

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES

February 11, 2008

PRESENT: Commissioner Gloria McCluskey  
Commissioner Jim Perrin  
Commissioner William White  
Commissioner Russell Walker

REGRETS: Commissioner Terry Roane  
Commissioner Krista Snow  
Commissioner Kenneth Hill

STAFF: Chief Frank Beazley  
Deputy Chief McNeil  
Inspector Brad Sullivan, RCMP  
Deputy Chief Burbridge, HRP  
Ms. Barbara Coleman, Legislative Assistant

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**1. CALL TO ORDER -**

The meeting was called to order at 12:35 p.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - January 14, 2008**

**MOVED by Commissioner Perrin, seconded by Commissioner Walker, that the minutes of January 14, 2008 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

**ADDITIONS:**

**6.1 Future Policing with Nova Scotia - Chief Beazily**

**6.2 *Police Act***

**MOVED BY Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Perrin, that the agenda, as presented, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES - City Watch Deferred**

**5. REPORTS**

**5.1 HALIFAX REGIONAL POLICE REPORT - December 2007**

Halifax Regional Police have no concerns at this time.

Commissioner McCluskey noted the number of domestic assaults. Chief Beazley responded saying that HRP had just completed a nine-month analysis on domestic assault. The reports from this analysis shows that 1/3 of all assaults are domestic assaults and what makes dealing with them so difficult is that most of the assaults are perpetrated indoors. Chief Beazley will bring the report to a future meeting.

Commissioner McCluskey also inquired if there is any special training for officers for this particularly dangerous type of assault? The Chief responded that it would be part of their normal training whether it was provided by HRP or RCMP. In-service training is also provided in regards to the law around domestic violence because the Province of Nova Scotia through the Attorney General has made this a very important piece of our investigations with a pro charge approach to get these people to Court.

Commissioner McCluskey asked if a lot of these domestic assaults are occurring because the spouse has to stay there due to the shortage of shelters. The Chief responded that, that is why special conditions are placed on the perpetrator so he or she can not go back to the residence.

Commissioner McCluskey informed the Board that as the result of the Task Force for Violence Against Women that she took part in, an information booklet was made available to women so that they would know who they could call and where they could go. Victim Services now plays a big part in this type of crime.

## **5.2 RCMP REPORT -**

Staff reported that Impaired driving seems to be on the rise again.

With respect to the Victim Services, RCMP numbers are low in terms of contact with the victims. This is the result of a new process whereby Calls are categorized by specific criteria and auto-routed into an electronic queue which call back staff monitor in addition to the Victim Services people and we reach out to more victims that we have in the past.

## **5.3 POLICE RESOURCING STUDY UPDATE -**

Meeting dedicated to this topic will be held in the Halifax Hall on February 29 9:00 to 12:00 noon.

## **6. ADDED ITEMS**

### **6.1 Future Policing within Nova Scotia**

Chief Beazley gave a presentation on *A Safer Nova Scotia - The Chiefs of Police Association of Nova Scotia - Vision for Policing in Nova Scotia*. This presentation was made to the Minister of Justice in January 2008.

Highlights of the Presentation were

- < not sustainable into the future the way we are policing today
- < specific challenges such as recruitment and retention, resourcing, administration and problem solving
- < consistent approach with services meeting
- < the guiding principles such as ethical, timely emergency response, quality of service, accountable to community

The recommendation that was presented to the Minister of Justice is:

The Chiefs of Police Association of Nova Scotia recommends that the Government of Nova Scotia establish a system of policing that will achieve the vision and guiding principles described in the presentation. This can be best accomplished through the establishment of:

1. A Provincial police service; and/or
2. Regionalisation of service; and/or
3. Expansion of services in key areas

Discussion ensued with Chief Beazley responded to questions noting the following:

- < 85 is the magic number when a police officer can retire with full pension;
- < an officer must take a fitness test once they reach the age of 60 should they want to stay on;
- < RCMP receives a full pension with 35 years in once the indexing number cuts in;
- < people do not want to retire as early as they once did;
- < when the police chiefs for the province met, they were asked to look at what was best for the province not just their individual communities;
- < Boundaries do not necessarily determine the jurisdiction for first response. The closest car would respond until the jurisdictional police officers can get there; then the non jurisdictional would bow out;
- < The RCMP contract with the province expires in the year 2012;
- < If a HRM police officer is charged with a crime, HRP would bring in officers from another jurisdiction to prevent either a conflict of interest or the perception of a conflict or vis versa should another jurisdiction need HRP's help;
- < All jurisdictions in the province have a very good working relationship with each other;
- < Other jurisdictions can contract with HRP to have officers and/or cars to work full time in their jurisdictions. The CAO would have to approve the contract. This is provided for in the *Police Act*;
- < There are two types of police contracts. One is the Municipal Police Service Agreement which we have nine and the rest of the jurisdictions are governing by the Provincial Police Agreement;
- < There are 12 police detachments and the other jurisdictions are under the RCMP;
- < The Minister of Justice did not commit to any of the options;
- < The RCMP have also a similar report that they will bring to the Commission;

Clerk's office will circulate the HRP report

## **6.2 Concerns re: Police Act**

Commissioner McCluskey advised the Commission that because of what is going on in Westville, the media will be looking will be looking into other Police Commissions. We should be able to answer any questions that they might have. She asked if we have a written policy for extra duties or off duties of police officers? Chief Beazley advised that HRP does have such a policy and he will circulate it at the next meeting.

Chief Beazley advised that HRP will be working on a strategic plan to set out priorities and goals for crime reduction that they will bring to the Commission when it is finished. The RCMP advised that they have an annual Performance Plan which is similar.

Chief Beazley further advised that the Police Resourcing Study report and the report on the Mayor's Roundtable on Violence will impact the direction of policing in HRM. Another paper was that is very important is the Crime Reduction Strategy.

**7. NEXT MEETING**

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 17, 2008.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned into the In Camera session at 1:22 p.m.

Barbara Coleman  
Legislative Assistant