

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
January 9, 2006

PRESENT: Commissioner Greg North, Chair
Commissioner Ernestine Gouthro
Commissioner Brad Johns
Commissioner Gloria McCluskey
Commissioner Linda Mosher

REGRETS: Commissioner Trevor Johnson
Commissioner James Perrin

STAFF: Chief Frank Beazley, HRP
Supt. Gordon Barnett, RCMP
Ms. Julia Horncastle, Legislative Assistant

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1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 p.m.

2. **MINUTES - November 14, 2005**

MOVED by Commissioner Johns, seconded by Commissioner McCluskey, that the minutes of November 14, 2005, be approved. **MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. **APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS**

Added Information Items

1. Bullying - HRP Strategies and Programs
2. Correspondence re Rewards for Unsolved Crimes
3. HRP Staff Report - January, 2006

Commissioner Johns requested Summary Offences - Revenue Breakdown be added to the agenda for discussion.

MOVED by Commissioner McCluskey, seconded by Commissioner Johns, that the Order of Business be approved. **MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

4. **CONFLICT DECLARATIONS - NONE**

5. **BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES**

5.1 **STATUS SHEET ITEMS**

5.1.1 **Governance**

No information received. To remain on status sheet.

5.1.2 **Rewards for Major Unsolved Crimes**

Correspondence to Province re moving forward on this initiative received. To remain on status sheet.

5.1.3 Use of Photo Radar and Traffic Light Cameras

Ms. Sharon Mitchell, Policing Services Consultant, provided an overview advising:

that photo radar is operated by specialized traffic enforcement personnel and measures the speed of a vehicle and triggers the camera to take a photograph of the vehicle if it is speeding. Fixed red light cameras photograph vehicles entering the intersection after the light has turned red and detect vehicles failing to stop.

Photo radar technology has been effective in reducing speeds on some major roads. It is often used on multi-lane highways, where it is unsafe to use officers to enforce speeds. Photo radar is also used to address concerns identified by the community.

Red Light Cameras are used to reduce the number of collisions at intersections. It is used to prevent drivers from running red lights.

Every picture taken by photo radar and red light cameras is reviewed and verified. When it is determined that an offence has occurred, a Notice of Offence and Violation ticket is mailed to the registered owner of the vehicle.

A key element to the success of any enforcement practice, including the use of photo radar, is the implementation of a strong public awareness campaign.

Ms. Mitchell advised to enable the use of red light cameras there would need to be a legislative change.

Commissioner Mosher stated she would like to see this in HRM as a way to further enhance the traffic division. Ms. Mitchell noted this tool is about supplementing police resources and changing behaviours.

In response to Commissioner Johns, the Board was advised this initiative would include Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations, Transportation and Public Works as well as Justice.

In response to Deputy Chief Burbridge, the Board was advised that the Notice of Offence is sent to the registered owner of the vehicle noting, there is no loss of points just fines.

Following discussion, the following motion was placed.

MOVED by Commissioner Mosher, seconded by Commissioner McCluskey, that the

Board write the Minister of Transportation and Public Works, Justice, Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations and Health requesting they consider the implementation of legislation to enable moving forward on the implementation of photo radar and red light cameras in the province of Nova Scotia. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. ADDED ITEMS

6.1 Commissioner Johns - Summary Offences - Revenue Breakdown

Commissioner Johns noted a number of corrections to the report and staff advised they would incorporate them.

7. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for February 13, 2006.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned into the In Camera session at 1:35 p.m.

Julia Horncastle

