

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MINUTES JUNE 9, 2003

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

ALSO PRESENT: Acting Police Chief Beazley, HRP
Supt. Mike Burns, HRP
A/Supt. Mike Bell, HRP
Sgt. Bill Moore, HRP
Cst. Mike Balcom, President, MAP
Ms. Betty MacDonald, Director, Governance and Strategic Initiatives
Inspector Vern Fraser, RCMP
S/Sgt. Murray Urquhart, RCMP
Ms. Lisa Drummond, Communication Specialist-Planner, RCMP
Ms. Lynne Le Boutillier, Legislative Assistant

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0.1 **INTRODUCTION**

The Chair introduced Mr. Brian Carter, Policing Services Consultant, Policing and Victim Services, Public Safety Initiatives, who is replacing Mr. Eyre as the Department of Justice's representative.

0.2 **PARKING PERMIT**

The Secretary advised the Board that new parking regulations have been adopted with respect to parking in the Grand Parade. Attendees are required to obtain a temporary parking permit from the Commissionaire to be returned to him at the end of the meeting.

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

Comm. Smith asked that the following items be added to the agenda or moved to the regular agenda from the list of information items, as added items.

- 7.1 Report Major Unsolved Crimes
- 7.2 Citizens on Patrol Program (from information items)
- 7.3 Adopt a Neighbourhood Program (from information items)

Circulated or re-circulated at the meeting were the following items:

Item 4.3 - Bicycle Rodeos - Partnership with Canadian Tire Report

Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police Conference Letter dated June 2, 2003 -
Information Item 5 (re-circulated)
APB - June 2003 - Information Item 9

The agenda, as revised, was adopted by consensus.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOVED BY Comm. Blumenthal, seconded by Comm. Johnson that the agenda, as amended, be adopted. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

3.1 **UPDATE STATUS SHEET**

ALL TERRAIN VEHICLES (ATVs) REPORT

- C Report dated May 1, 2003 which went to Regional Council's May 20, 2003 meeting was circulated.

This item can be removed from the Status Sheet.

3.2 **POLICE STUDY AND ORIENTATION PRESENTATION**

Sgt. Bill Moore felt that a half day session would be required to review the Police Study and provide overviews by Inspector Fraser and A/Chief Beazley. The time and date selected was Friday, June 27, 9:00 a.m. to noon.

3.3 **CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF POLICE BOARDS CONFERENCE**

- C Information pertaining to various aspects of the Conference was circulated with the agenda package. Comm. Monard noted that another event has been added to the Friday Afternoon Sightseeing Schedule, i.e. a tour of the Dockyard between 2:00 and 4:00 p.m.

It was noted that registration should be submitted before July 21st. The Commissioners were requested to submit their completed registration forms to the Board's Secretary, who will in turn provide to the A/Chief of Police, for payment of the registration fees.

4. **NEW BUSINESS (HRP)**

4.1 **PRESENTATION ON SUCCESSION MANAGEMENT**

A/Supt. Mike Bell and Supt. Mike Burns gave a joint presentation. The following items were circulated.

- C The presentation's outline
- C 360 Degree Evaluation Form
- C Information on the Police Science Program

A/Supt. Bell emphasized that this was to be a high level presentation. He made reference to the history which led to the recognition of the need to develop a plan as a lot of the police service members would be reaching retirement age between 2003 and 2008.

Reviewed were the following:

- C Succession Management Objective
- C Components of Succession Management for Halifax Regional Police

- C Staff Establishment identifying those members who can retire in 2003, 2004-2005 and 2006-2007
- C Core Competencies
- C Customer-Service Orientation aspects

The biggest problem identified was in the Detective Division. A third to a half of the members could leave. Supt. Burns addressed initiatives regarding training to ensure there are enough officers prepared to move in, as experienced officers retire. It was noted that in the past where it would have taken fifteen years of experience to full fill these functions, the process will have to be accelerated to seven to ten years. It was noted that basic training of recruits is focusing on investigative skills sets.

Information pertaining to the Police Science Program was reviewed. It was noted that twenty-four (24) cadets are scheduled to finish the program November 29, 2003. Reference was made to there being more competition in the job market and the need to recruit candidates actively for future programs. An out reach program is being worked on.

During the questions and answer session which followed the presentation, Inspector Fraser was questioned on how the RCMP deals with succession planning. Inspector Fraser offered to set up a similar presentation for the Board as given by the HRP. Supt. Burns noted that there have been meetings with the RCMP on joint measures which can be adopted to generate interest in joining the local or federal police force.

It was felt that the training and information component at the front end will go a long way in mitigating lack of experience on the job.

4.2 ORDER OF MERIT OF THE POLICE FORCES

- Information related to a Call for Nominations was circulated in the agenda package

A/Chief Beazley noted it was essentially an information item.

4.3 BICYCLE RODEOS - PARTNERSHIP WITH CANADIAN TIRE

- Report dated June 3, 2003

A/Chief Beazley explained why the HRP would like to enter into a partnership with Canadian Tire Stores, Brain Injury Nova Scotia and the RCMP to conduct bicycle rodeos.

MOVED BY Comm. McInroy, seconded by Comm. Smith that the Board of Police Commissioners adopt the recommendation that Halifax Regional Police partner with Canadian Tire Store owners in the Metro area and Bicycle Nova Scotia to

conduct annual bicycle rodeos commencing with two pilot programs on June 22, 2003 at the Clayton Park and Tacoma Drive Canadian Tire Stores. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- **BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES (RCMP)**

5.1 **REGINA TRAINING ACADEMY**

Inspector Fraser provided more details regarding the proposed visit to the RCMP's Regina Training Academy, i.e. usually the visit involves touring their facilities over the weekend and attending a Monday graduating class. The itinerary involves traveling to Regina on a Saturday, with return on either Monday or Tuesday.

Several dates were reviewed. One date proposed for September 27 did not fit into Comm. Monard's schedule. Tentative dates were selected for late October. Ms. Lisa Drummond will see what can be set up for the Board.

5.2 **YOUTH CRIME STATISTICS**

- Halifax Detachment Young Offender Persons Data - January to December 2002 provided for information.

A/Chief Beazley indicated he had reviewed the crime statistics since 2000 and noted that youth crime has risen slightly for the second year in a row. A 1% increase was recorded for the second year. Crime statistics had gone down consistently from 1991 to 1999. He observed that there has been an increase in violent crime, while property crime has been decreasing. Local trends are consistent with national figures.

Comm. Monard questioned whether policing services find the Restorative Justice Program effective. A/Chief Beazley indicated HRP support this approach. They find it to be a good program. Similarly, Inspector Fraser indicated the RCMP is totally supportive. For the most part the program works well.

5.3 **RCMP RECRUITS FROM HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY**

- Breakdown of education levels of individuals recruited in 2001/2002, 2002/2003 and 2003/2004 (thus far)

Provided for information. Reference was made to the fact that the RCMP adopts a continuous learning plan to give the members an opportunity to pursue their interests.

6. **NEW BUSINESS (RCMP)**

6.1 **INTRODUCTION OF S/SGT. MURRAY URQUHART, HALIFAX DETACHMENT
- COLE HARBOUR OFFICE AND LISA DRUMMOND, COMMUNICATION
SPECIALIST**

S/Sgt. Murray Urquhart, Halifax Detachment, Cole Harbour Office and Ms. Lisa Drummond, a RCMP Communications Specialist were introduced to the Board.

6.2 **UPDATE REGARDING COLE HARBOUR AREA**

S/Sgt. Murray Urquhart, RCMP in his overview referred to the staffing component of the Cole Harbour Office and Community Offices associated with it in Eastern Passage and North Preston.

During the question and answer period following the overview, in response to a query re the Special Constable Program initiated in North Preston, S/Sgt. Urquhart noted a shift in emphasis. Due to concerns associated with liability issues the program had to change. Individuals are being encouraged to pursue a career with the RCMP.

6.3 & **OFFICE ORIENTATION AND RIDE-A-LONG**

6.4

It was noted that following the May meeting, Comm. Johnson had enquired about the possibility of office visits and ride-a-longs. It was decided that rather than arranging for a group orientation or ride-a-long, members were encouraged to make individual arrangements through Inspector Fraser or Lisa Drummond (869-5076) or the Chief's Office for office orientations and Marilyn MacKenzie (490-5345) for HRP ride-a-longs.

Comm. Johnson questioned whether there would be any value to holding Board meetings at the various policing office sites. It was decided that changing meeting locations might pose some problems.

7. **ADDED ITEMS**

7.1 **REPORT MAJOR UNSOLVED CRIMES**

Comm. Smith questioned the Board if they felt it would be appropriate to request a report periodically on outstanding major unsolved crimes involving homicides. It was noted while names and dates of incidents can be provided, information has to be held back for investigative reasons.

Comm. Perrin noted that most of the information can be found on the HRP's Web site.

It was concluded that a joint report will be developed by the HRP and RCMP on unsolved homicides, consisting essentially of names and numbers.

7.2 **CITIZENS ON PATROL PROGRAM**

- Information Report dated June 2, 2003 re Citizens on Patrol Program (COP)

Comm. Smith has requested that this item be moved from the Information Items to the regular session.

A/Chief Beazley advised that it is intended that the pilot program be introduced in October. The information contained in the report was meant to be only introductory. This item will be brought back to the Board at a later date.

Concern was expressed regarding liability issues. A/Chief Beazley and Inspector Fraser will make enquiries re insurance.

7.3 **ADOPT A NEIGHBOURHOOD PROGRAM**

- Information Report dated June 3, 2003 re Adopt a Neighbourhood Program

Comm. Smith had requested this item be moved from the Information Items to the regular session.

Comm. Smith questioned how the above noted program relates to the Village (Community) Constable Program in north end Dartmouth. A/Chief Beazley indicated this program has nothing to do with the Community Constable Program. The officers involved would be conducting their normal patrols, but when they have some spare time will try to raise their profile in the areas they serve. Essentially an enhanced patrol effort is envisaged to increase visibility and problem solve. Key citizens and Councillors in the area will be identified to the officers.

Comm. Johnson felt encouraging the officers to interact with the community was a very positive move.

8. **STATISTICS**

8.1 **VICTIM SERVICES**

Statistics for the months of March and April 2003 were circulated in the agenda package for the members' information.

9. **NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING**

Monday, July 14, 2003.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED BY Comm. McInroy, seconded by Comm. Monard that the meeting adjourn to meet in camera. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Lynne Le Boutillier
Legislative Assistant