

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES

November 19, 2012

PRESENT: Commissioner Earl Gosse, Chair
Commissioner Micki Ruth, Vice Chair
Commissioner Michael Moreash
Commissioner Phillip Read

STAFF: Chief Jean-Michel Blais
Deputy Chief Chris McNeil, Halifax Regional Police
Deputy Chief Bill Moore, Halifax Regional Police
Inspector Dennis Daley, RCMP
Superintendent Frank Foran, OIC
Mr. Don Spicer
Mr. Richard Butts, CAO
Mr. Matt Godwin, Legislative Assistant

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	CALL TO ORDER.....	3
2.	APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 15, 2012.....	3
3.	APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS.....	3
4.	BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES	3
4.1	Business Arising – NONE	3
5.	CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS.....	3
5.1	Viewing of Calgary Police Service video “Anatomy of an Investigation”	3
5.2	Board of Police Commissioners Budget.....	4
5.3	HRP Budget – DEFER to next meeting.	4
5.4	Usage of Restorative Justice	4
6.	CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS	4
6.1	Correspondence – NONE	4
6.2	Petitions – NONE.....	4
6.3	Presentation – NONE	4
7.	REPORTS	4
7.1	Staff	4
7.1.1	RCMP Reports	4
7.1.2	HRP Reports.....	5
7.1.3	Public Safety Update.....	6
7.2	Commissioners	6
7.2.1	Updates.....	6
8.	ADDED ITEMS	7
9.	IN CAMERA.....	7
9.	NEXT MEETING DATE – December 10, 2012.....	7
10.	ADJOURNMENT	7

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:28 p.m. in the Meisner Room, Police Headquarters.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 15, 2012

The minutes of October 15, 2012 were before the Board.

MOVED by Commissioner Read, seconded by Commissioner Ruth that the minutes of October 15, 2012 be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The Legislative Assistant amended the minutes as directed.

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

Deletions:

- Item 7.2.1, Discussion of HRP Budget, has been deleted as it is referenced already under item 5.3.

MOVED by Commissioner Moreash, seconded by Commissioner Read that the agenda be accepted as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

4.1 Business Arising – NONE

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

5.1 Viewing of Calgary Police Service video “Anatomy of an Investigation”

The Board viewed the above video, which chronicled a murder investigation.

Deputy Chief Moore noted some of the similarities between the Calgary Police Service and investigative processes in HRM, including undercover operations, probes and covert activities.

Commissioner Moreash posed a question related to the technology used for documentation and a discussion ensued on this point.

Chief Blais noted this is an important, topical issue and, with Deputy Chief Moore and Superintendent Foran in agreement, raised the continuing concern of compatibility with existing processes in other areas of the justice system, such as the Crown and defense.

Superintendent Foran noted there are efficiencies to be found in this discussion.

5.2 Board of Police Commissioners Budget

The Board of Police Commissioners Budget was before the Board.

Commissioner Read discussed the contents of the budget, which includes a budget comparison between years.

The Chair noted the continuing issue with having the Board of Police Commissioners budget exist as a line item under the HRP, specifically because the RCMP also participates and, in addition, the Board should be financially independent from law enforcement bodies.

The Chair asked the CAO about having the Board's budget be drawn from HRM. A discussion ensued on this point.

The Board agreed to discuss this further with the CAO.

5.3 HRP Budget – DEFER to next meeting.

The Board decided to defer this item until the next meeting.

5.4 Usage of Restorative Justice

This item was initially raised by Commissioner Moreash, particularly with regard to its use in the case of university students in South End Halifax. He connected with Superintendent Spicer on the issue and is satisfied with this approach.

Superintendent Spicer noted that this is a pilot project to address quality of life issues for young adults in that area, rather than criminal issues.

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

6.1 Correspondence – NONE

6.2 Petitions – NONE

6.3 Presentation – NONE

7. REPORTS

7.1 Staff

7.1.1 RCMP Reports

The RCMP reports were before the Board.

Superintendent Foran addressed the force's gradual move toward online, dashboard reporting with a greater reliance on graphs and statistics as a way of providing information in a more robust and efficient manner.

Commissioner Moreash queried staff about training integration between the HRP and the RCMP, specifically through the use of multi-media and computerized tools.

Superintendent Foran responded by reporting there is a tremendous amount of training taking place at the provincial level and a great deal of integrated training with municipalities.

Chief Blais noted the Integration and Optimization Committee is considering further integrated training. More instructors are also being brought to Nova Scotia to hold training sessions, rather than sending staff outside of province, as this is more economical.

Regarding multi-media training, Superintendent Foran noted the RCMP is now often using webinars as a training platform and Chief Blais further explained that the HRP has its own portal on the Canadian Police Knowledge Network. He further suggested the need for a combination of direct, person-to-person training and the use of multi-media.

Staff invited Commissioners on the Board to participate in an advanced police training course.

Superintendent Foran discussed the use of weekend overtime and his discussions with labour on this point.

7.1.2 HRP Reports

The HRP reports were before the Board.

The Chief drew the Board's attention to the participation of staff on overseas missions, such as UN peacekeeping assignments. He noted the issue of over-extending staff on these projects and in future decisions he will consider the opportunity the HRP has to benefit from these types of missions, in particular, he would like to see staff gain leadership experience which can be translated to their efforts in the HRM.

The Chief has requested the opportunity to attend a conference on the sustainability of policing in Ottawa from January 16 and 17 in Ottawa. This will be an important conference and has invited others to attend.

With reference to the dashboard reporting document, he is still inviting suggestions on formatting and will request the same from Councillors when they begin participating on the Board.

The staff report considers attrition and provides some information on staff demographics. He also invited Board members to provide suggestions.

With respect to the retirement of Mr. Don Spicer, his interim replacement will be Sergeant Scott MacDonald, who has worked extensively with Mr. Spicer in the past. Mr. Spicer has committed to continue transitioning his replacement going forward. Sergeant MacDonald will attend the next Board meeting.

The Chief and Chair expressed their thanks to Mr. Spicer for attending the meeting.

Commissioner Ruth requested information on demographics related to gender, specifically with respect to turnover. The Chief committed to providing this.

7.1.3 Public Safety Update

The Spotlight on Public Safety was before the committee.

Mr. Spicer, along with the Chief, attended the Halifax Connects event on November 3, 2012 and noted the event was very well attended and a great service to those in need. HRP should continue this partnership.

7.2 Commissioners

7.2.1 Updates

The Chair commended the organizers of the HRP change of command ceremony.

The Chief thanked the Board for their representation and noted that there had not been a change of command ceremony in the past. His office is working on a transition CD-ROM to assist in future transitions.

There will be new Councillor appointees to the Board beginning at the next meeting.

Commissioner Ruth is a member of the Canadian Association of Police Board's Justice Committee and reported on the committee's work looking at the finances of policing and gangs.

Commissioner Read noted the importance of booking early the training courses for incoming Commissioners as it took a long time during previous transitions. The Chair concurred that the transition should happen faster this time.

On another note, the Board discussed the practice of going In Camera and agreed to go In Camera only when necessary, rather than making it routine.

Inspector Daley noted that the Board's reports should be attached to the agenda posted online. The Legislative Assistant committed to do this.

8. ADDED ITEMS

9. IN CAMERA

The In Camera minutes of October 15, 2012 were before the Board.

MOVED by Commissioner Read, seconded by Commissioner Moreash that the In Camera minutes of October 15, 2012 be accepted as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE – December 10, 2012

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:47 p.m.

Matt Godwin
Legislative Assistant