



**BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
November 23, 2015**

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

REGRETS: Commissioner Steve Graham

STAFF: Chief Jean Michel Blais, Halifax Regional Police (HRP)
Mr. Richard Butts, Chief Administrative Officer
Deputy Chief Bill Moore, HRP
Mr. Craig Horton, Financial Coordinator, HRP
Ms. Ashley Dutcher, Solicitor
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 are available online:
<http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/bpc/151123bopc-agenda.php>*

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 p.m., and adjourned at 1:18 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

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

Additions: None

MOVED by Commissioner Adams, seconded by Councillor Walker

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

The following documentation was before Halifax Regional Council:

- Updated - Preliminary Draft 2016-2017 Halifax Regional Police Operating Budget and Draft 2016-17 Business Plan Deliverables.

Chief Jean-Michel Blais, Halifax Regional Police provided an overview of the draft preliminary 2016-17 Budget and Business Plan. Chief Blais advised that the intention of the presentation is to provide further information and respond to questions from the Board. He commented that the Budget will be brought forward for the December 7, 2015 meeting for approval.

Commissioner Mosher thanked Chief Blais for his overview and requested questions of clarification from members of the board.

Chief Blais noted a previous question which had been raised in relation to the use of reserves. He invited Mr. Craig, Horton, Budget Coordinator, HRP to provide further information with respect to use of reserves.

Mr. Horton advised that HRP has a number of reserves available and noted that in instances where staff are in an under budget situation, resources are diverted to reserves to assist in items such as the purchase of equipment. He provided commentary with respect to Q322 Police Emergency/Extraordinary Investigation Reserve and advised of a contribution from the reserve within the budget to utilize interest which has been accruing. He provided further commentary with respect to Reserve Q323 the Police Officer, On the Job Injury Reserve which is utilized for assistance in relation to on job the injuries for police officers.

In response to a previous question raised by Commissioner Adams regarding nine positions that were yet to be staffed. Chief Blais provided background information in relation the conversion of eight part time intercept positions which are in the process of being converted to full time positions.

Deputy Chief Bill Moore, HRP noted that all of the staffing actions listed in the budget are nearly complete. He advised that that following positions are still in the process of being filled and should be complete in the near future

- Junior Communications Advisor
- Research and Development Specialist
- Four Crime Intercept Monitors (converted from eight part-time positions)

In response to a follow up question from Commissioner Paris, Deputy Chief Moore noted that HRP had an officer on secondment to the Department of Education for seven years who had retired and noted that the Department of Education did not wish to continue with refilling the position. He advised that the impact is minimal on the budget and advised that HRP plans to reallocate the position within HRP in the school environment.

In response to a question from Commissioner Adams, Mr. Richard Butts, Chief Administrative noted that the projected surplus is based on allocated targets determined by HRM's finance department. He advised that there is no directive provided for Business Units to come up with money that they do not have.

In response to a follow up question from Commissioner Paris, Chief Blais referenced sections HRP's Strategic Plan which speak to community policing and crime prevention by design. He advised that a particular area of focus within the strategic plan is found in the area of crime prevention.

In response to a question from Councillor Mitchell, Deputy Chief Moore advised that responses to major events are coordinated between HRP and RCMP and included in the operating budget.

In response to a question from Councillor Mosher, the Legislative Assistant noted that information provided by Regional Council to the Board of Police Commissioners can only be provided by motion of Regional Council. Ms. Ashley Dutcher, Solicitor, advised that currently there is no mechanism within the current Legislation, outside of the budget, which allows for the Board to report or provide recommendations to Regional Council.

4. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – December 7, 2015 – Meisner Room, HRP Headquarters, 1975 Gottingen Street, Halifax.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:18 p.m.

Liam MacSween
Legislative Assistant