



**BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
December 7, 2015**

PRESENT: Commissioner Linda Mosher, Chair
Commissioner Russell Walker, Vice-Chair
Commissioner Steve Adams
Commissioner Sylvia Parris
Commissioner Jeff Mitchell
Commissioner Stephen Graham

STAFF: Chief Jean-Michel Blais, HRP
Acting Chief Superintendent Dennis Daley, RCMP
Deputy Chief Bill Moore, HRP
Mr. Richard Butts, Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. Ashley Dutcher, Solicitor
Mr. Liam MacSween, Legislative Assistant

The following does not represent a verbatim record of the proceedings of this meeting.

The agenda, supporting documents, and information items circulated to the Board of Police Commissioners are available online: <http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/bpc/151207bopc-agenda.php>.

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 p.m. and adjourned at 1:57 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at in the Meisner Room, Halifax Regional Police Headquarters, 1975 Gottingen Street, Halifax.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 9, 2015

MOVED by Commissioner Mitchell, seconded by Councillor Adams

THAT the minutes of November 9, 2015 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Deletions:

Item No. 7.3.1 - Presentation - Inspector Jim Butler, Halifax Regional Police re: Body Worn Cameras

MOVED by Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Mitchell

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

Two-third majority vote required.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

5. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

7.1 Correspondence

7.2 Petitions

7.3 Presentation

7.3.1 Inspector Jim Butler, Halifax Regional Police re: Body Worn Cameras

This item was removed from the agenda during the approval of the order of business. Please see page two.

8. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

9. REPORTS

9.1 STAFF

9.1.1 Proposed 2016-2017 Halifax Regional Police Operating Budget Situation (Summary) and 2016-17 Business Plan Deliverables

The following was before the Board:

- *The proposed 2016-2017 Halifax Regional Police Operating Budget Situation (Summary) and 2016-17 Business Plan Deliverables*

Chief Jean-Michel Blais, HRP provided an overview of the Proposed 2016-17 Halifax Regional Police Operating Budget Situation (Summary) and 2016-17 Business Plan Deliverables.

Commissioner Mosher thanked Chief Blais for his presentation and requested questions of clarification from members of the Board.

Commissioner Adams requested further information with respect to the usage of Q323 Police on the Job Injury Reserve to hire new officers.

Chief Blais commented that the reserve is being used to backfill positions of officers are currently out with injuries. He further commented that there are four individuals who are out on long term disability.

Deputy Chief Bill Moore, HRP provided background information with respect to the reserve noting that HRP officers are self-insured, as such, a reserve was created to provide contingency funds in the event that officers are injured on the job. He advised that the intention of the proposed withdrawal from the reserve is to backfill two positions for members who are currently out with injuries. He noted that the salaries for the four officers who are currently out with injuries are covered out of compensation accounts.

Commissioner Adams noted he could not support the use of the reserve to backfill positions, indicating that the reserve should be used only to assist officers injured on the job.

Commissioner Graham inquired if the reserve is intended for injured officers only or can it be used to pay salaries for the purposes of backfilling.

Chief Blais commented that HRP staff has discussed the use of reserve to finance back position to have front line police officers. He commented that the use of the reserve would be unsustainable if used in this matter for more than a few years.

Commissioner Mitchell commented that the reserve does not pay salaries of those who are out on disability.

In response to a question from Commissioner Walker, Mr. Craig Horton, Budget Coordinator, HRP advised that there have been regular contributions from the operating budget to Reserve Q323 since it was established in 2006. He commented that there have been no withdrawals from it since that time.

In response to a follow up question from Commissioner Adams, Chief Blais advised that the current balance of the reserve account is \$1.79 million. He advised that HRP has no intention to use the reserve to backfill any more than two positions.

Commissioner Mosher inquired if the positions can be backfilled without the use of the reserve.

Chief Blais noted that HRP does not intend to backfill the positions without the use of the reserve fund as outlined in the proposed budget document.

Councillor Adams requested that Legal Services provide an overview of the reserve and its function.

MOVED by Councillor Adams, seconded by Councillor Mitchell

THAT the Board of Police Commissioners request that Halifax Regional Council:

1. Approve the Proposed 2016/17 Operating Budget Situation (Summary) with the exception of the \$ 217,600 contribution from Q323 Police on the Job Injury Reserve, pending review by HRM Legal Services.
2. Request that HRM Legal Services provide commentary with respect to the background and intent of the Q323 Police on the Job Injury Reserve for the consideration of the Board of Police Commissioners prior to final approval of the 2016-17 Halifax Regional Police Operating Budget by Halifax Regional Council.

Chief Blais suggested that a historical overview of the reserve be included within the report.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.1.2 RCMP/HRP Combined Dashboard Report

The following was before the Board:

- *The RCMP/HRP Combined Dashboard Report*

Chief Blais and Acting Chief Superintendent Denis Daley, RCMP provided an overview of the RCMP/HRP Combined Dashboard report.

The RCMP/HRP Combined Dashboard Report was received by the Board of Police Commissioners as submitted.

9.1.3 HRP Reports

The following was before the Board:

- *The HRP Reports*

Chief Blais provided an overview of the HRP reports.

The HRP Reports were received by the Board of Police Commissioners as submitted.

9.1.4 RCMP Reports

The following was before the Board:

- *The RCMP Reports*

Acting Chief Superintendent Dennis Daley provided an overview of the RCMP reports.

The RCMP Reports were received by the Board of Police Commissioners as submitted.

9.1.5 RCMP – COP Citizen on Patrol Report

The following was before the Board:

- *The RCMP – COP Citizen on Patrol Report dated*

Acting Chief Superintendent Daley provided an overview of the COP Citizen on Patrol Report and responded to questions of clarification with respect to the resources provided for the COP Citizen on Patrol program.

9.1.6 Proposed 2016 Meeting Schedule

The following was before the Board:

- *The proposed 2016 meeting schedule*

MOVED by Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Mitchell

THAT the Board of Police Commissioners approve the proposed 2016 Meeting Schedule as presented.

Note: if a two-third majority vote was required use the wording "Two-third majority vote required" after the motion and before the recorded vote.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.2 MEMBERS OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

9.2.1 Commissioner Mitchell – Armed Police Officers at Remembrance Day Ceremony

The following was before Board:

- *A Commissioner Request form dated December 7, 2015*

Chief Blais advised that HRP has taken an enhanced security approach with respect to armed oversight given the incidents which as a result of the incidents which had taken place in Ottawa in 2014. He advised that both the HRP and RCMP have a very robust response capacity with respect to armed oversight and provided a breakdown of the various resources utilized at the Remembrance Day Ceremony.

Chief Blais provided further commentary with respect to increased incidents of mass shootings in other western countries over the past several years. He noted that both police services diligently assess the use of armed oversight based on the need for its provision, and advised that the intention of its use in this case was not to intimidate the general public, but rather to intimidate those individuals who wish to cause harm to the general public.

Commissioner Mitchell thanked Chief Blais for his response and noted that the Board of Police Commissioners is the appropriate forum to have such discussions.

9.2.2 Commissioner Mitchell – Report Request – Halifax Commons assaults/swarmings

The following was before Board:

- *A Commissioner Request form dated December 7, 2015*

MOVED by Commissioner Mitchell, seconded by Commissioner Walker

THAT the Board of Police Commissioners request that HRP provide a detailed report listing relevant statistics related to the incidents at the Halifax Commons area.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.2.3 Commissioner Mitchell – Report Request – Cyclist Incidents

The following was before the Board:

- *A Commissioner Request form dated December 7, 2015*

MOVED by Commissioner Mitchell, seconded by Commissioner Walker

THAT the Board of Police Commissioners request that HRP provide a detailed report listing statistics on all bicycle related incidents for 2015.

Commissioner Mitchell advised that he would be interested in seeing an overlay of the incidents in terms of geography and the mitigation factors on the part of the municipality.

Commissioner Graham requested that the report address the impact of new provincial regulations and infrastructure changes such as dedicated bike lanes have on cycling incidents within the municipality.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

- 9.3 COMMISSIONER UPDATES – NONE**
- 10. ADDED ITEMS – NONE**
- 11. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE) – NONE**
- 12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – January 18, 2016**
- 13. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 1:59 p.m.

Liam MacSween
Legislative Assistant