



**BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
October 16, 2015**

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

REGRETS: Commissioner Sylvia Parris

STAFF: Chief Jean-Michel Blais, HRP
Acting Chief Superintendent Dennis Daley, RCMP
Deputy Chief Bill Moore, HRP
Mr. Richard Butts, Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. Ashley Dutcher, Solicitor
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. The Board moved into an In Camera session at 2:06 p.m. and reconvened to adjourn at 3:04 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Mosher, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. in Halifax Hall, 2nd Floor City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

Chief Jean-Michel Blais, HRP advised the Board that Superintendent Cliff Falkenham has announced his retirement. The Chair noted that she would send a letter to Superintendent Falkenham to thank him for his service.

The Chair welcomed Acting Chief Superintendent Dennis Daley from the RCMP.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 14, 2015

MOVED by Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Adams

THAT the minutes of September 14, 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 In Camera Contractual Matter – Third Party Contract

Commissioner Graham raised the question of whether the addition met the requirements for an In Camera discussion.

The Chair indicated that the Board would convene to In Camera to determine whether or not the matter could be considered in public session.

MOVED by Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Graham

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

Two-third majority vote required.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES – NONE

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS – NONE

6.1 Correspondence

6.1.1 Correspondence from Mr. Wade H. Smith, Citadel High School dated September 25, 2015 re: Citadel High School Police Liaison Officer

The following was before the Board:

- *Correspondence dated September 25, 2015 from Mr. Wade H. Smith*

Chief Blais noted that the correspondence contained a request not to replace a Community Response Officer. He advised that there is a staffing policy that is in accordance with the collective agreement, and he offered to write a letter in response to the correspondence to explain how these decisions are made.

MOVED by Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Adams

THAT Chief Blais reply directly to the correspondence dated September 25, 2015.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

6.2 Petitions – NONE

6.3 Presentations – NONE

6.3.1 Presentation –Sgt. Reg McInnis, RCMP and Inspector Lindsay Hernden, HRP re: Emergency Response Team

The following was before the Board:

- *A presentation dated October 16, 2015 from Sgt. Reg McInnis, RCMP*
- *A presentation dated October 16, 2015 from Inspector Lindsay Hernden, HRP*

Sergeant Reg McInnis, RCMP delivered a presentation to the Board regarding the H Division Critical Incident Program and Emergency Response Team. He advised that the Emergency Response Team is responsible for providing Emergency Tactical Response capacity throughout Nova Scotia, and can be utilized on a national level for major events. Sgt. McInnis highlighted the functional work relationship with the Halifax Regional Police Emergency Response Team.

Inspector Lindsay Hernden, HRP provided commentary with respect to the history of the Emergency Response team and outlined significant recent changes that have expanded the team. He emphasized that there has been a leap forward in technical support capacity, and he reiterated Sgt. McInnis's positive comments regarding the level of coordination between HRP and RCMP.

The Chair thanked the presenters for the information they provided, and requested copies of the presentations to be sent to the Clerk's Office for distribution to Board members.

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 three members of HRP were inducted into the Order of Merit of the Police Forces on September 18, 2015: Inspector Lindsay Hernden, Staff Sergeant Darrell Gaudet and Verona Singer, Victim Services Coordinator.

Chief Blais advised that second-degree murder charges were laid in the homicide of Truro police officer Catherine Campbell. He also spoke to the undercover operation targeting drug trafficking in the downtown bar scene that resulted in thirteen people charged with offences under the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*. Chief Blais noted that an integrated HRP/RCMP committee was struck in response to the independent review and will be meeting soon to discuss the report.

Chief Blais informed the Board that the Annual Nova Scotia Fallen Peace Officers Memorial Service would be held on October 18, 2015 at 11 a.m. in Grand Parade.

Chief Blais concluded his remarks by noting that the combined dashboard report discussed at the last meeting would be delayed in coming forward as there is a new Acting Chief Superintendent of the RCMP who was not involved in previous discussions.

Commissioner Adams asked whether the 5.5 positions that were reported as unfilled at the last meeting had been filled. Chief Blais responded that the positions were not yet filled.

Commissioner Adams inquired how the funds that had been allocated for that purpose would be dealt with. Mr. Richard Butts, Chief Administrative Officer responded that at the end of the year, unspent funds would be returned to the municipality.

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*

Acting Chief Superintendent Dennis Daley provided an overview of the RCMP Dashboard reports. He advised that impaired driving reports collected through calls to 911 between January 1 and September 30, 2015 had increased by 23% from the same period in 2014, which led to an increase in the number of impaired driving charges laid. He also noted that there was an increase of radar enforcement checkpoints, especially within school zones.

A/ Chief Superintendent Daley commented that he was heartened to see the improvements that have been made to the COMSTAT system, and he indicated that RCMP are using the information to determine where checkpoints should be located to reduce the causal factors that lead to accidents.

Commissioner Walker referenced the Road Safety Initiatives graph from the dashboard report and noted that in 2014 there were 891 Seat Belt Summary Offence Tickets issued, whereas in 2015 there is no figure provided. A/ Chief Superintendent Daley responded that he would determine the figure and provide this information to the Board members by email.

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*

Acting Chief Superintendent Daley provided an overview of the RCMP personnel report. He noted that Constable Bart Leppan from Lower Sackville would be receiving the INSPIRE Service award from Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Halifax for his work in the community. He also indicated that Paula Sibley-Fox, Director of Strategic Communications, has been awarded a Halifax Cornwallis Progress Club Women of Excellence Award under the Communications and Public Affairs category.

The RCMP Reports were received by the Board as Submitted.

MOVED by Commissioner Graham, seconded by Commissioner Adams

THAT the Board of Police Commissioners send congratulatory letters to the HRP and RCMP members that have been recognized for their service.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7.1.5 Commissioner Adams – Report Request COPs Program

The following was before the Board:

- *A Request for Board of Police Commissioners Consideration form submitted by Commissioner Adams*

Commissioner Adams noted that the Citizens on Patrol program in Prospect has closed, and he advised that the intent of the report request was to determine if there were underlying issues that could be addressed to prevent other similar programs from closing.

MOVED by Commissioner Adams, seconded by Commissioner Graham

THAT the Board of Police Commissioners request a report regarding the extent of support for the COPs Program in RCMP patrolled areas including, but not limited to financial, capital, operating and the provision of equipment.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Commissioner Mosher stepped down from the Chair to speak to the following matters. Commissioner Walker assumed the Chair at 1:42 p.m.

7.1.6 Commissioner Mosher – Report Request – Motorized Bicycles

The following was before the Board:

- *A Request for Board of Police Commissioners Consideration form submitted by Commissioner Mosher*

MOVED by Commissioner Mosher, seconded by Commissioner Adams

THAT the Board of Police Commissioners recommend that Halifax Regional Council request a staff report to consider amending By-law P-600 respecting Municipal Parks under Provision 10 – to include the prohibition of motorized bicycles in HRM parks and trails.

Commissioner Mosher commented that the Chain of Lakes Trail Association and area residents have complained of a safety issue resulting from the use of motorized bicycles on the trail. She advised that bicycles with motors are still considered bicycles if they cannot achieve speeds higher than 30 kph.

Ms. Ashley Dutcher, Solicitor, advised that as motorized bicycles are considered bicycles under the *Motor Vehicles Act*, police have no grounds to prohibit individuals from driving motorized bicycles on the trail.

Commissioner Mitchell questioned whether banning the use of motorized bicycles was the best way to address the issue of excessive speed on the trail.

Mr. Butts questioned the public policy basis for amending the by-law, indicating that there should be clear problem definition before amendments are proposed. Commissioner Mosher responded that the signage on the trail is not enforceable and suggested that either the signs be removed or the policy amended.

Commissioner Mitchell advised that there are other ways to reduce speed on trails from a design perspective. He advised that other trails have a staggered gate system for that purpose.

Mr. Butts advised that question seems to be how to change behavior in a sustainable way, but the motion seems to presuppose that the conclusion of the analysis will be that a by-law amendment is the best option. He cautioned that this may not give the desired result.

Commissioner Mosher responded that there are police on the trail to enforce the rules, but they are not able to restrict motorized bicycles due to the problems with the signage. She advised that she was not aware of any complaints regarding excessive speed of non-motorized vehicles.

Commissioner Adams noted that the wording of any by-law amendments should be carefully defined so as not to prevent motorized wheelchair users from accessing the trail.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7.1.7 Commissioner Mosher – Report Request – Parking Zones

The following was before the Board:

- *A Request for Board of Police Commissioners Consideration form submitted by Commissioner Mosher*

Commissioner Mosher indicated that she has been informed that motorists may park only once within timed parking zones within a 24 hour period, but these zones are not well defined and are confusing to individuals trying to abide by the regulations. She advised that if an individual leaves the area with their vehicle and returns within 24 hours to park in a different location on the same street, they may receive a ticket stating “moved in zone” or “same zone.”

Deputy Chief Bill Moore, HRP indicated that the definition of a zone is not clearly identified in the *Motor Vehicles Act* and questioned whether there were any by-laws that interpret what constitutes a zone.

Ms. Dutcher indicated that she was not aware of any such by-law but would have to conduct some research to be sure.

Commissioner Walker suggested that HRP bring additional information on this subject to the next meeting of the Board for consideration, to which the Board indicated their general agreement.

Commissioner Mosher returned to the Chair at 2:06 p.m.

7.2 Commissioner Updates – NONE

8. ADDED ITEMS

MOVED by Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Adams

THAT The Board of Police Commissioners convene to In Camera to consider item 9.1.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9. IN CAMERA

9.1 In Camera Contractual Matter – Third Party Contract

This matter was dealt with In Camera. No further action required.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – November 9, 2015

The Chair noted that the subsequent meeting would be held on December 7, 2015.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:04 p.m.

Phoebe Rai
Legislative Assistant