



**BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
February 22, 2016**

PRESENT: Commissioner Russell Walker, Chair
Commissioner Stephen Adams
Commissioner Steve Craig
Commissioner Jeff Mitchell
Commissioner Sylvia Parris

REGRETS: Commissioner Steve Graham, Vice-Chair

STAFF: Chief Jean-Michel Blais, Halifax Regional Police
Acting Chief Superintendent Dennis Daley, RCMP
Deputy Chief Bill Moore, Halifax Regional Police
Ms. Ashely 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 of Police Commissioners are available online: <http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/bpc/160222bopc-agenda.php>

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 p.m. and adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 7, 2015

MOVED by Commissioner Adams, seconded by Commissioner Mitchell

THAT the minutes of December 7, 2015 be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions:

10.1 Commissioner Craig – Discussion - RCMP Budget and Business Plan Deliverables.

MOVED by Commissioner Mitchell, seconded by Commissioner Craig

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

Two-third majority vote required.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

5. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

Commissioner Mitchell advised that he is Legal counsel for an action against the municipality and advised that it does not affect his role as a member of the Board of Police Commissioners.

6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

7.1 Correspondence – None

7.2 Petitions – None

7.3 Presentation

7.3.1 HRP/RCMP Presentation re: Professional Standards

Staff Sergeant Kevin Smith, HRP provided a presentation with respect to the Professional Standards process for Halifax Regional Police.

In response to a question from Commissioner Mitchell, S/Srgt. Smith noted that he has liaised with other jurisdictions and advised that each of the departments that he has consulted with tend to deal with the same type of professional standards issues common to HRP, which tend to be in the area of professional conduct of officers.

Commissioner Craig noted that informal complaints are covered in the Police Act and inquired if any information is shared with the Provincial government in that regard.

Deputy Chief Bill Moore, HRP advised that if an informal complaint is received by the public and an investigation in to the matter takes place, it begins the formal process which is stipulated in the Police Act. He advised that the Police Act also has a provision which allows for an informal resolution process to take place as part of informal complaints.

Staff Sergeant Jim Sponagle, of the RCMP provided a presentation with respect to the Professional Standards process for the RCMP

In response to a question from Councillor Craig, S/Srgt. Sponagle advised that there are several manners in which citizens can bring forward professional standards complaints such as online applications and through contacting any local RCMP detachment.

Commissioner Walker thanked S/Srgt. Smith and Sponagle for their presentations.

8. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

9. REPORTS

9.1 STAFF

9.1.1 RCMP/HRP Combined Dashboard Report

The following was before the Board:

- *The Combined HRP/RCMP Dashboard Report*

Chief Blais and Acting Chief Superintendent Daley gave an overview of the RCMP/HRP Combined Dashboard Report.

Commissioner Mitchell inquired as to the type of data being provided by HRP as part of the Open Data project.

Deputy Chief Moore advised that HRP is providing data with respect to crime mapping and the pedestrian safety action plan.

The RCMP/HRP Combined Dashboard Report was received by the Board as submitted.

9.1.2 HRP Reports

The following was before the Board:

- *The HRP Reports*

Chief Jean-Michel Blais provided an overview of the HRP Reports.

The HRP Reports were received by the Board as submitted.

9.1.3 RCMP Reports

The following was before the Board:

- *The RCMP Reports*

Acting Chief Superintendent Denis Daley provided an overview of the RCMP Reports.

In response to a question from Commissioner Craig in relation to Hybrid Hub program, Acting Chief Superintendent Daley commented that he did not have specific numbers available in relation to Hybrid Hub Program. He advised that the success of the program tends to be measured in terms of the frequency that youth within the program have negative contact with police.

The RCMP Reports were received by the Board as Submitted.

9.1.4 Discussion – Board Report Requirements/Template

The following was before Board:

- *A briefing noted dated February 22, 2016*

Chief Blais provided commentary with respect to the current reports being provided to the Board and noted that they would like input as to what type of information the Board would like to see in the reports and whether or not the information that is currently being provided is of use to members of the Board.

Commissioner Craig requested further commentary with respect potential recommendations that HRP and RCMP may have in the information that is provided to the Board.

Chief Blais advised that the types of reports currently being provided to the Board are ten years old in terms of form and template. Chief Blais suggested that a thematic approach to Board reports could be a potential option, in which HRP/RCMP will provide reports on monthly themes that come about as part of the data that is collected.

Commissioner Adams advised that he is interested in spikes and trends within the crime statistics are provided and noted that he is interested primarily in commentary as to why the trends are taking place. He advised that a rationale to back up the statistics help to inform the public as to the actions which need to take place to find a solution.

Commissioner Mitchell agreed with Commissioner Adams assessment and advised that he is interested as to why a particular trend may be statistically significant. He noted that an explanation within the report that explains statistical significance would be helpful, along with a proposed course of action.

Ms. Sheilagh Serfas, Crime Analyst, RCMP advised that staff would like to provide information that is the most relevant to the Board for inclusion in the Dashboard. She advised that they would like to be relevant and in real time.

Chief Blais thanked the Commissioners for their comments and advised that both he and Acting Chief Superintendent Daley do not expect the Board to make a decision right away and requested that the members of the Board continue to think about the type of information that they would like provided for future Board meetings. He advised that both organizations have taken away a great deal of information from the conversation thus far and noted that they will bring forward further information at subsequent meetings to facilitate further discussion.

Mr. John Traves, Acting Chief Administrative Officer commented that the Board's governance responsibility are generally characterized in four areas, providing an effective community voice in matters pertaining to policing, civilian review of the police service board, ensuring quality of police service by evaluation process, and generally being informed of police operations and the training that goes in to it. He advised that Commissioners may want to take this information away and reflect on it to see what aspects of the current reporting structure can be enhanced to meet these objectives.

Further discussion ensued with the Board agreeing to revisit the matter at subsequent meetings.

9.1.5 Halifax Regional Police Code of Ethics

The following was before the Board:

- *A draft Version of the Halifax Regional Police Code of Ethics*

Chief Blais provided an overview of the Halifax Regional Police Code of Ethics and provided background information, noting that it is read by the Chair of the Board of Police Commissioners at swearing in ceremonies for new HRP officers. He commented that the draft before the Board is new and includes updated language specific to HRP as opposed to the old version which was essentially a carbon copy of a similar document used by police forces in the United States. He advised that he is seeking input from the Board with respect to the language and would like feedback for the next meeting if possible. Chief Blais concluded that Code of Ethics is not a legal document, but plays an important role with respect in fostering the culture and values of the police force as it is discussed and signed by new employees.

9.1.6 Proposed 2016-2017 Halifax Regional Police Operating Budget and 2016-17 Business Plan Deliverables

The following was before the Board:

- *Proposed Halifax Regional Police 2016/17 Operating Budget Situation (Summary) dated February 17, 2016.*

Chief Blais provided an overview of the Proposed 2016-2017 Halifax Regional Police Operating Budget and 2016-17 Business Plan Deliverables and noted that the overall budget gap of \$419,000.00 has changed to \$118,100.00 since the last time the budget was before the Board. He advised that the change is due to the following:

- Increased Provincial DNA operating costs to reflect a transfer of the original budget from HRM Fiscal Services to HRP's operating budget.
- An Increase in licensing/network related costs as a result of the new Trunk Mobile Radio 2 (TMR2) service.

MOVED by Commissioner Adams, seconded by Commissioner Craig

THAT the Board of Police Commissioners recommend that Halifax Regional Council approve the Halifax Regional Police 2016/17 Operating Budget and Business Plan of \$76,964,700.00.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.1.7 RCMP/HRP Organizational Orientation for Board Members

MOVED by Commissioner Adams, seconded by Commissioner Mitchell

THAT this matter be deferred until the April meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.3 COMMITTEE MEMBER UPDATE – NONE

10. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

10.1 Commissioner Craig – Discussion - RCMP Budget and Business Plan Deliverables

Commissioner Craig requested further information regarding the presentation of the RCMP budget to the Board and how it is presented to Regional Council. He referenced a provision with the Memorandum of Understanding between the Board, HRM and the RCMP in which a Business Plan and budget presentation is to be provided to the Board by December 31.

Acting Chief Superintendent Daley advised that the relationship is between HRM and the Province with respect to financial details for the budget. He advised that perhaps an arrangement can be made between the province and the Chief Administrative Office to discuss options as to how that information is provided. He advised that the RCMP can likely provide a presentation to the Board with respect to the budget and business plan requirements for RCMP police services.

Mr. John Traves advised that staff will consult with the province to provide further information with respect to RCMP budget process and how it can be presented to the Board and Council.

11. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE)

11.1 Approval of In Camera Minutes – January 18, 2016

The following motion was passed in public session:

MOVED by Commissioner Adams, seconded by Commissioner Craig

THAT the Board of Police Commissioners approve the In Camera minutes of January 18, 2016 as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – March 21, 2016

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Liam MacSween
Legislative Assistant