



**BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
June 20, 2016**

PRESENT: Commissioner Russell Walker, Chair
Commissioner Stephen Adams
Commissioner Steve Craig
Commissioner Sylvia Paris
Commissioner Ed MacMaster

REGRETS: Commissioner Steve Graham, Vice-Chair
Commissioner Jeff Mitchell

STAFF: Chief Jean Michel Blais, Halifax Regional Police
Chief Superintendent Lee Bergerman, RCMP
Deputy Chief Bill Moore, Halifax Regional Police
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/160620bopc-agenda.php>*

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 p.m., and adjourned at 2:01 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 18 & May 16, 2016

MOVED by Commissioner Adams, seconded by Councillor Craig

THAT the minutes of April 18 & May 16, 2016 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions:

10.1 Presentation – Sgt. Brian Wentzell, RCMP – Forensic Identification Services.

Commissioner Walker suggested that the presentation take place after discussion of Item No. 9.1.2

MOVED by Commissioner Craig, seconded by Commissioner Adams

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

Two-third majority vote required.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

Commissioner Walker advised that the July 25, 2016 meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners will take place at RCMP H-Division Headquarters, 80 Garland Ave, Burnside. He commented that the Board meeting will be held in the rotunda of the building with a tour and orientation session for Board members to take place afterwards.

Commissioner Walker provided further information with respect to the upcoming Canadian Association of Police Governance conference in Ottawa to be held in August. He advised that there are funds available for Commissioners who wish to attend and that interested members should contact the Legislative Assistant for further information.

In response to a question of clarification from Commissioner MacMaster, Ms. Katherine Salsman noted that the Board held an In Camera meeting at its last meeting to discuss legal advice. She noted that legal advice is a requirement for In Camera under the Police Act and Administrative Order One.

In response to a question from Commissioner MacMaster, Chief Blais advised that the Board will have a significant say in the consultations for the proposed Police facility study.

In response to a follow up question from Commissioner MacMaster, Deputy Chief Bill Moore, HRP advised that under Transport Canada regulations, airports must have the ability to provide armed response within a certain period of time. He further advised that the 14 additional officers, all equipment including vehicle required to provide the service are all billed back on an annual fee to the airport.

5. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

- 6. **CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE**
- 7. **CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS – NONE**
- 8. **INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE**
- 9. **REPORTS**
- 9.1 **STAFF**
- 9.1.1 **HRP/RCMP Combined Dashboard**

The following was before the Board:

- *The Dashboard report dated June 20, 2016.*

Chief Jean Michel Blais, HRP and Superintendent Lee Bergerman provided an overview of the Combined HRP/RCMP Dashboard Report.

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

9.1.2 Chief's Report.

Chief Blais Introduced Constable Amit Parasram, Diversity Inclusion Officer and Ms. Andrea Bezanson from the Professional Standards Office. He provided further commentary with respect to ongoing work with an HRM wide joint police community consultative group. He commented that HRP and RCMP staff are in the process of developing a Terms of Reference for the group which will be presented to the Board at a future meeting for input and approval. He noted that participation of the Board would be desired as part of the group.

Commissioner Parris joined the meeting at 12:50 p.m.

Chief Blais provided commentary on the following:

- HRP has welcomed 22 cadets for on the job training from the Atlantic Police Academy which runs for nine weeks.
- The hiring process for eight to ten experienced police officers is winding down with an anticipated start dated of July 11, 2016.
- A yearly two day block training for all members took place for sworn members that will include active shooter training, the Road to Mental Readiness, and First Aid. Civilian personnel also participated in the Road to Mental Readiness training.
- HRP will be hosting a four day training program in late June for new Sargent's and those on the promotional list, in relation to Leadership and Development and case management.
- Firearms training for all sworn officers will take place in the fall.
- HRP and RCMP Police Services charged 60 drivers with impaired related offences in May.
- There has been a slight increase in vehicle pedestrian collisions in the month of April.
- The Strategic Integration Unit soft launched an electronic version of the motor vehicle collision form to gain efficiencies.
- Noted activities which took place for Police Week and the National Prescription Drug drop off day.
- Noted Participation of HRP and RCMP of the 23rd IWK telethon.
- Noted that Halifax will be hosting the Joint Nova Scotia Association of Police Conference in September 6 to 9. He noted that the agenda for the conference is still under discussion.
- HRP and RCMP will have a robust presence at the Nova Scotia International Tattoo.
- Noted public outreach activities in relation to the "being a better man" campaign.

In response to a question from Councillor Craig, Deputy Chief Moore commented that the electronic form for motor vehicle collisions will allow for an electronic data base which is completely searchable. He noted that it will not be a province-wide but will span the entirety of the HRM.

Chief Superintendent Lee Bergerman provided commentary on the following:

- A total of 1700 hours of training for 89 RCMP members for the month of May in relation to sexual abuse, cybercrime, surveillance, and multiculturalism and faith.
- The RCMP has increased its presence in North Preston in relation to the recent increase in violent crime in the area.
- Advised of an armed robbery and aggravated assault which occurred on June 3, 2016 in Lower Sackville that resulted in the arrest of five individuals. She advised that the charges eventual charges laid by the RCMP in this manner is a good example of all units within the organization working well together.
- Noted her attendance along with Chief Blais at a vigil held by the community in North Preston in response to the recent violence in the area.
- Noted the involvement of the RCMP in community discussions in the North Preston Community which was well received.
- The recent lockdowns in response to threats against the schools of Millwood and Lockview High were unfounded.
- Discussion in the media in relation to revisiting provincial standards for pool safety in response to a tragic accident involving a child drowning in Enfield.
- Noted further monitoring and reporting of Domestic Violence offenders within Halifax District.

10.1 Presentation – Sgt. Brian Wentzell, RCMP – Forensic Identification Services

Sgt. Brain Wentzell, RCMP provided a presentation on Forensic Identification Services. Commissioner Walker thanked Sgt. Wentzell for his presentation and requested questions of clarification from the Board. There were no questions of clarification requested.

Chief Blais left the meeting at 1:27 p.m.

9.2 MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

9.2.1 Commissioner Parris – Board of Police Commissioners Role, Responsibilities and Priorities

The following was before the Board:

- *A Commissioner request for consideration form dated June 20, 2016*

Commissioner Parris noted that the request form has been brought forward to establish an action plan or work plan for the Board.

Mr. Liam MacSween, Legislative Assistant noted that a work shop session can be held for members of the Board in which the Board can establish several key areas in which it would like to focus its attention. He commented that facilitation services can be provided.

Deputy Chief Moore noted that a collaborative discussion would be beneficial to assist the Board in determining where it would like to focus its attention.

Commissioner Adams commented that he would like to see a legal interpretation with respect to the legislative roles and responsibilities of the Board prior to developing a work plan. He commented that he would like to obtain a separate legal opinion on the Memorandum of Understanding between HRP, RCMP and HRM.

Ms. Katherine Salsman, Solicitor commented that she has just returned from a conference on Police Board governance. She commented that there are other Board's which face similar challenges regarding the interpretation of their governing legislation. She advised that she will endeavor to obtain some of the orientation and training documentation which may help as a starting off part.

Commissioner MacMaster provided commentary with respect to other Board's legislative requirements. He advised that each stakeholder, HRP, RCMP, and HRM needs to be functionally independent of one another to ensure quality effective policing within the community.

Commissioner Craig noted his opinion that the Board should establish key priorities in which it can improve on while seeking further legislative advice on its roles and responsibilities. He commented that a workshop would be a useful exercise to build consensus and move forward.

Further discussion ensued with Commissioner Walker noting that a workshop will need to take place in the near future. He noted that the Legislative Assistant will assist in arranging a time and location for the meeting to take place.

9.3 COMMITTEE MEMBER UPDATES – NONE

10. ADDED ITEMS

10.1 Presentation – Sgt. Brian Wentzell, RCMP – Forensic Identification Services

This matter was dealt with earlier in the meeting, please see page 4.

11. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE)

11.1 Approval of In Camera Minutes – April 18, 2016

MOVED by Commissioner Adams, seconded by Commissioner Craig

THAT the In Camera Minutes of April 18, 2016 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – July 25, 2016

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:01 p.m.

Liam MacSween
Legislative Assistant