

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES

JUNE 10, 2002

PRESENT: Comm. Bryson, Chair
Comm. Adams
Comm. Monard

ALSO PRESENT: David McKinnon, Chief of Police HRP
Supt. Stan Ferguson, RCMP
Dennis Kelly, NS Dept. of Justice
Sgt. Gary Smith
Emma MacKenzie, Project Manager
Betty MacDonald, Manager, Financial Planning Services
Chris Newson, Assistant Municipal Clerk

**ABSENT
WITH REGRETS:** Comm. Harvey
Comm. Hetherington

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	Approval of Agenda, Additions and Deletions	3
2.	Approval of Minutes of April 08, 2002	3
3.	Business Arising from Minutes	3
4.	New Business (HRP)	3
4.1	AVL/GPS Presentation - Sgt. Garry Smith	3
4.2	CAPB Conference - Call for Resolutions	4
5.	Business Arising from Minutes (RCMP)	5
6.	New Business (RCMP)	5
7.	Added Items	5
8.	Statistics	5
8.1	Victim Services - March and April 2002	5
8.2	RCMP Statistics	5
9.	Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting	6
10.	Adjournment	6

The meeting was called to order at 12:33 pm without quorum present. Quorum present at 1:10 pm.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA, ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

The agenda was adopted with the following additions:

- 3.01 Update on Police Study, Betty MacDonald
- 4.3 Video Camera Report, Chief McKinnon

Mr. Bryson, Chair, requested that Agenda Item 8.2 RCMP Statistics be presented first as Committee awaits quorum.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 8, 2002

The minutes of the April 8, 2002 meeting were adopted, as circulated, on motion of Councillor Adams and Ms. Eartha Monard.

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

- 3.01 Police Study Update - Betty MacDonald, Manager, Financial Planning and Services
- Ms. MacDonald, Manager of Financial Services, circulated a copy of the Terms of Reference regarding the Framework for the Police Study.

Ms. MacDonald reported that a draft report was received in February from the Consultants which staff has reviewed. Staff reported that the focus of the study seemed to be on Items 5 and 6 concerning areas in which the services could be better coordinated and on the governance of police services. Staff's concern was that not enough information was supplied regarding the variables that impact on the demand for police services and the geographic analysis of demand. Ms. MacDonald reported that Staff are expecting a final report in a few weeks time. A presentation to the Police Commission, and then to Regional Council, by the Consultants is expected in mid-July.

4. NEW BUSINESS

- 4.1 AVL/GPS Presentation - Sgt. Garry Smith
- Sgt. Garry Smith, Technical Support Section of the Halifax Regional Police, assisted by Mr. Nick Dixon, presented a PowerPoint presentation on AVL/GPS.

Sgt. Smith reported that the Halifax Regional Police partnered with CSE (Computronics Inc.) who specialize in GPS (Global Positioning System) and AVL (Automatic Vehicle Locator). This initiative by the Halifax Regional Police is to enhance Officer Safety. With the new CAD positioning, location of the Officer's and their vehicles will be known at all times.

There were three Phases to this study. Phase 1 - Operational Marked Units (done in last few weeks) patrol units, identification, canine, traffic vehicle etc. Phase II - Purchase of hardware for installation on operational plainclothes unit. Phase III - units for 50 motorcycles, 3 water craft, and additional vehicles (received June 10th, 2002).

Some concerns with the GPS locators for the canine unit are; the cost, battery life, size of structure. Florida is using a "prison bracelet" approach where a collar is placed around the neck of the canine, downside for this use in HRM is that the call center for maintenance would be out of Miami.

Mr. Nick Dixon presented a "live feed" where a map was shown indicating the position of vehicles in the downtown area. Goal is to have Erickson portable units available to Officers. All transmissions sent wirelessly which have higher rates. Mobile applications are installed in eight Supervisors vehicles (3 Divisional Inspectors, Chief's Office).

Committee inquired as to any "flat spots" with signal reception. Mr. Dixon stated that once a vehicle goes behind a high building such as the MTT building on Barrington Street, the signal bounces off the building so the vehicle is "lost" for a few seconds until it passes to the other side. Sgt. Smith reported that this information was presented to the Union and the Union were receptive to the AVL/GPS technology. This technology is not for dispatch as yet but it will be in future. A record of the number of times a vehicle patrols a certain area, date and time that a police vehicle was in a certain area will be benefits of this technology. Additional information that will be gained from this technology include; see where patrols are not going, see if an area is over patrolled, response time should increase. Chief McKinnon commented that this technology could also be used for tracking (for example, a container). Cost of the system is approximately \$20,000.00 for software, \$75,000.00 for hardware for a total of approximately \$100,000.00. .

4.2 CAPB Conference - Call for Resolutions

The Committee were referred to the information included in their packages regarding the CAPB (Canadian Association of Police Boards) Conference to be held in Ottawa from August 21 - 24, 2002 and reminded of the deadline for registration of July 22, 2002.

4.3 Video Camera Report - Chief McKinnon

- Chief McKinnon circulated the Video Camera Report to the Committee.

This initiative has shown positive use in that the tape may be used as evidence and is automatically activated when emergency equipment (such as sirens, lights) are activated (otherwise the Officer activates the camera). Fifteen cars are presently outfitted with Video Cameras. The public are informed by the Officer that they are being taped. The only problem to date has been the breakage of the clips for body microphones, there is no digital standard for transmission, a person may block the camera (for example Protestors). Cost for the video camera is \$10,000.00 per piece (plus \$1.99 for Video tape). No direct budget implications as currently HRP are buying the unit already installed in the replacement vehicles; this raises the cost of the replacement vehicle from \$30,000 to \$42,000.00. The cameras can be wired by mechanics in the garage and there is a help line for maintenance assistance.

The Committee inquired as to where the camera is located and the range of vision. Chief McKinnon reported that the video equipment itself is in the trunk (therefore it cannot be tampered with) and the camera has a range in width of a three lane highway. The camera is also able to zoom in on an item such as a license plate. Mr. Kelly inquired as to whether a statement could be made stating the HRP are now using the video cameras and that conversations would be recorded. Chief McKinnon explained that the policy states that the Officer must inform the person that they are being taped. Chief McKinnon will send a copy of the policy to Mr. Kelly. The Committee suggested that the information be given concerning the video cameras, when drivers renew their licenses.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES (RCMP)

6. NEW BUSINESS (RCMP)

7. ADDED ITEMS

- Scott Zinck Memorial Golf Tournament

Chief McKinnon circulated a copy of the 15th Annual Scott Zinck Memorial Golf Tournament information prepared by HRP and dated May 01, 2002. The tournament is scheduled for Friday, July 19th, 2002 at River Oaks Golf Club. Chief McKinnon requested permission from the Commission to proceed with the tournament as; some Board members are sometimes invited to participate and there is also some solicitation involved regarding fundraising. Chief McKinnon has already given authorization for the event to proceed. There were no objections from the Commission. The Tournament not only maintains the memory of a good friend and co-worker, but raises funds for the Canadian Cancer Society and casts a favorable reflection on the image of the Halifax Regional Police. Over the past 14 years, the Tournament has raised approximately \$80,000.00.

8. STATISTICS

8.1 Victim Services - March and April 2002 (attached)

The reports for March and April were circulated in the Committee packages.

8.2 RCMP Statistics

Supt. Stan Ferguson reported that there are no significant changes in the first quarter statistics and briefly reviewed same.

9. NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING - TBA

Due to the unavailability of Chief McKinnon, the Deputy, Supt. Berburidge and Supt. MacNeil, who will be attending a Conference in Toronto on World Disaster Planning, the date of the next meeting is to be announced.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Adams, seconded by Ms. Eartha Monard, that the meeting be adjourned at 1:40 pm.

Chris Newson
Assistant Municipal Clerk