

**BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES**

December 14, 2009

PRESENT: Commissioner Russell Walker, Chair
Commissioner Gloria McCluskey, Vice Chair
Commissioner Bill Karsten
Commissioner James Perrin
Commissioner Doug MacDonald
Commissioner Earl Gosse

REGRETS: Commissioner Kenneth Hill

STAFF: Chief Frank Beazley, Halifax Regional Police
Deputy Chief Tony Burbridge, Halifax Regional Police
Deputy Chief Chris McNeil, Halifax Regional Police
Mr. Allan Waye, Halifax Regional Police
Superintendent Darrell Beaton, RCMP
Mr. Dan English, Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. Shawnee Gregory, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:11 p.m. at the Northbrook Centre, 2 Chapman Drive, Dartmouth.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - October 19, 2009

MOVED BY Commissioner Karsten, seconded by Commissioner McCluskey, that the minutes of October 10, 2009 be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions:

- 8.1 HRP Training Update - Chief Beazley
- 8.2 Community Town Hall Meetings - Superintendent Beaton
- 8.3 Letter from Councillor Barkhouse re: Needs Assessment Eastern Passage - Superintendent Beaton
- 8.4 Programs for Autistic Children - Commissioner McCluskey

MOVED BY Commissioner MacDonald, seconded by Commissioner McCluskey, that the agenda be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - NONE

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - NONE

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

6.1 Correspondence - None

6.2 Petitions - None

6.3 Presentations - None

7. REPORTS

7.1 RCMP Reports

- C The October & November 2009 RCMP reports were before the Board

Superintendent Beaton and Chief Beazley presented the combined HRP and RCMP statistics.

Chief Beazley indicated that these were the third quarter statistics and that they continued to be driven by the shootings which had occurred during the first quarter of the fiscal year. He advised that incidents of property crime were close to being level or just up a bit and that incidents of violent crime may be down, however, shootings were driving the attempted murder category. Chief Beazley stated that the Federal Government was going to be putting out a report regarding solvability. He indicated that the HRP and RCMP were doing well in this regard despite what members may have read; noting they had a 39 to 40% solvability rating which was considered good in the world of policing. In closing, Chief Beazley advised that crime strategies and analysis were working.

Superintendent Beaton indicated that theft was a concern in rural areas and that the RCMP often monitored hot spots.

7.2 HRP REPORTS

C The October & November 2009 HRP reports were before the Board

The HRP reports were tabled as submitted.

7.3 RMS Records - Chief Beazley

C Correspondence from Mr. Mark Potter, Director General, Policing Policy Directorate, Law Enforcement and Policing Branch, dated November 27, 2009 was before the Board

Chief Beazley stated that this item was for the Board's information and for the official record. He advised that he had asked Mr. Bob Purcell, Executive Director, Public Safety Division, Nova Scotia Department of Justice, to take the request as outlined in the correspondence dated November 27, 2009, to the Minister of Justice and had also requested a written response.

7.4 Year End Report and Presentation on Accomplishments of Public Safety Office - Chief Beazley

C A Status Report to the HRM Board of Police Commissioners dated December 14, 2009 was submitted

Chief Beazley provided the Year End Report and Presentation on the Accomplishments of Public Safety Office. Highlights were as follows:

- C Significant progress has been made within the first nine months of the Public Safety Office being established with Superintendent Don Spicer being named the Public Safety Officer
- C Mr. Allan Waye, Executive Officer, Office of the Chief, HRP, has been working on the Public Safety Strategic Plan including an internal environmental scan
- C HRP staff will be engaging Dr. Clairmont and Dr. Murphy to take them through a public safety process as well as to apply for grants from other levels of government
- C Chief Beazley will pay for the first six months and Dr. Clairmont and Dr. Murphy will seek funding for the next two and a half years
- C Staff have had good meetings with the East Preston Rate Payers Association and Ministers of the African Baptist Church regarding issues involving the African Nova Scotian community
- C Chief Beazley will be meeting with Ms. Catherine Mullally, HRM Director of Human Resources, regarding a corporate approach to these many difficult issues
- C When HRP staff present the report to Regional Council they will also present on the liquor enforcement issue
- C The Gun Amnesty Program was a complete success
- C The Safer Stronger Communities partnership will be taken to a whole new level as all three levels of government will now be involved

Several Commissioners advised that, while this was a good report, they were disappointed in the lack of access to youth programming in HRM.

Chief Beazley indicated that he had met with Mr. Andrew Whittemore, Manager of Community Development, and that they were currently discussing how to bring different youth programs together in order to have a more focussed approach.

MOVED BY Commissioner Karsten, seconded by Commissioner McCluskey, that the Board of Police Commissioners accept the Status Report dated December 14, 2009 and request that it be tabled with Regional Council. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

It was noted that the report would be circulated during the Committee of the Whole presentation on Public Safety on December 15, 2009.

8. ADDED ITEMS

8.1 HRP Training Update - Chief Beazley

This item was dealt with later in the agenda. Please see page 6.

8.2 Community Town Hall Meetings - Superintendent Beaton

- C Correspondence from Superintendent Darrell Beaton re: Public Consultation, Community Town Hall Meetings, Halifax District 2009, was submitted

Superintendent Beaton indicated that the RCMP had conducted a series of town hall meetings in November and December of 2009 which had covered all communities between Sheet Harbour and Tantallon. He noted that they purposely did not cover North Preston as they had previously held meetings there and would be moving forward with more in January 2010. Superintendent Beaton stated that the town hall meetings had been calmer, with less controversy and issues raised than in previous years. He indicated that the RCMP had spent \$5,000 in advertising for the meetings and that if he were to hold the meetings again he would bring someone from the traffic division with him.

8.3 Letter from Councillor Barkhouse re Needs Assessment Eastern Passage - Beaton

- C Correspondence dated October 13, 2009 from Councillor Barkhouse was submitted

Superintendent Beaton indicated that he and Inspector Crampton had met with Councillor Barkhouse and MLA Kent in August of 2009 in order to update them on the work the RCMP had been doing in their community. He noted that, as a result of the meeting, he believed that Councillor Barkhouse seemed to have gained a level of comfort regarding the RCMP work being carried out in her District, however, the correspondence dated October 13, 2009, indicated that she was not completely satisfied. He stated that the RCMP would have to do a needs analysis of the area which he would bring to the Board once complete.

Commissioner Gosse indicated that he lived in this District and observed a fair amount of police presence; noting that he was unsure of the concerns.

Commissioner Karsten noted that Public Safety was a municipal mandate, not a provincial one.

Superintendent Beaton indicated that Mr. Darrell Harvey, RCMP Management Services Officer, was drafting a reply to Councillor Barkhouse.

8.4 Programs for Autistic Children - Commissioner McCluskey

As a result of the tragic death of Mr. James Delorey in Cape Breton, Commissioner McCluskey requested that staff research programs that specialize in monitoring autistic children in order to avoid such incidents in the future.

Chief Beazley indicated that he would research this matter.

8.1 HRP TRAINING UPDATE - Chief Beazley

Chief Beazley advised that HRP was embarking on the second year of a new training program including a new piece for use of force training. He introduced Staff Sergeant Lindsey Herndon who would present the new approach to the Board and then demonstrate the new use of force equipment.

Staff Sergeant Herndon advised that most training was done out of the Northbrook Centre. He stated that HRP was currently looking into a new training program for Criminal Investigation Division members; noting that paperwork had become more difficult and time intensive. He indicated that upcoming issues were always taken into account for block training content, for example, the Hyde inquiry led to the implementation of emotionally disturbed persons training. Staff Sergeant Herndon noted that training videos, which were current and up to date with federal information, were now available on the HRP intranet for staff to review.

Staff Sergeant Herndon indicated that the new use of force training simulator allowed officers to use firearms as well as intermediate systems, such as communication, tasers and batons and noted that a shoot back canon would fire back at officers in training if they made a mistake.

A demonstration of the new use of force training equipment was provided.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting was scheduled for January 18, 2010.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:28 p.m.

Shawnee Gregory
Legislative Assistant

The following items were added as information:

1. Proposed 2010 meeting schedule
2. APB - November 2009