



**BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES  
December 19, 2016**

**PRESENT:** Commissioner Steve Craig, Chair  
Commissioner Steve Graham, Vice-Chair  
Commissioner Tony Mancini  
Commissioner Waye Mason  
Commissioner Ed MacMaster  
Commissioner Jeff Mitchell  
Commissioner Sylvia Parris

**STAFF:** Mr. Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer  
Mr. Martin Ward, Q.C., General Counsel, Legal Services  
Chief Jean-Michel Blais, Halifax Regional Police  
Superintendent Colleen Kelly, Halifax Regional Police  
Inspector Jim Butler, Halifax Regional Police  
Kathleen Patterson, Business Initiatives Coordinator, Halifax Regional Police  
Chief Superintendent Lee Bergerman, OIC Halifax District Detachment,  
RCMP  
Inspector Jeff Dowling, Halifax District Detachment, RCMP  
Ms. Jennifer Weagle, 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/161219bopc-agenda.php>*

*The meeting was called to order at 12:33 p.m. and adjourned at 3:26 p.m.*

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Commissioner Steve Graham, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order in Halifax Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

**1.1 Swearing-in of Commissioners – Councillors Tony Mancini, Wayne Mason and Steve Craig**

Mr. Martin Ward, Q.C., Solicitor, Legal Services, performed the swearing in of Commissioners Tony Mancini, Wayne Mason, and Steve Craig.

**1.2 Selection of Chair and Vice Chair**

Commissioner Graham called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Board of Police Commissioners.

Commissioner Mason, seconded by Commissioner Mitchell, nominated Commissioner Steve Craig as Chair of the Board of Police Commissioners.

Commissioner Graham called three times for any further nominations. There being none, **Commissioner Steve Craig was declared Chair of the Board of Police Commissioners.**

Commissioner Craig took the Chair at this time.

The Chair called for nominations for the position of Vice Chair of the Board of Police Commissioners.

Commissioner Mitchell, seconded by Commissioner Mason, nominated Commissioner Steve Graham as Vice Chair of the Board of Police Commissioners.

The Chair called three times for any further nominations. There being none, **Commissioner Steve Graham was declared Vice Chair of the Board of Police Commissioners.**

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 17, 2016**

MOVED by Commissioner MacMaster, seconded by Commissioner Parris

**THAT the minutes of October 17, 2016 be approved as circulated.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

**Addition:**

**9.2.7 HRP/RCMP Budget and Business Planning – Commissioner Mason**

Commissioner Mason indicated that he has motions to bring forward with regard to item 7.1 Board of Police Commissioners Governance Review and item 9.2.7 HRP/RCMP Budget and Business Planning. Copies of the motions were obtained and circulated to members.

Commissioner Mason asked for a list of outstanding motions to be circulated to members for the next regular meeting.

Commissioner MacMaster indicated that an outstanding item is the request from the June 30, 2016 meeting for a list of audits and administrative reviews undertaken by HRP.

MOVED by Commissioner Mitchell, seconded by Commissioner Mason

**THAT the agenda be approved as amended.**

Two-third majority vote required.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES**

**4.1 Board Planning Session**

Commissioner Graham indicated that the Board held previous discussion regarding holding a Board planning session, as a way of taking preliminary steps in preparing a governance plan. He suggested that this should be held early in the New Year.

Members discussed the planning of the session, with the following suggestions made:

- The session could be used to establish a work plan for 2017.
- The session could be self-facilitated or use an external facilitator.
- Pre-planning is needed for the session to be effective.

The Chair indicated that himself, Commissioner Graham, Legal Services staff, and the Legislative Assistant will get together to organize the session and report back to the Board.

Commissioner Mancini offered to assist with planning and the meeting itself, noting his experience with strategic planning.

**4.2 Roles and Responsibilities in Police Service**

The following information was before the Board:

- The motion approved at the December 6, 2017 session of Halifax Regional Council, in response to the Boards report regarding the Roles and Responsibilities in Police Service.

Mr. Ward indicated that Legal Services has been assigned with preparing the requested report, and that they anticipate it to be ready by the end of March 2017. He clarified that the report was requested by Regional Council and so will be brought to Regional Council, although Council may refer the report to the Board.

The Board discussed how this report will inform the planning session and whether to hold the planning session before or after the report is completed.

Mr. Dubé commented that the report will take time to prepare and implement and he does not see any reason to preclude holding the planning session

**5. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS - NONE**

**6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE**

**7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS**

**7.1 Board of Police Commissioners Governance Review**

The following was before the Board:

- Halifax Board of Police Commissioners Governance Review prepared by Fred Honsberger and Mike Moreash dated September 16, 2016

Commissioner Graham indicated he had met with one of the report authors as Vice Chair. He indicated that there might be some interest by the Board to invite the authors to discuss issues highlighted in the report.

Mr. Ward advised that Legal staff will be considering several reports including this report in the staff report to Council.

MOVED by Commissioner Mason, seconded by Commissioner Mitchell,

**THAT the Board of Police Commissioners request the Chief of Police and the Chief Superintendent, OIC Halifax District Detachment, RCMP, prepare a staff report regarding the adoption of the 2015 Draft Orientation and Policy Manual by the Board and that a copy of the 2016 Honsberger/Moreash report and the 2015 Draft Orientation and Policy Manual be forwarded to the HRM CAO for information.**

Commissioner Mason advised that upon review of the matter of the 2015 Draft Orientation and Policy Manual prepared by the Board, the manual was forwarded to Legal staff for review and has not come back to the Board.

MOVED by Commissioner Mason, seconded by Commissioner Mitchell,

**THAT the Board waive notice of motion to allow consideration of the motion on the floor.**

Two-third majority vote required.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Mr. Dubé indicated that this would fit with the work that is being done further to the report that was requested by Council regarding the roles and responsibilities. He suggested a wording change, so that instead of the Chief and Chief Superintendent preparing this report, that the Board request "the CAO cause a report to be prepared..."

With the agreement of the mover and seconder, the motion was amended to read:

MOVED by Commissioner Mason, seconded by Commissioner Mitchell,

**THAT the Board of Police Commissioners request the Chief Administrative Officer to cause a report to be prepared regarding the adoption of the 2015 Draft Orientation and Policy Manual by the Board and that a copy of the 2016 Honsberger/Moreash report and the 2015 Draft Orientation and Policy Manual be forwarded to the HRM CAO for information.**

**AMENDED MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**8. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE**

**9. REPORTS**

**9.1 STAFF**

**9.1.1 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Crime Statistical Review & HRP/RCMP Combined Dashboard**

The following was before the Board:

- The HRP/RCMP Combined Dashboard report for December 2016
- Revised HRP/RCMP 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Crime Statistics Review

Chief Blais noted an error in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Crime Statistical Review submitted earlier to the Board, noting that an incident of criminal negligence causing death was included in the homicide statistics. A revised document was circulated to the Board at the beginning of this meeting.

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

Chief Superintendent Bergerman noted that Sheila Serfas, Civilian Member, Crime Analyst, was nominated for the Nova Scotia Minister of Justice Award for Leadership in Crime Prevention, and that a civilian member has never received the award before. Ms. Serfas will be formally acknowledged when she receives the award.

Chief Superintendent Bergerman advised that 70% of District RCMP members have the nasal Naloxone kits (to counteract Fentanyl) and they are working toward 100%.

**The HRP/RCMP 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Crime Statistics Review and the HRP/RCMP Combined Dashboard report was received by the Board as submitted.**

**9.1.2 Chief's Report**

Chief Blais provided a verbal update to the Board, noting the following:

- Halifax Regional Police have Naloxone needle kits (to counteract Fentanyl).
- Five new hires have been made to replace retirements and early leaves.
- Members attended a long service awards ceremony for 25 year medals.
- Annual block training will be taking place from January to April and will include conductive energy weapon, pepper spray, baton, and neck restraint.
- Three homicides occurred within nine days in November, with one individual being charged with second degree murder for the homicide of another. The other two investigations are ongoing.
- In October there were 27 motor vehicle/pedestrian collisions in HRM, being the highest monthly occurrence to date in 2016. Peak periods for motor vehicle/pedestrian collisions have been between October and January.
- Since November 1, 2016 there have been three gas station robberies, two in Dartmouth and one in Halifax. Charges have been laid in two of the three robberies, the third investigation is ongoing.
- HRP received a piece of community artwork in November from artist Christine Johnston depicting Cornwallis Street Baptist Church.
- Operation Christmas 2016 is underway with HRP and Halifax District RCMP conducting checkpoints to address impaired driving by alcohol and drugs over the holiday season.
- HRP officers and staff became personal shoppers to local children in December by participated in CopShop for the 12<sup>th</sup> year.
- Also in December, HRP officers took part in memorial services in commemoration of the 99<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Halifax Explosion.

Responding to questions from the Board regarding the impending legalisation of marijuana, Chief Blais indicated that marijuana dispensaries setting up illegally will be subject to investigations.

Chief Superintendent Bergerman advised that RCMP are working on training to recognize impairment and develop testing for impairment.

Mr. Dubé advised that if there are by-law infractions regarding marijuana dispensaries, by-law enforcement staff will be sent to investigate and charges may be laid. Mr. Ward added that the Court of Appeal has indicated that Municipalities do not have to issue a license for a business that is without legislation.

Commissioner Mancini requested that members of Council be provided with a communique to be able to respond to questions from residents regarding legal and by-law issues surrounding the opening of marijuana dispensaries, given the forthcoming Federal legislation.

**The Chief's Report was received by the Board as submitted.**

The Board agreed at this time to extend the meeting to 3:00 p.m.

**9.1.3 Bi-monthly Strategic Plan Update**

The following was before the Board:

- The Bi-monthly Strategic Plan for December

Chief Blais provided an overview of the Bi-Monthly Strategic Plan report and responded to questions of clarification from the Board.

**The Bi-monthly Strategic Plan was received by the Board as submitted.**

**9.1.4 Business Planning/Priorities**

The following information was before the Board:

- HRP Business Planning Priorities 2017/18

Chief Blais and Ms. Kathleen Patterson, introduced the HRP Business Planning Priorities for 2017/18, which is a yearly exercise as part of budgeting, and aligning with Council's priorities. It was clarified that these priorities will support the budget request and will go forward to Regional Council.

The Committee discussed holding a thorough review of the budget and business planning priorities at once when it comes forward next month.

Mr. Dubé indicated that Council will be advised of the options presented to the Board, and clarified that Council can accept or reject the budget put forward by the Board, but not amend. Mr. Dubé advised that staff will be reaching out to the province and the RCMP to obtain their budget planning information, since these projections make up ¼ of the police budget.

**9.1.5 Creation of the Halifax Regional Police Foundation**

The following was before the Board:

- Staff recommendation report dated December 9, 2016

Chief Blais requested that this item be deferred to the January meeting to allow for further information to be collected for the Board, to which the Board agreed.

**9.1.6 Update Regarding Recent Gun Violence – *Ted Upshaw, Public Safety Officer***

Mr. Ted Upshaw, HRM Public Safety Officer, provided an update for the Board regarding recent gun violence in HRM. Mr. Upshaw discussed what is being done by the Public Safety Office and at a community level to address the violence, noting the following:

- Meetings have taken place since early 2016 between HRM, the Province, and community members, discussing what is causing and how to stop the violence.
- There was a community "family meeting" held at the Halifax North Memorial Library.
- HRM has been working with African Nova Scotian Affairs to increase the capacity of services in the Prestons.
- 152 guns were taken off the streets through the gun amnesty program.
- Mr. Upshaw met with a consultant regarding restarting the Second Chance program.

- The Public Safety Office is working on an HRM Public Safety Strategy, which will address recommendations in the Don Clairmont report.
- The Public Safety Office is working to identify assets in the community, and communicate that information.
- Mr. Upshaw will be meeting with a community group in the New Year to develop an immediate action plan.
- The Public Safety Office is looking at how to best provide an initial response, in the event of another violent act, by providing support to families.

Mr. Upshaw discussed the need to look at social development and preventing and addressing racism and discrimination. He indicated that core issues of focus are rehabilitation, education, reintegration, housing, employment, mental health, and poverty.

Councillor Mancini inquired whether there are any measurement tools for community programs to determine their effectiveness and whether there is link between the community organizations.

Mr. Upshaw indicated that the public safety strategy will be built with measurement tools.

Chief Blais advised that there is a measurement tool for Ceasefire, through Dalhousie University, and the Ceasefire group has linkages with the Cure Violence model from the original Ceasefire group in Chicago.

Mr. Upshaw advised that he had met with Dr. Giacamantonio to discuss what research needs to be done.

The Board thanked Mr. Upshaw for attending.

## **9.2 MEMBERS OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS**

### **9.2.1 Discussion re: CAPG and NSAPG Participation and Dues – *Commissioner Graham***

Commissioner Graham indicated that, as a member of the Canadian Association of Police Governance Board, he was asked to discuss a potential increase in participation fees and membership dues with the Commission. He indicated that the annual conference will be held in Montreal in July 2017.

Mr. Dubé indicated that participation fees and dues are funded by the HRP budget, as a CAO budget item.

The Chair indicated that he had attended the CAPG conference last summer and found it very useful.

### **9.2.2 Request for Financial Reports – *Commissioner MacMaster***

Commissioner MacMaster noted that the Board is being asked to approve a multimillion dollar budget, but does not review expenditures. He indicated that he would like the Board to be in receipt of regular financial report updates.

Chief Blais advised that this can be accommodated, and suggested this be done quarterly. He indicated that staff will present the quarterly financials at the April meeting as a template, and the Board can request changes to the format from there.

Commissioner Mason spoke in support of the motion, noting that the Halifax Library Board is also an arms-length HRM board, and has changed their process over the last four years for more financial oversight.

Mr. Dubé spoke in support of quarterly HRP financial reporting, noting that it would be less easy to do for RCMP financials. Inspector Jeff Dowling, RCMP, clarified that the RCMP Halifax District controls overtime and operating budgets and the Board could be provided with quarterly financials on that information.

MOVED by Commissioner MacMaster, seconded by Commissioner Mason

**THAT the Board of Police Commissioners request that Financial Reports be presented to the Board quarterly.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**9.2.3 Request for S.I.R.T and Police Review Board Updates – Commissioner MacMaster**

Commissioner MacMaster, noting that the Board currently receives professional standards reports, indicated that he believes that the Board has a responsibility to have regular updates on Serious Incident Response Team (S.I.R.T.) and Police Review Board activity.

MOVED by Commissioner MacMaster, seconded by Commissioner Graham,

**THAT the Board of Police Commissioners request that Serious Incident Response Team (S.I.R.T.) and Police Review Board activity be reported to the Board at each meeting.**

Chief Blais noted that both of these bodies prepare reports, although they would contain personal information and would only be released through a Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy access request. He questioned what level of detailed information the Board would be looking for.

Commissioner MacMaster indicated that the Board should be reviewing the information to determine if there is something that should be changed so that the incident doesn't happen again.

Commissioner Mason suggested that the motion be amended to ask for a staff report to advise of an appropriate method of reporting SIRT and Police Review Board activity.

With the agreement of the mover and seconder, the motion was amended as follows:

MOVED by Commissioner MacMaster, seconded by Commissioner Graham,

**THAT the Board of Police Commissioners request a staff report regarding an appropriate method of reporting Serious Incident Response Team (S.I.R.T.) and Police Review Board activity to the Board at each meeting.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**9.2.4 Request for HRP/RCMP Executive and Board Chair/Vice Chair meeting updates – Commissioner MacMaster**

Commissioner MacMaster indicated that the Board should have an executive group of the Commission to meet on a regular basis with HRP and RCMP, and for the Board to hear back from that executive committee.

MOVED by Commissioner MacMaster, seconded by Commissioner Mitchell,

**THAT the Chair and Vice Chair of the Board of Police Commissioners meet regularly with both HRP and RCMP Executives with at least two members of the Board present, and that all matters discussed be reported to the Board at the next Board meeting.**

Mr. Ward advised that the Police Act contemplates public meetings of the Commission, and cautioned the Board against getting too close to holding a non-public meeting.



Commissioner Parris questioned whether this is something to be deferred until after the Board planning session, to try to understand the full purpose of the request. She encouraged conversation at the full table.

MOVED by Commissioner Parris, seconded by Commissioner Mason

**THAT this matter be deferred until after the Board Planning Session.**

Discussion ensued on the matter.

**MOTION TO DEFER PUT AND PASSED.**

**9.2.5 Board of Police Commissioners Training – Commissioner MacMaster**

The Board agreed that this will be a part of the Board Planning Session.

**9.2.6 HRP Public Statement Policies Concerning Disclosure of Personal Information – Commissioner Mitchell**

Commissioner Mitchell advised that he was contacted with concerns regarding a recent posting on social media where an individual posted complaints resulting from implied mistreatment. He indicated that HRP had responded and advised that a review was being undertaken, and released a detailed time line with regard to the incident. Commissioner Mitchell requested information regarding when details should be released on social media, and inquired whether there was a difference between responding to a complaint vs. criticism.

MOVED by Commissioner Mitchell, seconded by Commissioner Parris

**THAT the Board of Police Commissioners ask for information about HRP policies and procedures concerning the disclosure or use of private information in public statements.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**9.2.7 HRP/RCMP Budget and Business Planning – Commissioner Mason**

MOVED by Commissioner Mason, seconded by Commissioner Mancini,

**THAT the Board of Police Commissioners request:**

1. **The Halifax Regional Police Chief**
  - a. **prepare a two year 2017/18 and 2018/19 budget and business plan that reflects both the Halifax Regional Police Strategic Plan 2015-2025, and Regional Council's 2017/18 to 2020/21 Priority Directions approved on December 6, 2016; and**
  - b. **highlight key initiatives relating to RCMP/HRP policing for HRM.**
2. **The Chief Superintendent, OIC Halifax District Detachment, RCMP, within the terms of the Provincial Police Services Agreement enabled contract**
  - a. **prepare the annual 2017/18 performance plan that reflects Regional Council's 2017/18 to 2020/21 Priority Directions approved on December 6, 2016; and**
  - b. **facilitate provision of the 2017/18 contract budget amount.**
3. **That both the Halifax Regional Police Chief and the Chief Superintendent, OIC Halifax District Detachment, RCMP, present the above to the Board of Police Commissioners on January 16, 2017.**

MOVED by Commissioner Mason, seconded by Commissioner Mancini,

**THAT the Board waive notice of motion to allow consideration of the motion on the floor.**

Two-third majority vote required.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Chief Blais suggested the following amendments to the wording of the motion:

- That 1(b) be amended to read “highlight HRP business unit deliverables”
- That the date of the meeting in item 3 be amended to “January 9, 2017”

Inspector Jeff Dowling suggested that 2(a) be amended to read “prepare an update...”, since the performance plan is prepared in the spring. He indicated that they would update the most current version.

**Bergerman – not just HRM strategic plan she is working with, but will put something together.**

**Chair – RCMP comes out with annual report. With National, provincial and HRM strategic priorities. Asking to**

The mover and seconder agreed to the amendments.

MOVED by Commissioner Mason, seconded by Commissioner Mancini,

**THAT the Board of Police Commissioners request:**

1. **The Halifax Regional Police Chief**
  - a. **prepare a two year 2017/18 and 2018/19 budget and business plan that reflects both the Halifax Regional Police Strategic Plan 2015-2025, and Regional Council’s 2017/18 to 2020/21 Priority Directions approved on December 6, 2016; and**
  - b. ***highlight HRP business unit deliverables.***
2. **The Chief Superintendent, OIC Halifax District Detachment, RCMP, within the terms of the Provincial Police Services Agreement enabled contract**
  - a. ***prepare an update regarding* the annual 2017/18 performance plan that reflects Regional Council’s 2017/18 to 2020/21 Priority Directions approved on December 6, 2016; and**
  - b. **facilitate provision of the 2017/18 contract budget amount.**
3. **That both the Halifax Regional Police Chief and the Chief Superintendent, OIC Halifax District Detachment, RCMP, present the above to the Board of Police Commissioners on *January 9, 2017.***

**AMENDED MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**9.3 COMMISSIONER UPDATES**

**10. ADDED ITEMS - NONE**

**11. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE)**

MOVED by Commissioner Mason, seconded by Commissioner Mancini

**THAT the Halifax Board of Police Commissioners convene to in camera to discuss the following matters:**

- 11.1 Personnel Matter – Secondment of HRP Employee**
- 11.2 Operational Matter – Security of Systems discussion**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

The meeting convened to In Camera at 3:04 p.m.

The meeting resumed in public at 3:23 p.m.

**12. APPROVAL OF 2017 MEETING SCHEDULE**

MOVED by Commissioner Mason, seconded by Commissioner Mancini

**THAT the 2017 Board of Police Commissioners meeting schedule be approved as proposed.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

- 13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – January 9, 2017 (budget) & January 16, 2017 (regular meeting)**

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 3:26 p.m.

Jennifer Weagle  
Legislative Assistant