

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES

FEBRUARY 11, 2002

PRESENT: Comm. S. David Bryson, Chair
Comm. Ann MacVicar
Comm. Bruce Hetherington
Comm. Bob Harvey
Comm. Steven Adams

ALSO PRESENT: Chief of Police, David McKinnon, HRP
Mr. George McLellan, CAO
Councillor Jim Smith
Supt. Frank Beazley, HRP
Inspector Vern Fraser, RCMP
Mr. Dennis Kelly, Director of Operations, NS Dept. of Justice
Ms. Lynne Le Boutillier, Assistant Municipal Clerk

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.01	Approval of Agenda, Additions and Deletions	3
2.0	Approval of Minutes	3
3.0	Business Arising from Minutes	
3.1	Annual CAPB Conference - Decision on Attendance	3
4.0	New Business (HRP)	
4.1	2003 Canadian Association of Police Boards' Annual Meeting and Conference	3 & 4
5.0	Business Arising from Minutes (RCMP)	4
6.0	New Business (RCMP)	4
7.0	Added Items	
7.1	Annual Report - HRP	5
7.2	Update - Recruit Class	5
7.3	National Organized Crime Committee	5
7.4	G-8 Finance Ministers Conference	5
8.0	Statistics	
8.1	Victim Services - December 2001	5 & 6
8.2	RCMP 4 th Quarter and Year-to-Date Statistical Overview	6
8.3	Halifax Regional Police - Quarterly Interim Statistical Overview - 4 th Quarter	6 & 7
9.0	Next Meeting	7
10.0	Adjournment	7

Meeting called to order in the Training Room, City Hall at 12:30 p.m.

1.0 **APPROVAL OF AGENDA, ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS**

Chief McKinnon requested that the following information items be added to the agenda:

- Item 7.1 - Annual Report (HRP)
- Item 7.2 - Update - Recruit Class
- Item 7.3 - National Organized Crime Committee
- Item 7.4 - G-8 Finance Ministers Conference

Also added under 8.0 Statistics were the following:

- Item 8.2 - RCMP 4th Quarter and Year-to-Date Statistical Overview
- Item 8.3 - HRP 4th Quarter Statistical Overview

The agenda was adopted, as amended.

2.0 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the January 14, 2002 meeting were adopted, as circulated, on motion of Comm. Hetherington and Comm. MacVicar.

3.0 **BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

3.1 **ANNUAL CAPB CONFERENCE - DECISION ON ATTENDANCE**

The Chief advised that there are enough resources to send three members of the Police Commission to this year's annual conference. It was noted that the Chair and Comm. Harvey had already expressed an interest. Comm. Hetherington, Comm. Adams and Comm. MacVicar indicated they were not interested in attending. If Comm. Monard wants to attend, she could be the third delegate.

4.0 **NEW BUSINESS (HRP)**

4.1 **2003 CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF POLICE BOARDS' ANNUAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE**

- C Letter from Kerb Kreling, President, Canadian Association of Police Boards, dated January 15, 2002 re an invitation to the Board to host the 2003 Canadian Association of Police Boards' Annual Meeting and Conference.

The Chief noted that the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police 2003 Annual Conference is being held in Halifax from August 24 to 27, 2002. The Annual Meeting and Conference of Police Boards is scheduled for August 21 to August 24, 2003. Chief McKinnon estimated there would be 150 to 200 delegates attending. He noted that the main conference organizer is the CAPB's Executive Director, Wendy Fedec, but there are aspects related to the organizing of the Conference which the hosts would have to assume, i.e.:

- C extra curricular activities, such as golf tournaments
- C hosting of a reception or dinner (estimated cost \$10,000 could be included in next year's budget submission)

The Chief indicated that the province will be approached for funding. Reference had been made in the letter to Mr. Cusson, N.S. Department of Justice offering assistance should the conference be held in Halifax, but Mr. Kelly indicated that this statement came as somewhat a surprise and the matter will be raised with Mr. Kreling.

A discussion followed on the Board's role and what staff resources would be available. The Chair felt a member(s) of the Board should be involved on a day to day basis. He did not feel July Pal, HRP should be saddled with this responsibility. It was noted that the majority of the members terms will be up by that date. The Chief indicated that if it is the Board's wish to host the meeting and conference, the HRP will take a lead role at the start, until the Board's membership is resolved.

Mr. McLellan indicated he would speak to the Chief and Supt. Ferguson about involving Special Events staff with organizing the HRM's portion of the event. He did not feel Special Events staff were aware of this event.

MOVED BY Comm. Hetherington and seconded by Comm. MacVicar that the Board accept the invitation of the Canadian Association of Police Boards to host the 2003 Annual Meeting and Conference. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

5.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES (RCMP)

None.

6.0 NEW BUSINESS (RCMP)

None.

7.0 **ADDED ITEMS**

7.1 **ANNUAL REPORT - HRP**

The Chief advised that the HRP will not be publishing an Annual Report this year. He noted that the cost of producing three hundred (300) copies of last year's twenty-four (24) page document was \$2,400. Instead the information will be loaded onto the HRP's Website.

7.2 **UPDATE RECRUIT CLASS**

The Chief thanked Board members who attended last weeks swearing in ceremony held in conjunction with the Regional Council session. He also expressed thanks to Mayor Kelly for permitting the ceremony to be included on Council's agenda.

He anticipates that two officers are about to leave the HRP. In this event, the last two cadets will be hired by the HRP. He anticipates that before the March meeting these two police cadets will also be sworn in. He also anticipates a further two to six officers to be leaving due to long term disabilities. He noted there are a group of experienced officers have expressed interest in entering the HRP Service.

7.3 **NATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME COMMITTEE**

Chief McKinnon referred to a meeting of the National Organized Crime Committee, of which he is a member, meeting in Halifax May 22 and 24th. He anticipates 60 to 100 people attending the Annual Meeting, which is usually held in Ottawa. The Solicitor General may make an appearance.

7.4 **G-8 FINANCE MINISTERS CONFERENCE**

Chief McKinnon advised that this meeting will be taking place June 14 in Halifax. While the official delegations consists of twenty-five (25), three hundred (300) people are anticipated.

8.0 **STATISTICS**

8.1 **VICTIM SERVICES - DECEMBER 2001**

In addition to the Statistics Report for December 2001 circulated in the agenda package, the Statistics Report for January 2002 was circulated at the meeting.

Referring to the Statistical Report Year 2001, the Chief noted that it had been anticipated that the case load for 2001 would be 2000. The total case load for the year totaled 2070. He referred to the Province's announcement respecting resources being allocated to deal with domestic violence. He noted that 52% of the cases of domestic violence reported to the Department of Justice are from HRM. All but 13% are dealt with by the HRP. How the funds will be shared between the HRP and RCMP has yet to be determined.

Concern was expressed by Comm. MacVicar that in December the average length of time to close a file was 25 days, which is way above the rest of the year. Chief McKinnon reflected that it is difficult to contact people over the Christmas Season and Victim Services was in the process of moving their office, so days were lost due to lack of access to computers and telephone lines.

8.2 RCMP 4TH QUARTER AND YEAR-TO-DATE STATISTICAL OVERVIEW

Copies of the statistics were circulated at the meeting. Inspector Fraser highlighted aspects of the report. He noted that questions had been previously raised regarding the Federal category, general, related to the Musquodoboit Harbour Detachment being so high. It was determined that these figures reflect small vessel enforcement done in association with the Coast Guard.

8.3 HALIFAX REGIONAL POLICE - QUARTERLY INTERIM STATISTICAL OVERVIEW - 4TH QUARTER

The 4th Quarter Statistics were circulated at the meeting. He highlighted the report noting that there had been an increase of 2.01% in the total criminal code offences reported in 2001 compared to 2000. The homicide rate is down 75% and attempted murder 44%. He commented there may have been more homicides, if it were not for the quick availability to quality medical care. Other person crimes down 36%. The only increase reported related to robberies under \$5,000. These robberies are associated with corner store operations, drug stores and individuals just walking along a street. The actual number for the increase in these offences is 93 instances. Break and enters were also reported down and theft of motor vehicles. A average of 263 calls are received a day.

He noted that all the information, broken down by patrol district and call distribution, will be made available on the HRP web site.

Comm. Hetherington expressed concern regarding statistics being reported as high for drugs in his District, due to the fact that individuals taken to the Spicer Building in

Dartmouth for a range of offences were found to have drugs on them. The Chief explained that measures are being taken to put these in the miscellaneous category. It is recognized that the February 18, 2002 District identified is not indicative of where the incident occurred.

Reference was made to the 38% decrease in prostitution charges. It was confirmed that the trend is from off the streets to escort services. Also reference was made to the reduction to liquor offences. The Chief confirmed this is a national trend in some part reflective of an enforcement trend in some jurisdictions, not the HRP, to chose road side suspensions versus writing up impaired driving charges.

Referring to the crime of assaults and robberies which show an increase of 21 and 5 percent respectively, Comm. Harvey noted these are the crimes upon which residents perceive the safety of their community. He noted that it appears these crimes are taking place at all times of day and in locations not associated with these crimes in the past. The Chief explained that of the 132 increased assault cases, 90 related to common assault, ie. pushing and shoving.

He noted that it was anticipated that there would be increased in Central Division, while in fact a higher increase was found for West Division. There are a couple of new bars which have opened in West Division, it was noted. Staff are trying to analysis the numbers.

Councillor Smith, referring to the offensive weapons category being up 48%, noted that he has observed that even in robberies of corner stores, for relatively small sums of money, guns are being used and a number of incidents are attributable to one individual over a course of a few days. The Chief reflected that in fact there are a lot more instances where criminals arm themselves against other criminals. On a general basis, the police are encountering more firearms. Referring to weapons offences, the Chief explained how the use of a knife as a weapon, versus possession of a weapon, are determined. He also explained the various categories of knives, i.e. which are prohibited.

9.0 **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 11, 2002.

10.0 **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned to meet in camera on motion of Comm. Hetherington.

Lynne Le Boutillier
Assistant Municipal Clerk

