



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

PRESENT: Commissioner Linda Mosher, Chair
Commissioner Stephen Adams
Commissioner Sylvia Parris
Commissioner Jeff Mitchell

REGRETS: Commissioner Russell Walker, Vice-Chair
Commissioner Stephen Graham

STAFF: Chief Jean-Michel Blais, HRP
Acting Chief Superintendent Dennis Daley, RCMP
Deputy Chief Bill Moore, HRP
Inspector Jeff Dowling, RCMP
Inspector Martin Marin, RCMP
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 the Board are available online:
<http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/bpc/Agendas.php>*

The meeting was called to order at 12:31 p.m., and adjourned at 2:21 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Mosher, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:31 p.m. in Halifax Hall, 2nd Floor City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 16, 2015

MOVED by Commissioner Adams, seconded by Commissioner Mitchell

THAT the minutes of October 16, 2015 be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

The Order of Business was approved as presented.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

6.1 Correspondence – NONE

6.2 Petitions – NONE

6.3 Presentation

6.3.1 Presentation – Sgt. Mark Hobeck, Halifax Regional Police re: HRP Public Safety Unit

Sergeant Mark Hobeck, Halifax Regional Police (HRP) delivered a presentation regarding the Public Safety Unit. He informed the Board that the unit is a support unit trained to proactively manage crowds and is mandated to provide a safe environment for the community at large. He indicated that the unit ensures public safety, facilitates peaceful protest, and ensures the application of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms to those involved while mitigating personal injury and property damage.

The Board asked questions of clarification. In response, Sgt. Hobeck advised that wearing masks to a protest is not an offense unless it is work during the commission of an offense. He also noted that efforts were being made to ensure recordings are made of each event. There was a brief discussion regarding the “measured approach” philosophy practiced by the Nova Scotia RCMP.

The Chair thanked Sgt. Hobeck for the presentation.

7. REPORTS

7.1 STAFF

7.1.1 RCMP/HRP Combined Dashboard Report

The following was before the Board:

- *The RCMP/HRP Combined Dashboard Reports*

Chief Jean-Michel Blais, HRP provided an overview of the HRP portion of the combined dashboard reports. He noted that violence crime incidents show an overall decline over a five year period. He also advised that clearance rates show a steady increase.

Chief Blais informed the Board that the Crosswalk Safety event held on November 4, 2015 was well received, as was the Halifax Connects event on November 8, 2015 which helps those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. He noted that Project Red Ribbon would be held on November 16, 2015, celebrating the 20th anniversary of MADD Halifax Regional Chapter.

The Chief also indicated that annual firearms recertification, mental health readiness and resilience “train the trainers” training, and mandatory training for supervisors was ongoing. He concluded by noting that there has been an uptick of new followers on social media.

Commissioner Parris noted that there seems to be an increase in reported sexual assaults and asked whether there was sufficient engagement with the community to collaboratively address the matter.

Deputy Chief Bill Moore, HRP advised that HRP has been working closely with the Avalon Sexual Assault Centre on a number of issues including media relations. He outlined some lessons that have been learned regarding how Police Officers interact with sexual assault victims in order to avoid revictimization. He advised that when a call regarding sexual assault is received, if possible, officers who have received training on the trauma-informed approach are dispatched. He commented that there are a number of related initiatives that are moving forward but have not yet been fully implemented.

A/Chief Superintendent Dennis Daley, RCMP provided an overview of the RCMP portion of the combined dashboard reports highlighting how police are working in an integrated way on public safety.

Inspector Martin Morin, RCMP advised that the decrease in violent crime incidents may be related to a renewed focus on getting repeat offenders off the streets. With respect to minimizing gun-related incidents, Inspector Morin advised that the guns and gangs unit is focusing efforts on reducing the number of unaccounted for firearms in the public in part through collaboration with the National Weapons Enforcement Support Teams on the Safe City Project. He concluded by noting that the RCMP is working to ensure that repeat domestic calls for service are being addressed appropriately.

A/Chief Superintendent Daley added that repeat calls for service are being monitored and if trends are observed within three weeks other resources are deployed to address the issue. He highlighted a number of recent initiatives including the repatriation of the “Origin of Species” to Mount Saint Vincent University; Operation Northern Spotlight, a joint effort with 40 police services across Canada to combat human trafficking which took place on October 22, 2015; Operation Hagrid, which was an interprovincial investigation into a drug trafficking organization that came to fruition on October 30, 2015; and

The A/Chief Superintendent also noted that December 4, 2015 is National Impaired Driving Enforcement Day. He highlighted increased calls to report impaired driving as a positive development. He concluded by noting that last week he presented to the new Nova Scotia Minister of Justice regarding the integrated model of policing in HRM and intelligence-led policing on the youth early intervention model.

Inspector Jeff Dowling, RCMP delivered a brief budget update, indicating that at the end of October, which marks 58% of the fiscal year, just over 50% of the budget had been expended. He indicated that the RCMP anticipates that it will be at or below budget by the end of the fiscal year, and he noted that RCMP are not allowed to exceed their budget or be more than 3% under budget.

Commissioner Adams requested a presentation from Wanda Fletcher, RCMP on budgeting. The Chair indicated she would follow up to arrange the presentation.

Further discussion ensued.

The RCMP/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 Reports

The following was before the Board:

- *The RCMP Reports*

A/Chief Superintendent Daley provided an overview of the RCMP reports and advised that they are as submitted.

The RCMP Reports were received by the Board as Submitted.

7.1.4 Halifax Regional Police Strategic Plan – Bi-Monthly Update

The following was before the Board:

- *HRP Bi-monthly Strategic Plan Update*

Chief Blais spoke to the update, noting that there had been a slight change to the format to provide numbers that indicate where the item can be located within the Strategic Plan.

The HRP Bi-monthly Strategic Plan Update was received by the Board as Submitted.

7.1.5 Presentation – Preliminary Draft 2016-2017 Halifax Regional Police Operating Budget and Draft 2016-17 Business Plan Deliverables

The following was before the Board:

- *Proposed Halifax Regional Police 2016/17 Operating Budget Situation (Summary)*

Chief Blais introduced Craig Horton, HRP's Financial Coordinator, and provided a brief overview of the proposed operating budget, noting the projected net budget decrease. The Chief indicated that there has been great success in terms of modernizing different programs and staffing various positions. He advised that pay and benefits comprise roughly 92% of the budget, and the numbers may be revised slightly before the final presentation.

Mr. Horton noted that until two years ago, assets that depreciated in value always went with the operating account; however, according to capital asset policy it should be done through the capital account. He indicated that this adjustment has been made through a transfer from the operating to equipment account.

The Chair advised that this was a preliminary presentation only, and she requested members of the Board to provide questions to the Legislative Assistant for further analysis at a Special Meeting.

Commissioner Adams requested additional information on the funds coming out of reserves and the 5.5 positions that have yet to be filled.

Commissioner Mitchell asked whether there would be upgrades made to prisoner care facilities to ensure privacy for conversations between inmates and legal counsel.

Deputy Chief Moore indicated that he would determine whether there had been an assessment of this issue and bring that information to the next meeting of the Board.

Commissioner Parris requested an overview of guiding policies or practices that speak to utilization of reserves in balancing an operating budget.

MOVED by Commissioner Adams, seconded by Commissioner Parris

THAT the Board of Police Commissioners refer this matter to a Special Meeting to be held on November 23, 2015.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7.2 COMMISSIONER UPDATES – NONE

8. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

9. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE)

The following matter was considered in public session. No In Camera (In Private) session was held.

9.1 Approval of In Camera (In Private) Minutes – September 14, 2015

MOVED by Commissioner Adams, seconded by Commissioner Mitchell

THAT the In Camera minutes of September 14, 2015 be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - December 7, 2015

10.1 Special Meeting (If required) – November 23, 2015 – Preliminary Draft 2016-2017 Halifax Regional Police Operating Budget and Draft 2016-17 Business Plan Deliverables

A motion was passed earlier in the meeting to hold a Special Meeting on November 23, 2015. See pages 4-5 for details.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:21 p.m.

Phoebe Rai
Legislative Assistant