

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES

May 14, 2012

PRESENT: Commissioner Earl Gosse, Chair
Commissioner Micki Ruth, Vice Chair
Commissioner Peter Kelly
Commissioner Phillip Read
Commissioner Sue Uteck
Commissioner Steve Streach
Commissioner Michael Moreash

STAFF: Deputy Chief Chris McNeil, Halifax Regional Police
Deputy Chief Bill Moore, Halifax Regional Police
Superintendent Don Spicer, Halifax Regional Police
Superintendent Jean Michel Blais, RCMP
Inspector Dennis Daley, RCMP
Mr. Richard Butts, Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. Shawnee Gregory, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:31 p.m. in the Meisner Room, Police Headquarters.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 5 & 12, 2012

MOVED by Commissioner Kelly, seconded by Commissioner Streach that the minutes of March 5 & 12, 2012 be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions:

- 8.1 Formation of a Citizen Led Committee or Task Force - Information Report
- 8.2 Joint Crime Reduction Strategy Presentation –Inspector Dennis Daley

Deletion:

- 5. In Camera Presentation – Confidential Police Investigations

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

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

4.1 HRP & RCMP Report Discussion

The Chair continued the discussion in reference to the information the Board receives in the HRP and RCMP reports. He asked for the Board's comments and guidance regarding the process.

A discussion on the HRP and RCMP reports ensued.

Commissioner Kelly advised it was his understanding that the attempt was to standardize the process of RCMP and HRP reports and that staff would be coming back the Board once they had set out this process, as directed by the Board.

Chief Superintendent Jean Michel Blais advised that he, Chief Beazley, and Ms. Theresa Rath, HRP Public Relations Manager, had briefly discussed this matter, and provided background on the request. He stated that it had been asked whether there could be standardization; noting that it would be too onerous a task for HRP Communications staff and would take away from their other work as the HRP has more than three times the area as the RCMP and two and a half times more calls for service.

In closing, Chief Superintendent Blais asked the Board what they wanted to have included in the reports they receive.

Commissioner Kelly clarified that they were not receiving the same comparator between the HRP and RCMP reports and he thought it would be better to try and standardize both processes; including consistent information for both the media and Council.

Deputy Chief McNeil advised that what the HRP tries to produce is a document which includes the significant events that have occurred within a 24 hour period. He stated that it would be a significant burden to ask Watch Commanders for the same detail they provide in monthly Board reports in a daily report.

Several Commissioners indicated they wanted to receive the daily updates and that the details in the monthly reports they received were disproportionate.

Several Commissioners also requested that if police knew an issue had arisen outside of the normal reporting, to advise the Board or District Councillor.

Commissioner Ruth advised that she did not mind the different reporting formats as the RCMP and HRP were different agencies.

Deputy Chief McNeil indicated that, as Deputy Chief of Operations, he receives the same information as included in the daily reports; noting a more unusual significant event would be reported to the Board via the Chief. He undertook to further review this matter.

Chief Superintendent Blais agreed that he also received the same information as included in the daily reports.

This item will be concluded at the next meeting.

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - NONE

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

6.1 Correspondence

6.1.1 Crime/Violence in Dartmouth North – Submitted by Councillor Smith on Behalf of a Resident

Correspondence dated March 19, 2012 submitted by Councillor Smith on behalf of a resident was before the Board.

**MOVED by Commissioner Kelly, seconded by Commissioner Uteck that the Board of Police Commissioners accept the correspondence dated March 19, 2012.
MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

6.2 Petitions - None

6.3 Presentations

6.3.1 HRP Communications Strategy for 2012/13 – Ms. Theresa Rath, HRP Public Relations Manager

A presentation was submitted.

Ms. Theresa Rath, HRP Public Relations Manager, provided the presentation on the HRP Communications Strategy for 2012/13.

Discussion on the presentation ensued with staff responding to questions.

Commissioner Uteck complimented Superintendent Don Spicer on his 'Don't be that Guy' campaign; advising that she had received a great deal of positive feedback, especially from high school students.

As a result of the discussion, a presentation on Social Media will be provided at the next meeting.

7. REPORTS

7.1 Staff

7.1.1 RCMP Reports

The March & April 2012 RCMP Reports and First Quarter Statistics were before the Board.

Chief Superintendent Jean Michel Blais indicated that the March & April 2012 RCMP reports and First Quarter Statistics were as submitted.

MOVED by Commissioner Kelly, seconded by Commissioner Read that the Board of Police Commissioners accept the March & April 2012 RCMP reports and First Quarter Statistics as submitted.

The Board agreed to have a one page environmental scan included in the monthly reports for consistency.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7.1.2 HRP Reports

The March & April 2012 HRP Reports First Quarter Statistics were before the Board.

Deputy Chief McNeil indicated that the March & April 2012 HRP Reports and First Quarter Statistics were as submitted.

MOVED by Commissioner Kelly, seconded by Commissioner Ruth that the Board of Police Commissioners accept the March & April 2012 HRP reports and First Quarter Statistics as submitted. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7.1.3 Public Safety Update – Superintendent Don Spicer

The April & May 2012 Spotlight on Public Safety Newsletters were submitted.

Superintendent Spicer indicated that the April & May 2012 Spotlight on Public Safety Newsletters were as submitted.

Superintendent Spicer advised that Sexual Assault Awareness month began on May 1, 2012 with a tremendous amount of support from the public and, in particular, women's groups in reference to the 'Don't be that Guy' and "Be More than a Bystander" campaigns. He stated the School Board Commissioner had contacted his office to advise that students wanted to get involved this year as well. He announced that Police Week had been held at the MicMac Mall this year rather than the Dartmouth Sportsplex and the event was much better attended as a result; noting they would go back next year as it had also saved \$10,000 in budget costs. In closing, Superintendent Spicer stated that 80 participants would be taking part in a two and a half day session at the Black Cultural Centre to discuss violence in HRM and the Chicago Ceasefire initiative.

7.2 Commissioner Updates

Commissioners Uteck and Ruth advised that they had not been formally notified about being approved as host city for the 2014 CAPB Conference and could not begin seeking out sponsorship until this notification was received.

Commissioner Moreash advised that he attended the first Policing Standards Steering Committee meeting in April and they were just getting organized to review and create policies.

Commissioner Read advised that he had visited the Queensland State Police when he was in Australia in April; noting it was a different policing model than in Canada; however, similar to the RCMP. He recommended that Commissioners stop by if they were ever in Australia.

The Chair advised that two Nova Scotia Association of Police Boards (NSAPB) meetings had occurred since March and reviewed what had taken place. He stated that, as of the fall, he will have been a member of the NSAPB for almost two years and recommended appointing a new Commissioner at the next meeting. The Chair also indicated that he attended a Nova Scotia Criminal Justice meeting at St. Mary's University on May 11, 2012 where Deputy Chief Moore provided a presentation.

8. ADDED ITEMS

8.1 Formation of a Citizen Led Committee or Task Force - Information Report

An information report dated May 14, 2012 was submitted.

The Board accepted the report and agreed to forward it to Regional Council.

8.2 Joint Crime Reduction Strategy Presentation –Inspector Dennis Daley

A Joint Crime Reduction Strategy document was submitted.

Inspector Daley reviewed the Joint Crime Reduction Strategy document. He announced that the HRM police forces were launching a joint project into the East Division of the Dartmouth Area and both agencies were working towards looking at crime and resource deployment in HRM as a whole. He welcomed the Commissioners to visit if they were interested.

Chief Superintendent Blais advised that the whole idea was to eventually have one ComStat model. He stated that the key was getting away from anecdotal and bias based policing and into reactive, evidence based policing.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE – June 11, 2012

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:57 p.m.

Shawnee Gregory
Legislative Assistant