

**BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS  
November 27, 2006  
MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Commissioner Terry Roane, Chair  
Commissioner James Perrin  
Commissioner Ernestine Gouthro  
Commissioner Brad Johns  
Commissioner Linda Mosher

**REGRETS:** Commissioner Gloria McCluskey  
Commissioner William White

**STAFF:** Deputy Chief Chris McNeil, HRP  
Supt. Gordon Barnett, RCMP  
Ms. Tracy Hanna, Dept. of Justice  
Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant

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## 1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:56 p.m. in the Meisner Room, HRP Headquarters, Gottingen Street.

Commissioner Johns noted that this was his and Commissioner Mosher's last meeting, as new councillor appointments have been made to the Board.

Deputy Chief McNeil noted that he and Chief Beazley are working on an orientation program for new Board members. It is similar to one held last year but will focus more time on Board responsibility.

## 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - September 11 and October 16, 2006

The Chair noted that the September 11, 2006 revised minutes are more inclusive of the issues Commissioner Mosher brought forward.

Commissioner Johns noted that he and Commissioner McCluskey attended the regular meeting of the October 16, 2006 session and asked that the minutes be corrected to reflect this.

**MOVED by Commissioner Gouthro, seconded by Commissioner Perrin that the revised September 11, 2006 minutes, and the minutes of October 16, 2006 with the corrections as noted by Commissioner Johns, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

Additions:

- 5.1 Oral Updates - Deputy Chief McNeil
- 5.2 Update on Youth Initiatives - Commissioner Mosher

## 4. REPORTS:

### 4.1 Draft Communications Plan

This matter had been discussed at the Board's last meeting, and was referred to this meeting for further review and discussion.

In reference to the draft communications plan, Deputy Chief McNeil advised that the Chief circulated the document to the Board for feedback. In a brief overview of the Plan, he noted that it was straight forward in its intent, which is to start to change the messaging around public violence and in trying to deal with the sense of fear. He added that the Plan has been modified to include the RCMP communication so the message will be consistent through both organizations. Overall, the Deputy Chief

explained that the Plan acknowledges the problem of violent-related activities HRM is experiencing; it reminds the public that this is a safe environment and advises them what the police are doing to combat these problems.

A discussion ensued with the Deputy Chief and Supt. Barnett responding to questions.

In response to a question, the Deputy Chief advised that the last bulleted item under the heading of Strategic Considerations could be re-worded.

#### **4.2 HRP Quarterly Stats**

Information in regard to the HRP Quarterly Interim Statistical Overview for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter was submitted.

Deputy Chief McNeil remarked that staff are beginning to see some improvements, and feel the new resources are starting to pay off, but there is still work to be done.

There was no discussion on this item.

#### **4.3 RCMP 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter and Year-to-Date Statistical Overview**

Information in regard to RCMP Regional Municipality of Halifax 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter and Year to Date Statistical Overview was submitted.

Supt. Barnett noted that there is a 20% decrease in criminal code offences and though this is positive, he cautioned that the stats tend to go up and down. He added that, although it shows offences are down, the violent types of offences that were seen in the downtown area a year ago are now common in Sackville and Cole Harbour. Supt. Barnett advised that he is optimistic about the resources that have been committed by the Province, and that staff will be able to focus those resources on street crime.

There was no discussion on this item.

#### **4.4 Final Report -Town Hall Meetings**

An information report dated November 14, 2006 from Chief Beazley to the Board was submitted.

Councillor Johns, in reference to the report, expressed appreciation that staff stated the report would not be released to the public until it was submitted to the Board and to Regional Council.

Councillor Johns noted that a flyer was circulated in Cole Harbour prior to the RCMP's Town Hall meeting, and questioned why one was not circulated prior to the Sackville Town Hall meeting.

In response, Supt. Barnett advised that a flyer was planned to be circulated however, he pulled it at the last minute because the statistics were not complete.

Councillor Johns noted that the Town Hall was well attended and, in his view, there was at least a 50% increase in attendance over last year. The Councillor advised that the Town Hall meetings were important and he hoped they would continue.

Supt. Barnett concurred with Councillor Johns and noted that their numbers showed that was a 100% increase in attendance over last year's meeting.

Deputy Chief McNeil advised that a clear message has come from the public that they like Town Hall meetings and they want them to continue.

Councillor Mosher spoke in support of the Town Hall meetings and noted that it was important to have key staff in attendance in addition to police. She added, however, at some meetings the amount of staff are overwhelming and suggested that this could be pared down. For example, the Councillor advised that traffic staff should not be included in a town hall type of meeting.

Councillor Johns also noted that staff can take up too much time with their own remarks and presentation. He advised of one meeting whereby it was a two-hour session, and staff spoke for the first hour. Some of the residents felt they were not given enough opportunity to ask questions.

## **5. ADDED ITEMS**

### **5.1 Oral Updates - Deputy Chief McNeil**

#### Distribution of Media Reports

Deputy Chief McNeil advised that at the last meeting, it was noted that some of the Commissioners were not receiving media reports from HRP and/or RCMP. Deputy Chief McNeil and Supt. Barnett indicated they would look into this and ensure everyone is receiving them.

#### Meeting Location

Deputy Chief McNeil advised that Chief Beazley was asking for feedback on where the Board wanted to hold its next meeting given that there was still an issue with parking at City Hall. Deputy Chief McNeil advised that the Board was welcome to meet at Headquarters if it wished.

A discussion ensued and it was generally agreed that the Board would meet at Headquarters for the next meeting and, as new members are appointed, the Board would reassess its meeting location.

### **5.2 Update on Youth Initiatives - Commissioner Mosher**

Commissioner Mosher advised the Board of issues in Kline Heights and Flemming Heights involving youth who had set fires and caused vandalism. She elaborated on the particular incidents and advised that she was going to be setting up a Neighbourhood Watch program as one way of trying to handle the problem. She expressed concern

and frustration at the apparent inability to curb this kind of behaviour and questioned what additional initiatives could be undertaken.

In response, Deputy Chief McNeil noted that police are tracking who they are stopping, and are finding out that more than half of the youths belong to the neighbourhood in which they are stopped. Therefore, it is important to get the communities mobilized to deal with their own youth. Referring to the incidents noted by Commissioner Mosher, he pointed out that police are seeing a rise in this type of activity all over, and pointed out that there are no easy answers. He added that Police are looking into ideas pertaining to Restorative Justice. As well, the Province will be providing more resources to handle these issues. The Deputy Chief added that he would follow up with Staff Sgt. Lane on the incidents raised by Commissioner Mosher.

## **6. NEXT MEETING**

The Chair advised that she will follow up with the Legislative Assistant to determine if a December meeting will be necessary; and the Board members will be advised accordingly.

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Sheilagh Edmonds  
Legislative Assistant