

# **HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY**

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## **BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MINUTES AUGUST 19, 2002**

PRESENT: Comm. Bryson, Chair  
Comm. Adams  
Comm. North  
Comm. Hetherington

ABSENT WITH REGRETS: Comm. Monard  
Comm. Harvey

ALSO PRESENT: Deputy Chief Barss, HRP  
Deputy Chief Beazley, HRP  
Supt. Chris McNeil, HRP  
Supt. Stan Ferguson, RCMP  
Dennis Kelly, NS Dept. of Justice  
Ms. Betty MacDonald, Manager, Financial Planning Services  
Lynne Le Boutillier, Assistant Municipal Clerk

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Meeting called to order by the Chair at 12:30 p.m., Training Room, City Hall.

**0.1 SWEARING IN**

The Chair introduced the Board's new member, Gregory Ian North, who took the Oath of Office.

**1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA, ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS**

An added items list was circulated containing the following items:

- 7.1 Nomination to Board of Directors - CAPB
- 7.2 Golden Jubilee Medals

Also circulated were the following:

- 8.2 Halifax Regional Police - 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Statistics
- 8.3 RCMP - 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter and Year-to-Date

Information Item(s):

- 2. Added Info Items List containing the following information items:
  - 3. CAPB Bulletins re Fed. Gov. Issues Consultation Paper on DNA Data Bank Legislation & Seminar on the Future Roles of Public Police and Private Security Agencies
  - 4. Realignment of Executive Management Responsibilities
- C Correspondence from Supt. Ferguson to Supt. McNeil re integration of Canine Units.

It was requested that the Information Report, previously circulated, on Realignment of Executive Management Responsibilities, dated August 14, 2002, be moved to the In Camera Session.

The revised agenda, was adopted by consensus.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the June 10, 2002 meeting were adopted, as circulated, on motion of Comm. Adams and Comm. Hetherington.

### **3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

#### **3.1 POLICE STUDY**

Ms. Betty MacDonald, circulated to the members the Table of Contents from the Police Study. In her summary of the report, she noted that both the HRP and RCMP were felt to be very professional agencies and HRM was well served by them. While not being critical, the study identified some gaps and duplications. She noted that a number of recommendations are specifically related to the Board, which she illustrated with examples, i.e. the Board should have a more proactive role in high level policy making and budgeting, etc.

She noted that the consultants will be making their presentation to Council at the August 27, 2002 Committee of the Whole. HRM staff plan to prepare a report on the study. A phased in action plan will need to be prepared by staff for Council.

News releases are being coordinated by John O'Brien, HRM's Corporate Communications Officer and it is intended that the HRP and RCMP receive a joint communication prior to release of the study. Ms. MacDonald felt the Board of Police Commissioners may also wish to make some general comments in advance of the release.

Given the amount of detail in the report, it was suggested that the consultants give a special briefing to the Commission prior to the presentation to Regional Council. This briefing will focus on elements of the study associated with the Board's role. It was decided to hold a special session, Tuesday, August 27, at 10:00 a.m., Council Chambers. Mr. Kelly will not be able to attend the session, but Weldon Myers will attend in his place. While some of the senior HRP staff will be unable to attend, Supt. Burbridge and Deputy Chief Beazley can attend.

Ms. MacDonald noted that the report is 280 pages in length. She will endeavour to pull out items associated with the Board and provide to the members prior to the meeting. There are at least a dozen specific recommendations related to the Board of the 80 to 90 recommendations.

### **4. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **4.1 PRESENTATION - STRATEGIC PLAN**

In attendance for this item were Staff Sgt. Mike Bell, Sgt. Bill Moore and Staff Sgt. Burns. It was noted that Brenda Zima had also been part of the Working Group. Copies of the Vision and Goals had been circulated in the agenda package.

In the presentation, Staff Sgt. Bell noted that Chief McKinnon had initiated the process which will determine the direction the HRP will take in the next three to five years. At the conclusion of the presentation, the Board would be asked to answer the following questions:

- C Do you approve of the work done to date?
- C Can we proceed with our next steps?
- C Do you have any other direction for us?

During the presentation, reference was made to the 87% approval rate the HRP has. Nevertheless, it was emphasized that the Police Services endeavours to improve its performance through changes to its business practices. A number of areas have been identified through both public and internal input.

Staff Sgt. Bell explained to the Board the process to date, the outcome of which is being reviewed today. A question and answer session followed. Reference was made to the large turnover in police officers expected in the near future and the benefit of establishing basically a template. Reference was made to the desire to align individual and section goals with the objectives of the organization, thus promoting working together as a unit. The Board was assured that quarterly statistics and an audit will be provided to the Commission. Reference was made to the trend from community oriented policing to problem oriented policing.

During review of Goal Two, some concern was expressed regarding the use of the word 'ethical' in relation to partnering processes.

Outlined to the Board were the next steps, if the Board gave the go ahead today, which included training of staff. The goal is to have the first round of objectives report prepared by June 2003.

Referring to the third question, it was noted that it will have a lot to do with the soon to be released Police Study. At the time the presentation was drafted, it had been anticipated that it would have been released.

A Board member questioned how do you ensure both the HRP and RCMP's vision and mission are consistent. Ms. MacDonald noted that philosophies of policing should be similar and one of the action plans coming out the Police Study, the Board may wish to peruse with the two agencies, would be to meet with representatives to identify any differences.

**MOVED BY Comm. Hetherington and Comm. North that the Board answer in the affirmative to the first two questions. A response to the third question to be deferred until after the presentation of the Police Study. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES (RCMP)**

None.

**6. NEW BUSINESS RCMP**

None.

**7. ADDED ITEMS**

**7.1 NOMINATION TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS - CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF POLICE BOARDS**

An exchange of e-mails between Comm. Monard and the Executive Director of the Canadian Association of Police Board, regarding interest Comm. Monard had expressed in serving as a Director on the CAPB, was circulated at the meeting. The Clerk noted that Comm. Monard wished to ensure the Board supported her pursuing the nomination to the Board and the budget for the Police Commission could cover the associated costs. During the brief debate, it was suggested that the RCMP share in such costs. There was consensus on the Board that Comm. Monard pursue the nomination, as it was felt having a representative on the Board would be beneficial.

**7.2 GOLDEN JUBILEE MEDALS**

Circulated were copies of a letter from the Acting Executive Director, NS Dept. of Justice, Policing and Victim Services Division. The letter explains a medal program to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of Her Majesty's accession to the Throne. Nominations were sought by today's date.

A similar letter had been sent to Chiefs of Police and the Board was assured that nominations have been made or will be made by the HRP. It is scheduled that the final decision be made September 15th on nominations. The Board decided to leave the nominations to the HRP.

**8. STATISTICS**

**8.1 VICTIM SERVICES**

The May and June 2002 statistics were circulated in the agenda package.

**8.2 HALIFAX REGIONAL POLICE 2<sup>ND</sup> QUARTER STATISTICAL OVERVIEW**

Circulated at the meeting were copies of the HRP 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Statistics.

**8.3 RCMP 2<sup>ND</sup> QUARTER AND YEAR TO DATE OVERVIEW**

Statistics were circulated at the meeting and reviewed by Supt. Ferguson.

**9. NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING**

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held Monday, September 9, 2002.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

The regular session adjourned on motion of Comm. Hetherington and Comm. Adams to meet in camera.

Lynne Le Boutillier  
Assistant Municipal Clerk