



**BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
April 18, 2016**

PRESENT: Commissioner Russell Walker, Chair
Commissioner Steve Graham, Vice-Chair (via teleconference)
Commissioner Stephen Adams
Commissioners Steve Craig
Commissioner Jeff Mitchell
Commissioner Sylvia Parris

STAFF: Chief Jean-Michel Blais, HRP
Acting Chief Superintendent Denis Daley, RCMP
Ms. Katherine Salsman, 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/160418bopc-agenda.php>*

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 p.m. and moved into an In Camera (In Private) session at 1:05 p.m. The Board reconvened to public session at 2:53 p.m. and adjourned at 2:54 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

• **Swearing In – Commissioner Ed MacMaster**

Ms. Katherine Salsman, Solicitor swore in Mr. Ed MacMaster as a Commissioner of the Board. Introductions amongst the meeting's attendees followed.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 21, 2016

MOVED by Commissioner Craig, seconded by Commissioner Craig

THAT the minutes of March 21, 2016 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions: None

MOVED by Councillor Adams, seconded by Commissioner MacMaster,

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

Commissioner Ed MacMaster inquired if the Board of Police Commissioners receives an indexed list of HRP policies and procedures.

Chief Jean-Michel Blais, HRP advised that the Board typically receives policies which are new or updated as they are issued. He advised that HRP can provide an indexed list of all policies and procedures for the Board's information.

5. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

6.1 February 22, 2016 – RCMP/HRP Organizational Orientation for Board Members

Acting Chief Superintendent Denis Daley, RCMP suggested that RCMP/HRP will plan a more official organizational orientation meeting for Board members after the new Chief Superintendent for Halifax District takes over in May. The Board agreed by consensus to postpone the matter until that time.

7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

7.1 Correspondence – NONE

7.2 Petitions – NONE

7.3 Presentation

7.3.1 RCMP/HRP Police Dog Services

Constable Brent Bates, RCMP provided a presentation and demonstration of RCMP Police Dog Services. He introduced Bailey the Police Dog who demonstrated her skills in detecting narcotics, explosives/weapons and search and rescue.

Constable Jason Meisner and Constable Joey Malcolm provided an overview of HRP's K-9 Unit. Commissioner Walker thanked Constables Bates, Meisner and Malcolm for their presentations and requested questions of clarification from members of the Board.

In response to a follow up question, Constable Bates advised that in most cases the handler will adopt a police dog after they retire from duty. He advised that in some cases it may not be possible for the officer which handled the dog to adopt if they are handling another dog. In that case arrangements will be made to find the dog another home.

Constable Bates provided further commentary with respect to ongoing work in using police dogs to locate human remains. He advised that the program has been developed in Nova Scotia and the RCMP now have a dog which is specialized in locating cadavers. He advised that the Ontario Provincial Police service have had a similar program for several years and advised of the RCMP's goal to have one specialized cadaver dog in each province.

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 RCMP/HRP Dashboard Report*

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

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

9.1.2 Chief's Report

Acting Chief Superintendent Daley, gave an overview of the Chief's report. He delivered background information with respect to RCMP personnel statistics and training activities. He provided commentary on the following:

- Motor vehicle accidents decreased by 27% in the Halifax District due to increased public awareness and increased checkpoints.
- The recent lockdowns at Millwood and Lockview High were conducted properly with no incident and staff at both schools were well prepared and knew exactly what to do in the situation.
- A recent increase in violent crime in the Downtown and Preston area has taken place. He advised that RCMP and HRP are actively working on the investigations and have increased resources in those areas. He further advised of an upcoming meeting with those working on the Ceasefire program to look at how it can be more effective.
- Noted a spike in mischief and thefts from motor vehicles in the Beechville and Eastern Passage areas. He stated that the RCMP and HRP are monitoring those areas more closely .

- Halifax District RCMP will be communicating and increasing traffic enforcement on the Victoria Day long weekend to curb impaired driving.
- RCMP will launch its Year End Review key reporting document. He advised that a public launch will take place at the end of the month and that the report will be available online.

Acting Chief Superintendent Daley advised that this will be his last meeting as Chief Superintendent Lee Bergerman will be taking over as Officer in Charge of Halifax District RCMP in May.

In response to a follow up question, Acting Chief Superintendent Daley advised that there are surplus positions provided by the RCMP to backfill those that are on leave. He noted that there is no further cost to the municipality to provide these backfilled positions.

Chief Blais, Halifax Regional Police gave an overview of the Chief's report. He provided commentary with respect to HRP training activities and personnel statistics and provided commentary on the following:

- Halifax Regional Police swore in 22 new police officers at a ceremony held on April 1st at ceremony held at Halifax Central Library. He advised that the group is composed of active police officers and newly trained cadets.
- There are 24 Atlantic Police Academy cadets coming online in late May to conduct on the job training with front line HRP officers.
- HRP is investigating two homicides which took place at the end of March. Investigators charged 33-year-old Nicholas Butcher with second degree murder for the homicide of Kristin Johnston. The investigation into the homicide of Joseph Cameron continues.
- HRP assumed responsibility for airport armed response and policing services at Halifax Stanfield International Airport at midnight on March 31, and the transition has been going well. HRP is continuing to collaborate with the RCMP as part of the transition given that the airport is situated in RCMP jurisdiction.
- In March, there were 10 pedestrian/motor vehicle collisions in Halifax Regional Municipality. There continues to be a downward trend for 2016, decreasing from 23 incidents in January to only 10 in March (decrease of 56%).
- A newcomer Open House was held on April 7 at St. Andrew's Centre in Halifax, with five HRP officers in attendance, including three Arab-speakers.
- April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month and the Chief and HRP Public Relations have been communicating about sexualized violence on social media sites. Each day for 10 days, HRP shared one tip from Jackson Katz's 10 things men can do to prevent gender violence. HRP is also flying the Sexual Assault Awareness Month banner outside Police Headquarters this month.
- HRP will be marking Police Week in May with our Partners in Policing with a Police Day event at Mic Mac Mall on May 14. HRP will also promote the National Prescription Drug Drop-off Day on May 21. He advised that Commissioners are invited to come by for a visit as there will be unique opportunities to learn more about HRP and Halifax District RCMP.
- In response to media exposure about patrol carbines, HRP shared a post on our social media sites about our preparedness for firearms incidents and active aggressors/shooters. The post had a positive response on social media, with significant reach on Facebook (reach of 44,600 which is considerably higher than most HRP posts).
- Fiscal year ended March 31, 2016 Integrated Emergency Services (Dispatch) dealt with 99,009 9-1-1 calls and 204,920 non-emergency calls. This does not include self-generated calls by individual police officers. A one-month survey in 2015 determined that 88% of all calls were non-criminal in nature

In response to a follow up question, Chief Blais advised that HRP has a very good track record with respect to workplace attendance and advised that in most cases HRP is able to backfill shifts in which an officer may be out due to sickness, family emergency etc.

Commissioners thanked Acting Chief Superintendent Wells for his participation at Board meetings in his capacity as Acting Chief Superintendent.

9.3 COMMITTEE MEMBER UPDATES – NONE

10. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

11. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE)

11.1 Legal Matter – Legal Advice pertaining to Halifax Regional Police Reporting Structure

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

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – May 16, 2016

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:54 p.m.

Liam MacSween
Legislative Assistant