

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES

MAY 12, 2003

PRESENT: Comm. North, Chair
Comm. Blumenthal
Comm. McInroy
Comm. Monard
Comm. Perrin
Comm. Johnson
Comm. Smith

ALSO PRESENT: Acting Police Chief Beazley, HRP
A/Deputy Chief McNeil
Supt. Cliff Falkenham
Sgt. Bill Moore
Cst. Mike Balcom, President, MAP
Ms. Betty MacDonald, Director, Governance and Strategic Initiatives
Inspector Vern Fraser, RCMP
Staff Sgt. Peter McTiernan, NCO Operations, Tantallon
Corp. Tom Jones
Ms. Lynne Le Boutillier, Legislative Assistant

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0.1 **SWEARING IN**

Comm. Jim Smith was sworn in by Karen Brown.

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

Deletion:

Item 5.2 - Update on Halifax Detachment Resource Review - Presentation moved In Camera, as it related to public security.

Added Items:

- 4.1 Interview request re partnerships - Cst. Cecchetto
- 4.2 Detective Designation
- 8.2 HRP 1st Quarter Statistics

Information Items:

- C Canadian Police Association - National Drug Strategy
- C UNSM Response to Draft Police Act

Agenda, adopted as amended, on motion of Comm. McInroy and Comm. Blumenthal.

Later in the meeting, the following additional items were added.

- 6.2 Introduction of Corporal Tom Jones (Inspector Fraser)
- 3.2 Training Session for Commissioners re Police Study (Comm. Johnson)
- 3.3 CAPB Conference (Comm. Johnson)
- 3.4 Status Sheet (Comm. Johnson)

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOVED BY Comm. McInroy and seconded by Comm. Perrin that the minutes of the April 14, 2003 meeting be approved, as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES/STATUS SHEET (HRP)**

3.1 **RECOGNITION OF SERVICE OF FORMER POLICE COMMISSIONERS**

No further action required.

3.2 **TRAINING SESSION FOR COMMISSIONERS**

Comm. Johnson, referring to last month's minutes, questioned if a date or dates have been selected for training sessions for the members re the Police Study, etc. Sgt. Moore assured the Board that the groundwork is in place and he anticipated the meeting will be scheduled in the next couple of weeks. In the interim, Sgt. Moore will try to obtain an updated version of the binder provided by Police and Public Safety Services.

3.3 **CAPB CONFERENCE**

Comm. Johnson expressed concern that he has seen no further information regarding the upcoming conference since January. The Chair advised that there had been a meeting with the Executive Director, Wendy Feduc a couple of months ago. Comm. Monard referred to the work of HRM's Event Coordinator, Mike Gillette in making arrangements. It is anticipated that an information package on the 14th Annual Meeting and Conference will be mailed out in a week or two.

Acting Deputy Chief McNeil referred to the three responsibilities the Board agreed to take on, i.e. a financial commitment, arrangements associated with a golf tournament and an event to be held at Pier 21.

3.4 **STATUS SHEET**

Comm. Johnson noted that some of the items on the status sheet are quite old. The Chief will provide an update at the next meeting.

4. **NEW BUSINESS (HRP)**

4.1 **INTERVIEW REQUEST RE PARTNERSHIPS - CST. CECCHETTO**

A questionnaire was circulated which will be the basis used by Cst. Cecchetto in seeking input from the Board regarding partnerships. The members did not want to meet with Cst. Cecchetto prior to or after a regular monthly meeting. They would prefer a separate meeting date. Cst. Cecchetto will be asked to contact the four Commissioners, who are not Councillors, to set up a meeting date(s).

4.2 **DETECTIVE DESIGNATION INFORMATION REPORT**

An Information Report, circulated at the meeting, was reviewed by A/C Beazley. It essentially dealt with the designation of all HRP police officers assigned to the Criminal Investigation Division as "Detective" effective May 12, 2003. Badges have been passed

out.

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

5.1 **ALL TERRAIN VEHICLE ENFORCEMENT UNIT - PRESENTATION**

Inspector Fraser introduced Cst. Brian Veinot, Cole Harbour Detachment, who gave a presentation on the Halifax Detachment ATV Enforcement Initiative. Copies of the presentation were circulated at the meeting. During the presentation, the need to educate the public was emphasized. Reference was made to the desire to control the activity, not end it. The presentation concluded with reference to the fact that there are enough resources to achieve the goals of the project.

After the presentation, Inspector Fraser introduced Staff Sgt. Peter McTiernan, NCO Operations, Tantallon, an area which received the most off road related complaints in Halifax Detachment.

A question and answer session followed. Comm. Monard questioned whether most of the violations are related to youth. It was noted that while individuals can't obtain a Drivers License until they are sixteen (16), they can drive Off Road Vehicles unsupervised at fourteen (14). It was felt that the Off Road Vehicle Act needs to be revisited. Work is being done in schools to help educate youth and the help of the media in this area was highlighted. When discussing partnerships, Comm. Monard felt this is one area which should be kept in mind.

5.2 **UPDATE ON HALIFAX DETACHMENT RESOURCE REVIEW - PRESENTATION**

Referred to the In Camera Session under Public Security category (see item 1.)

6. **NEW BUSINESS (RCMP)**

6.1 **NATIONAL POLICE WEEK**

An information item entitled "Police Week 2003 - Partners in Policing the HRM" related to a joint display of the RCMP and HRP at the Multi-Purpose Room, Halifax Forum, May 13 & 14 was circulated at the meeting. The Police Week theme this year is "Working together for the Future of HRM". A/C Beazley invited the Board members to attend.

In response to a query from Comm. Smith regarding the location of next years Police Week activities, it was noted they would likely be held in Dartmouth.

6.2 **INTRODUCTION**

Inspector Fraser introduced Corporal Tom Jones, who is working full time with Halifax Detachment's criminal operations. Corporal Jones is also involved with a High Potential Development Program. Inspector Fraser will be bringing various members of the Halifax Detachment to upcoming meetings to familiarize members with the Board's operation.

7. **ADDED ITEMS**

See Item 1.

8. **STATISTICS**

8.1 **RCMP - 1ST QUARTER STATISTICS - HALIFAX DETACHMENT**

Circulated in the agenda package were the above noted statistics. Inspector Fraser, in his review of the statistics, noted how the RCMP and HRP are both following a similar format.

8.2 **HRP - 1ST QUARTER STATISTICS**

Copies of the HRP statistics were circulated at the meeting and reviewed by A/Chief Beazley. He noted that no trend is apparent in the statistics but this could reflect the short time frame, three months.

Comm. Johnson felt it would be useful to be provided with statistics over the longer term, in perhaps the form of a graph. He felt this would give a better feeling of what the impact was on resource requirements. He wondered if the Board and policing services felt this information would be of value.

He was advised by A/Chief Beazley that the information was available through Statistics Canada and something could be put together.

Referring to a conference she attended on the weekend, Comm. Monard noted there had been a reference to a reduction in youth crime. She wondered if statistics pertaining to youth crime, in particular, can be obtained. A/C Beazley indicated these can be obtained. A/C Beazley confirmed that there has been a significant drop in crime over several years, but the fear of crime seems to have increased. It may be that the profile of certain crimes has been raised in the media. A/Deputy Chief McNeil used the subject of bullying, as an example.

9. **NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING**

Monday, June 9, 2003, at 12:30 p.m. Halifax Hall.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED BY Comm. Monard and Comm. Blumenthal that the regular session be adjourned to meet in Camera. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Following the in camera session, it was **MOVED BY Comm. Blumenthal and seconded by Comm. Monard to ratify an in camera motion related to the RCMP Halifax Detachment Resource Review Summary to be forwarded to HRM Police Study Steering Committee. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Lynne Le Boutillier
Legislative Assistant