

**BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
April 19, 2004**

PRESENT: Commissioner Greg North, Chair
Commissioner Ernestine Gouthro
Commissioner James Perrin
Commissioner Trevor Johnson
Commissioner Harry McInroy
Commissioner Jim Smith
Commissioner Jerry Blumenthal

STAFF: Supt. Vern Fraser, RCMP
Deputy Chief Burbridge, HRP
Deputy Chief Chris McNeil
Mr. Brian Carter
Ms. Julia Horncastle, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:20 p.m.

PRESENTATIONS

i) Presentation to Ms. Ertha Monard

Commissioner North, on behalf of Mayor Kelly and Regional Council, thanked Ms. Monard for her service as a member of the Board and Deputy Chief Burbridge presented Ms. Monard with a retirement badge on behalf of the Commission.

MOVED by Commissioner Blumenthal, seconded by Commissioner Smith, that Commissioner Johnson replace former Commissioner Monard on the Nova Scotia Board of Police Commissions. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ii) Swearing In of Ms. Ernestine Gouthro

Mr. Barry Allen, Municipal Solicitor, performed the Swearing In of Ms. Ernestine Gouthro as a member of the Board.

2. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

Additions

6.1 Commissioner Johnson - Orientation and Policy Binders

MOVED by Commissioner Blumenthal, seconded by Commissioner Perrin, that the Order of Business, as amended, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - February 23, 2004

MOVED by Commissioner McInroy, seconded by Commissioner Perrin, that the minutes of February 23, 2004, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES - NONE

5. REPORTS

5.1 PRESENTATIONS

5.1.1 Verona Singer, Coordinator Victim Services HRP

Ms. Verona Singer, Coordinator Victim Services, HRP, made a presentation to the Board regarding Victim Services, its goals and programs. During her presentation, Ms. Singer highlighted the victim services, on-scene response and high risk for lethality programs. Ms. Singer circulated a yearly statistics report for 2003 to the commission.

5.1.2 Julia Rustad, RCMP Community Assistance Program

Ms. Julia Rustad, Program Manager for the Province for RCMP Community Assistance Program, made a presentation to the Board regarding the various aspects associated with the program. She outlined the program and the types of assistance provided by the service.

Commissioner North thanked the presenters for their presentations.

5.2 MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

5.2.1 Commissioner Smith

i) Rewards for Major Unsolved Crimes

Commissioner Smith stated that the rewards posted for the Jason MacCullough and Tyrone Oliver cases had not been substantive enough or not posted for a long enough time period to be effective. The Commissioner suggested that consideration be given for the establishment of a dedicated reward program and that a new reward be posted for the MacCullough and Oliver cases.

Commissioner Smith noted that reports had been before Regional Council on two occasions and the Board on one occasion and placed the following motion.

MOVED by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, that HRM request a collaborative updated report from HRP and RCMP on a dedicated reward program. Further, that the reposting of the reward for the MacCullough and Oliver cases be considered.

Deputy Chief Burbridge noted that in order to undertake a rewards program, money needs to be included in the budget and it was noted that the rewards program is not administered

by the police.

Supt. Fraser advised the annual RCMP budget does not include monies to be put into a rewards program and it is a process outside the RCMP.

Commissioner McInroy suggested maybe a witness protection program could be examined rather than a rewards program as people may not come forward in fear of retaliation.

Commissioner Johnson suggested that the reports presented to Council and the Board be evaluated.

Commissioner Blumenthal suggested discussion be held and subsequent to those discussions, find out where the money is going to be funded for the program.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ii) Weekly Crime Stats to Media

Commissioner Smith questioned why HRP and RCMP stats are provided by District, provided weekly, what are the benefits, and do newspapers have free access to this information. In response, Deputy Chief Burbridge advised the stats are public information and have been available for many years to anyone requesting the information. He noted the information can be broken down in various ways such as District, area, etc.

5.3 CORRESPONDENCE

5.3.1 Fee for Criminal Records Checks

Commissioner Johnson questioned whether these fees impose a hardship.

Commissioner Perrin noted that many of the volunteers of the Meals on Wheels program are senior citizens and on a fixed income.

Commissioner McInroy stated background checks need to be done and does not feel that age should be a determining factor as the fee charged for the check is not high.

Deputy Chief McNeil advised he would provide a report on what the associated costs are for organizations.

Commissioner Johnson requested the report include the amount raised for fees from volunteer groups.

5.4 4th Quarter Stats - HRP

Statistic reports were circulated from both the HRP and RCMP for the information of the Board.

6. ADDED ITEMS

6.1 Commissioner Johnson - Orientation and Policy Binders

MOVED by Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Perrin that a Board orientation and operating/policy manual be developed to provide a source of continuity and adequate briefing for new members. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Commissioners Johnson and Perrin will work with Superintendent Bill Moore on the development of an orientation and policy binder for the Board.

7. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 10, 2004

8. ADJOURNMENT

The regular session adjourned into the In Camera session at 2:00 p.m.

Julia Horncastle
Legislative Assistant