

**BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS**

**MINUTES**

**MARCH 11, 2002**

**PRESENT:** Comm. S. David Bryson, Chair  
Comm. Bruce Hetherington  
Comm. Bob Harvey  
Comm. Eartha Monard

**ALSO PRESENT:** Chief of Police, David McKinnon, HRP  
Deputy Police Chief, Bob Barss, HRP  
Councillor Jim Smith  
Supt. Frank Beazley, HRP  
Supt. Stan Ferguson, RCMP  
Inspector Vern Fraser, RCMP  
Ms. Lynne Le Boutillier, Assistant Municipal Clerk

**REGRETS:** Mr. George McLellan, CAO and Comm. Adams

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## PRESENTATION OF COMMENDATIONS

Commendations were presented by the Board to the following:

Cst. Peter Gallant  
Cst. Dennis Crowell  
Cst. Nick Pepler  
Cst. Debra Carleton  
Cst. Michael O'Sullivan (absent)

The circumstances surrounding the selection of the officers for commendation were read by Chief McKinnon. He noted there has also been a press release.

### 1.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA, ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

The following items were added to the agenda:

- Item 3.1 Annual CAPB Conference
- Item 7.1 Nova Scotia Association of Police Boards - Notice of Conference and Annual General Meeting.
- Item 8.2 Victim Services Statistics Report - February 2002

With the agreement of the Board, an item dealing with the Investigator's Report re complaints of Cst. Jamie Symington and Ms. Angeline McCarthy against Chief McKinnon was dealt with in camera, before the regular agenda.

### 2.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the February 11, 2002 meeting were adopted, as circulated, on motion of Comm. Hetherington and Comm. Monard.

### 3.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES (HRP)

#### 3.1 ANNUAL CAPB CONFERENCE

The Chief noted that hotel rooms have been booked in Ottawa for the conference. A copy of a memo from Donna Roberts containing details was provided to the attendees. The three members attending were asked to make their own travel arrangements or they could be handled through his office.

### 4.0 NEW BUSINESS (HRP)

None.

5.0 **BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES (RCMP)**

None.

6.0 **NEW BUSINESS (RCMP)**

None.

7.0 **ADDED ITEMS**

7.1 **NOVA SCOTIA ASSOCIATION OF POLICE BOARDS**

Circulated to the members was a Notice of Conference and Annual General Meeting to be held April 25 to 27, 2002 in Truro.

The members were canvassed regarding who wished to attend. The Chair, Comm. Monard indicated that they planned to attend. Comm. Harvey indicated he would not be attending. Comm. Hetherington indicated he could also attend the Conference. Arrangements will be made through the Chief's office.

8.0 **STATISTICS**

Ms. Verona Singer, Coordinator, Victim Services was in attendance to review the following reports.

8.1 **VICTIM SERVICES - YEARLY STATISTICAL REPORT FOR 2001**

Ms. Singer reviewed the yearly statistics report for 2001. The following areas were highlighted.

The total number of case files which were opened and closed during the year increased 32% from 2000. Ms. Singer explained that the huge increase, in the number of files, reflects improved reporting by police officers of intimate partner incidents.

Ms. Singer explained how this improved reporting has reflected in the number of those not contacted. She noted that in actual fact, without the inclusion of the intimate partner files where there are no charges/no assault, the number of victims contacted would only be changed by 2% for 2001. Similarly, while the average amount of time spent with a victim was reported as 13 minutes in 2001, in reality the average would be more likely 19 minutes.

It was also noted that the average length of time to close a file reported to be 8 days, is actually 14 days, when the cases requiring no action are taken out of the equation.

Referring to the list of agencies, Victim Services most frequently refer victims to, Comm. Hetherington noted Child Protection is not listed. Ms. Singer noted that eventually their intake form will be revised to include Child Protection.

Comm. Hetherington explained concerns he has regarding Child Protection. It appears that it is difficult to get them involved. He wondered if there is any monitoring of whether they are doing their job. The Chief described initiatives which were taken in conjunction with Social Services two years ago. The Police Service wanted to be advised of how many files received follow-up contact. Nothing has been reported to date. He anticipates a further meeting with the Minister of Social Services. The Chief indicated that the HRP are keeping copies of all referrals.

Comm. Hetherington emphasized the importance of provincial and municipal agencies cooperating wherever possible.

In closing, Ms. Singer noted that the majority of victim services calls in Nova Scotia are from the HRM, with the bulk in the Halifax, Dartmouth and Bedford areas.

Chief McKinnon noted that Judy McDougall is leaving Victim Services for another position. Until her job is filled, she is working two days a week.

Reference was made to the funding of 3.5 positions previously announced by the province. It has been suggested that at least one of the positions be earmarked for HRM. The RCMP and HRP are speaking with provincial representatives. It is likely the position would be shared between the two agencies.

## 8.2 **VICTIM SERVICES - STATISTICS REPORT - FEBRUARY 2002**

Copies of the report were circulated at the meeting.

## 9.0 **NEXT MEETING**

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held Monday, April 8, 2002. In the interim, it was decided in the 'in camera' session to hold a special meeting, Friday, March 15, 1:00 p.m. re the Investigator's Report regarding complaints of Cst. Symington and Ms. McCarthy against the Police Chief.

## 10.0 **ADJOURNMENT**

Before the adjournment, it was agreed by consensus that the Chair should write Ann

MacVicar thanking her for her time served as a Commissioner on the Police Commission. Her term was up March 2002, but she was not reoffering.

The regular portion of the meeting was adjourned on motion of Comm. Hetherington and Comm. Monard.

Lynne Le Boutillier  
Assistant Municipal Clerk