

**BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES**

May 10, 2010

- PRESENT:** Commissioner Russell Walker, Chair
Commissioner Gloria McCluskey, Vice Chair
Commissioner Bill Karsten
Commissioner Kenneth Hill
Commissioner Earl Gosse
Commissioner Doug MacDonald
- REGRETS:** Commissioner James Perrin
- STAFF:** Chief Frank Beazley, Halifax Regional Police
Deputy Chief Tony Burbridge, Halifax Regional Police
Deputy Chief Chris McNeil, Halifax Regional Police
Superintendent Don Spicer, Halifax Regional Police
Superintendent Bill Moore, Halifax Regional Police
Superintendent Darrell Beaton, RCMP
Ms. Mary Ellen Donovan, Municipal Solicitor
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 12:30 p.m. in the Meisner Room, Police Headquarters.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - April 19, 2010

MOVED BY Commissioner McCluskey, seconded by Commissioner Karsten, that the minutes of April 19, 2010 be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions:

- 7.2 Additional HRP Reports
- 8.1 HRM Police Budget

Deletion:

- 4.1 Policing Resources Study Recommendations Which Do Not Require Either Council or Ministerial Approval

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

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

- 4.1 Policing Resources Study Recommendations Which Do Not Require Either Council or Ministerial Approval

MOVED BY Commissioner McCluskey, seconded by Commissioner Karsten, that item 4.1 be deferred to the next Board of Police Commissioners meeting scheduled for June 14, 2010. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

- The April 2010 RCMP reports were before the Board.

Superintendent Beaton indicated that the first set of statistics for the year had been included. He advised that property crimes were up by 26% overall; noting that breaking and entering was continuing to cause problems.

The RCMP reports were tabled as submitted.

7.2 HRP Reports

- The April 2010 HRP reports were before the Board.

Chief Beazley stated that crime was trending slightly down, however, theft was still driving the statistics. He indicated that crime was down by approximately 6% in Dartmouth, by 9% in the West Division and by 2% in the Central Division. Chief Beazley advised that HRP was experiencing the same property crime issues as the RCMP.

The HRP reports were tabled as submitted.

7.3 Public Safety Update - Superintendent Spicer

- The Spotlight on Public Safety Newsletter Vol. 2 Issue 5 was submitted.

Superintendent Spicer stated that the information contained in the Spotlight on Public Safety Newsletter was as submitted. In response to Commissioner Karsten's concerns raised at the April 19, 2010 meeting regarding Neighbourhood Watch signs, Superintendent Spicer advised that he was working with Transportation and Public Works staff who kept a list of all such signs. He indicated that he would have staff follow up with all Districts regarding this matter.

7.4 HRP Town Hall Meetings - Chief Beazley

Chief Beazley advised that staff were beginning preparations for HRP Town Hall meetings to be held in the fall of 2010; noting that there would be some changes in how the meetings are conducted. He stated that the Board of Police Commissioners was required to be involved, as outlined in the Police Act, and requested the Board's consideration. In closing, Chief Beazley stated that it would not be possible to hold meetings in every District; noting that each policing Division would have approximately three meetings.

This item will be added to the June 14, 2010 agenda.

Regarding the ongoing issue relating to the Commissioners' terms of office, Chief Beazley advised that he had been told by a provincial representative that this matter was still being reviewed.

8. ADDED ITEMS

8.1 HRM Police Budget

Mr. Dan English, Chief Administrative Officer, indicated that HRM was dealing with a \$30,000,000 budget gap; noting that staff was working hard to come up with \$13,000,000 in budget cuts and to deal with a 2% provincial GST increase. He stated that staff have been able to make approximately \$2,200,000 in reductions thus far and were further recommending a \$110,622 cut to the Police Budget to help impact on these across the board cuts.

Chief Beazley indicated that HRP required \$190,000 to provide sufficient policing for the four days of special events booked in HRM this upcoming summer.

Mr. English advised that funding for such events was provided by the Special Events Reserve and this issue would be looked at once the budget was tabled.

Chief Beazley advised that, from a policing perspective, he could not confirm that he would be able to make budget this year. He stated that the region was looking to pull back money from vacancies, however, this scenario results in spending more on overtime costs.

Mr. English advised that the vacancy approach was not a budget cut as it involved taking money from a Business Unit to put towards the deficit when a position becomes vacant until the time it is filled. He stated that staff had achieved the mandate which Council had asked them to achieve and they were committed to returning to Council in September with more cuts.

Commissioner McCluskey advised that she would not agree to cutting the police budget.

Mr. English advised that staff did have alternate budget proposals for Council.

MOVED BY Commissioner McCluskey, seconded by Commissioner Karsten, that the Board of Police Commissioners recommends that the 2010/11 Police Budget move forward as approved at the March 29, 2010 meeting. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Mr. English noted that these across the board cuts would only impact the HRP as HRM only had the ability to make FTE adjustments to the HRP.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting was scheduled for June 14, 2010.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:09 p.m.

Shawnee Gregory
Legislative Assistant