE

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 Jean-Michel Blais, Halifax Regional Police, provided an overview of the HRP Dashboard reports and highlighted several ongoing activities including: the recruitment of experienced officers to fill anticipated vacancies, a new recruitment program for individuals interested in joining the police force, and the homicide investigation regarding Taylor Samson.

Chief Blais advised that HRP is working on the HRM web transformation project, which will see an overhaul of the www.halifax.ca website including HRP pages. He indicated that HRP is also updating all communications materials to reflect the new "Halifax: Be Bold" brand strategy.

Chief Blais informed the Board that HRP is continuing to develop a communication campaign targeting the hospitality and transportation industries to provide education on the signs of human trafficking and juvenile prostitution.

It was also noted by Chief Blais that a campaign promoting gun safety will be taking place in the fall in cooperation with the RCMP, as per the strategic plan.

Chief Blais noted that the photo of the Halifax Regional Police officers who assisted with a birth on the weekend had been seen by over 660,000 people, highlighting the power of social media as a communications tool. The Chief concluded his remarks by noting that HRP will be participating and sharing photos from the annual "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes" campaign.

Commissioner Graham requested an update on the "Operation Fall-Back" campaign.

Chief Blais remarked that the initiative related to students returning to university is proceeding very well, noting that there has been significant social media and traditional media upkeep. He indicated that HRP has not seen any particular spikes in crime, but there has been concern as with previous years regarding noise complaints and open liquor violations.

Commissioner Adams raised questions respecting staffing, noting that the indicated number of sworn members is 517 full-time equivalents whereas Council only approved 516 in the budget, and that the report lists 180.5 full-time equivalents comprised of civilian members of HRP, NSUPE or NUMEA, while the budget would allow for 187.

Chief Blais responded that he would investigate the figures and provide the information to the Board.

Further discussion ensued.

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*

Chief Blais provided an overview of the HRP reports and advised that they are as submitted.

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, RCMP provided an overview of the RCMP Dashboard reports and commentary with respect to trends from 2013 to 2015 from June 1 to August 31.

Chief Superintendent Wells noted that the graph indicates an increase in robberies of 114%, but cautioned that this figure should be taken in context of the low numbers involved with seven robberies in 2014 and fifteen in 2015. He added that this summer there were a number of street-level robberies, for which suspects have been apprehended.

Chief Superintendent Wells referenced the number of assaults (excluding level 1) acknowledging a peak this year with a total of thirty-one incidents, a 3% increase over 2013.

Regarding drug and weapons offenses, Chief Superintendent Wells indicated that the trends are decreasing. He noted respecting drug offenses that the presence of RCMP is being felt and significant quantities of drugs have been taken off the streets.

On property crime statistics, Chief Superintendent Wells highlighted the decrease in theft from motor vehicles, which had seen spikes in 2014. He advised that the RCMP have learned through data analysis that when there is a spike in a certain type of crime it is often criminals who are not known to police. He noted that theft from motor vehicles is a "trigger crime" that can lead to increased criminality.

Chief Superintendent Wells noted that RCMP is now using the COMSTAT model on motor vehicle accidents to determine where and when accidents are most likely to occur. He informed the Board that RCMP can now trace the route vehicles took prior to the collision and have been able to improve the strategic deployment of resources to achieve positive impacts.

Commissioner Graham inquired about the passing of information regarding vehicle collisions to appropriate external partners.

Chief Superintendent Wells responded that the RCMP is engaged with engineers from HRM regarding road design and maintenance issues that impact driving. He indicated that there is a focus this month on road safety around schools, so RCMP will reach out to partners to help educate students and parents.

Chief Superintendent Wells concluded by noting that he had discussed the possibility with Chief Blais of providing a joint dashboard report to the Board on serious crimes including but not limited to homicide, aggravated assault, and robberies. He indicated that a joint report would give a clear picture of criminality over a number of years.

Chief Blais added that clearance rates would also be included as well as emerging trends, and that a report could be prepared for the next meeting for the Board to review and provide input.

Commissioner Mosher requested that the report include information related to utilizing external resources, to which Chief Superintendent Wells agreed.

MOVED by Commissioner Adams, seconded by Commissioner Graham

THAT the Board of Police Commissioners request a joint dashboard report from the Halifax Regional Police and Royal Canadian Mounted Police on serious crimes to be provided on a regular basis.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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*

Chief Superintendent Wells provided an overview of the RCMP Reports and noted that they are as submitted.

Commissioner Walker inquired whether there is concern regarding the spike in assaults on the Eastern Shore.

Chief Superintendent Wells responded that when there is a spike, an analyst looks at data and trends in real time and brings that information to the next COMSTAT meeting, which are held every three weeks. However, he noted that the information is also passed on immediately to officers in the area.

Further discussion ensued.

The RCMP Reports were received by the Board as Submitted.

7.1.5 HRP Bi-monthly Strategic Plan Update

The following was before the Board:

- *The HRP Bi-monthly Strategic Plan Update.*

Chief Blais provided an overview of the Bi-monthly Strategic Plan Update and introduced Dr. Jordon Penney, Performance and Policy Manager with HRP to address questions regarding methodology.

Commissioner Graham commented that the layout was effective and requested information on how the percentage point threshold was established for the three status levels (i.e. 0% complete, 1% to 25% complete, and 25% and above).

Dr. Penney noted that in determining the status levels, staff considered how much work has been completed on each item in relation to the amount of time left to achieve the action. He indicated that many of these items were difficult to quantify.

Deputy Chief Bill Moore added that the update considers two elements: the percentages show the progression of the project relative to scope, time and budget of the project; whereas the colour coding is indicative of whether the project is progressing well (green), is being monitored (yellow), or is facing a major issue that needs to be addressed (red). He indicated that subsequent updates will clarify the two elements to the report and provide a narrative identifying issues preventing progress on items that are not moving forward.

Commissioner Mosher requested a short description of the methodology to help guide interpretation of the report for future updates as well as linking the Strategic Plan to the update report so that members of the public can understand the context of the analysis.

Further discussion ensued.

Chief Blais informed the Board that in August, he attended the annual Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police (CACP) conference, which focused on radicalization. He indicated that Halifax has submitted a nomination to host the conference in 2018.

Chief Blais concluded by requesting a discussion at the next meeting of the Board respecting the 2016/2017 budget deliberations.

7.1.6 RCMP – Criminal Analysts – funding request

The following was before the Board:

- *Funding Request 2016 – Criminal Analysts*

Chief Superintendent Wells provided background on the request for funding to support the establishment of two (2) permanent Crime Analyst municipal positions. He informed the Board that there is currently one Crime Analyst who has made a big impact in the COMSTAT approach but is managing a very high volume of work. He indicated that with only one analyst, there is no redundancy and the work volume cannot be sustained.

Chief Superintendent Wells provided commentary regarding the need for increased analytical capacity to support an integrated Real Time Crime Centre, to increase officer safety and provide background on incidents as they unfold, and the Hybrid Hub Model of policing, to ensure that young people who could be on the path to increased criminal and antisocial behaviour are identified.

Commissioner Mosher shared with the Board comments submitted by Commissioner Parris for consideration.

Chief Blais added that HRP is quite limited with only one Crime Analyst, and suggested that having a Crime Analyst with the RCMP in the Real Time Crime Center would augment time coverage by at least 50%, for the betterment of both police agencies.

Commissioner Graham expressed his opinion that the business case presented demonstrates a need for additional analytical support within the RCMP in order to be intelligence-led and make informed choices on enforcement.

Mr. Richard Butts, Chief Administrative Officer commented that if the funding request is forwarded to staff for consideration, staff will consider it including any legal challenges to seconding a municipal employee to the RCMP.

Mr. John Traves, Municipal Solicitor, advised that an appropriate action for the Board to consider would be to forward the funding request to Regional Council with a request for a staff report to examine human resource implications.

Commissioner Walker indicated that the staff report should also provide more information on the pilot program referenced on page three (3) of the funding request document provided by the RCMP.

MOVED by Commissioner Adams, seconded by Commissioner Walker

THAT the Board of Police Commissioners recommends that Halifax Regional Council:

- a) request a staff report to consider the human resource and other implications of the attached RCMP Criminal Analyst Funding Request, and to provide additional information on the modality of the pilot Crime Analyst positions at Kings, Yarmouth, Colchester and Antigonish Counties outlined in the attached document, and**
- b) refer the attached funding request to staff for consideration in the 2016/2017 budget.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7.1.7 Update – Canadian Association of Police Governance and position on Nova Scotia Association of Police Governance

The following was before the Board

- *By-laws of the Nova Scotia Association of Police Governance*

The Chair noted that, as all members were not present, the update presentation by Commissioners Walker and Graham would instead be received at the subsequent meeting of the Board. She requested that Commissioners be provided with a link to the reports and presentations from the recent Canadian Association of Police Governance (CAPG) conference.

The Chair addressed a previous Board motion to appoint the Chair of the Board of Police Commissioners as the representative to the Nova Scotia Association of Police Governance (NSAPG). She indicated that it is the preference of NSAPG to have the same representative from the CAPG as the delegate to the NSAPG. Commissioner Mosher also noted that having the same delegate on both boards would provide continuity and context, and that there would be an added financial benefit wherein the NSAPG provides funding to support CAPG conference attendance.

MOVED by Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Adams

THAT the delegate of Board of Police Commissioners to the Canadian Association of Police Governance (CAPG) also serve as the Board's delegate to the Nova Scotia

Association of Police Governance (NSAPG), and for any costs directly related to this participation not already provided by the CAPG or NSAPG to be repaid to the individual by Halifax Regional Municipality.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7.1.8 Commissioner Adams – Request for staff report – User fees for proof of Insurance, Drivers' License and Vehicle Registration

The following was before the Board

- *A request for Board of Police Commissioners Consideration form from Commissioner Adams*

Commissioner Adams questioned the process for demonstrating proof of insurance, drivers' license, and vehicle registration in order to cancel a ticket that has been previously issued.

Chief Blais provided an overview of changes to this process since 2010. He confirmed that the current procedure is a three-step process: the individual presents the documentation to Halifax Regional Police; a copy is made and sent to the ticket clerk; and the clerk then presents the information to the judge in order to have the ticket cancelled. Due to the amount of work required, an administrative fee of \$25 is charged to the individual.

Ms. Ashley Dutcher, Solicitor advised that the alternate route to cancel a ticket is to attend the trial date and plead not guilty, after which the prosecutor would withdraw the charges. In this case, Ms. Dutcher indicated that there would be no administrative fee applied.

Commissioner Adams indicated that he was satisfied by these responses and did not wish to move the motion on the agenda.

7.2 Commissioner Updates – NONE

8. ADDED ITEMS

Chief Superintendent Wells announced that after October 2, 2015 he will no longer be with the RCMP and thanked the Board for their support during his time as Chief Superintendent.

The Chair thanked Chief Superintendent Wells for his hard work and the impactful programs that he has introduced and led, and congratulated him on his new opportunity.

9. IN CAMERA

The Board recessed at 1:55 p.m., convened to In Camera at 2:00 p.m., and reconvened to public session at 2:30 p.m.

9.1 Approval of In Camera Minutes – July 6, 2015

This matter was dealt with In Camera.

9.2 Operational Matter – Update on Police Act Investigation

This matter was dealt with In Camera.

9.3 Personnel Matter – Personnel Conduct

This matter was dealt with In Camera.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – October 12, 2015

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Phoebe Rai
Legislative Assistant