

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MINUTES MARCH 10, 2003

PRESENT: Comm. Greg North, Chair
Comm. Bob Harvey
Comm. Bruce Hetherington
Comm. Steve Adams
Comm. James Perrin
Comm. Trevor Johnson
Comm. Eartha Monard

ALSO PRESENT: Acting Police Chief Beazley, HRP
Acting Deputy Police Chief McNeil, HRP
Supt. Mike Burns, Training Officer, HRP
Supt. Stephen Sykes, HRP
Sgt. Bill Moore, HRP
Councillor Smith (part)
Ms. Lynne Le Boutillier, Legislative Assistant

ABSENT: Mr. George McLellan (regrets)

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0.1 **SWEARING IN**

Comm. Trevor Johnson was sworn in by Karen Brown.

0.2 **COMMENDATIONS**

Commendations were presented to the following:

- C Cst. Stephanie Veinot and Cst. Benny Kirton related to alerting the occupants of a house on fire on Uniacke Street.
- C Cst. Ross Burt related to a potentially dangerous situation associated with a driver who had been shot.
- C Cst. James Hodgson related to an incident where his partner Cst. Suzanne Foster had been shot in their police car.
- C Cst. Stephen Smyth - related to a murder at a bar where he encountered the armed individual.

Civilian Certificates of Merit are to be given to Reginald Goodday and Ms. Melanie Goodday in recognition of the assistance they gave an individual who was involved in a motor vehicle accident which caused his automobile to catch fire. Mr. and Ms. Goodday could not be present at today's meeting.

0.3 **ELECTION OF CHAIR**

The Vice-Chair, Comm. Harvey called three times for nominations for Chair. Comm. Hetherington moved the nomination of Comm. North for Chair. This nomination was seconded by Comm. Adams. There being no further nominations, Comm. Hetherington moved nominations cease. **Comm. Gregory North was acclaimed Chair of the Board of Police Commissioners.**

Election of Vice-Chair is scheduled for the April meeting, when three new Commissioners, who are Councillors, are sworn in.

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

MOVED BY Comm. Hetherington and seconded by Comm. Harvey that the agenda, with the added items, plus HRP 4th Quarter Statistics, be adopted. MOTION PUT AND CARRIED.

During the In Camera Session, it was decided to move the item related to the N.S. Police Act Review to the regular session.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOVED BY Comm. Hetherington and Comm. Johnson that the minutes of the February 10, 2003 meeting, re-circulated at the meeting, be adopted. **MOTION PUT AND CARRIED.**

3. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES/STATUS SHEET**

None.

4. **NEW BUSINESS (HRP)**

The Chair commented on how much he had enjoyed the 4th Annual Dedication Dinner and Dance and he wished to pass on his congratulations to the organizers.

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

None.

6. **NEW BUSINESS (RCMP)**

None.

7. **ADDED ITEMS**

8. **STATISTICS**

8.1 **VICTIM SERVICES**

Statistics Report - January (circulated with agenda)

Victim Services Counsellor Monthly Statistics (circulated with agenda)

For information.

8.2 **HRP QUARTERLY INTERIM STATISTICAL OVERVIEW - 4TH QUARTER**

The Chief reviewed the statistics for 2002 with the Board and concluded they are similar to the 2001 statistics.

9. **NEXT MEETING**

The next regularly scheduled meeting is Monday, April 14, 2003.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

Before the meeting adjourned, Comm. Hetherington noted this will be the last meeting for three of the Councillors, who are Commissioners. He wished to extend his thanks to the HRP and RCMP for the cooperation they have given over the last three years. He referred to the contract recently negotiated with the Union and wished to congratulate the Management Team.

Comm. Monard thanked the departing Commissioners for providing information and sharing their perspective with the Board. She felt it had been very educational. The Chair mirrored Comm. Monard's comments, noting their dedication and how well they had represented all HRM citizens. Similarly, Acting Chief Beazley expressed his appreciation for the support given when dealing with challenges faced after the Police Chief took ill.

It was noted that Supt. Ferguson is retiring shortly. Supt. Ferguson felt the work of the Board had been outstanding and he expressed confidence this will continue in the future.

MOVED BY Comm. Hetherington and seconded by Comm. Adams that the meeting adjourn to meet in camera. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

It was subsequently decided that item 5.1 of the In Camera agenda, related to the Nova Scotia Police Act Review, should be dealt with in regular session.

NOVA SCOTIA POLICE ACT REVIEW

- C Draft Police Act Response which accompanied A/Deputy Chief McNeil's e-mail and memo dated February 26, 2003.
- C E-mail from the UNSM dated March 7, 2003 re the Police Act.

A/Deputy Chief McNeil reviewed his report noting he has tried to capture the concerns expressed at Regional Council, the Police Commission and Police Services in the document. The different points of view of Regional Council versus the Board, for example, are included in the response. The deadline for a response is April 1st.

He highlighted the various components of the report with the members, answering questions and noting comments.

In particular, the A/Deputy Chief analyzed the roles of Council, the Police Commission as related to the appointment of the Chief and budget approval. The Board's composition was likewise discussed.

It was felt by a Commissioners that there should be a statement included in the Act that Boards reflect the cultural diversity of the community. A/Deputy Chief McNeil will add this comment to his draft.

The Chair expressed concern that it appears the Board, under the proposed new Act, would be getting involved in operation areas, rather than providing an oversight function. He did not feel the Board(s) have the resources or time for the more in depth involvement proposed in the new Act.

Following his review, A/Deputy Chief McNeil indicated he would welcome comments from the Board now or later.

During the question and answer sessions, the following aspects were discussed:

- C By-law P-100 and whether Provincial Legislation overrides it.
- C The Board has more power than it may be aware of at this time.
- C Appointments of citizens at large to the Board versus Councillors.
- C The need for a more active role in the budget process. This issue being addressed in the Policing Study.
- C The need for proper training of Board members relating to due diligence.
- C The recent Union contract was only brought to the Board's attention in a very general fashion at the previous meeting.

Appreciation was expressed to A/Deputy Chief McNeil for the work he had done in comparing the current Police Act with the proposed Police Act and preparing a joint response to the Department of Justice.

CONFERENCE - SECURITY

Before the meeting adjourned, Comm. Monard asked for an update on the conference the Acting Chief had attended on international security. Acting Chief Beazley outlined aspects associated with private security companies. He noted that a CD of the papers submitted is available.

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY Comm. Adams and seconded by Comm. Monard that the meeting

adjourn at approximately 3:00 p.m. MOTION PUT AND CARRIED.

Lynne Le Boutillier
Legislative Assistant