



**BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES**

**SPECIAL MEETING**

**January 9, 2017**

**PRESENT:** Commissioner Steve Craig, Chair  
Commissioner Wayne Mason  
Commissioner Tony Mancini  
Commissioner Jeff Mitchell  
Commissioner Ed MacMaster  
Commissioner Sylvia Parris

**REGRETS:** Commissioner Steve Graham, Vice-Chair

**STAFF:** Chief Jean-Michel Blais, Halifax Regional Police  
Chief Superintendent Lee Bergerman, Halifax District Detachment, RCMP  
Mr. Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer  
Deputy Chief Bill Moore, Halifax Regional Police  
Superintendent Colleen Kelly, Halifax Regional Police  
Dr. Chris Giacomantonio, Research Coordinator, Halifax Regional Police  
Mr. Craig Horton, Financial Coordinator, Halifax Regional Police  
Ms. Katherine Salsman, Solicitor, Legal Services  
Ms. Jennifer Weagle, 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 are available online:  
<http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/bpc/170109bopc-agenda.php>*

*The meeting was called to order at 12:34 p.m. and adjourned at 2:27 p.m.*

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Commissioner Steve Craig, Chair, called the meeting to order in Halifax Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – None**

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

The agenda was agreed upon as presented.

The Chair advised that agenda planning meetings for 2017 have been scheduled for the Chair, Vice Chair, Chief of Police, Chief Superintendent RCMP, Chief Administrative Officer and Legislative Assistant to discuss each upcoming agenda plus the following month's agenda.

The Chair indicated that at the next meeting, the HRM Chief Financial Officer, Amanda Whitewood, will be presenting to the Board on the state of HRM Finances, followed by budget presentations by HRP and RCMP.

**4. HALIFAX REGIONAL POLICE BUSINESS PLANNING PRIORITIES**

The following documentation was before the Board:

- HRP Business Planning Priorities 2017/18 / 2018/19

Chief Blais spoke on behalf of Kathleen Patterson, Business Initiatives Coordinator, who was unable to attend today. Noting that this information was first provided to the Board at the December 19, 2016 meeting, Chief Blais inquired whether there was anything from the list of business planning priorities that the Board would like added or deleted. There being none at this time, Chief Blais indicated that this item will be before the Committee for the next regular meeting on January 16, 2017 for further discussion.

**5. PRESENTATION - PRELIMINARY DRAFT 2017-2018 HALIFAX REGIONAL POLICE OPERATING BUDGET AND DRAFT 2017-18 BUSINESS PLAN DELIVERABLES – Chief Blais**

The following documentation was before the Board:

- Scenario #1: Increase of 1.733% in 2017/18, 0.698% increase in 2018/19
- Scenario #2: Balanced to HRM Targets
- Scenario #3: Decrease of 1.733% in 2017/18, 0% Change in 2018/19
- Operating Budget Work Paper (2016/17 to 2017/18 Budget Comparison)
- Proposed 2017/18 & 2018/19 Recommended Operating Budgets including 3 Year Financial History

Chief Blais reviewed the Proposed Halifax Regional Police 2017/18 & 2018/19 Operating Budget Situation (Summary) **Scenario #1**, which presents an increase of 1.733% in 2017/18, and 0.698% increase in 2018/19. Chief Blais indicated that the Operating Budget Work Paper (2016/17 to 2017/18 Budget Comparison) relates to Scenario #1 only, and shows what percentage of the total budget each item represents.

Chief Blais reviewed the Proposed Halifax Regional Police 2017/18 & 2018/19 Operating Budget Situation (Summary) **Scenario #2**, which represents a balanced budget to HRM targets.

Chief Blais reviewed the Proposed Halifax Regional Police 2017/18 & 2018/19 Operating Budget Situation (Summary) **Scenario #3**, which represents a decrease of 1.733% in 2017/18, and 0% Change in 2018/19.

Mr. Dubé clarified that in December 2016 Regional Council approved a fiscal framework direction for HRM, and Scenario 2 presented today is respecting that framework. He noted that scenarios are about level of service, and funding for increases in level of service go directly to the tax rate, or would have to be found elsewhere.

Commissioner MacMaster inquired whether there are any hidden costs associated with functions currently performed by the police service on behalf of other business units, or performed by other business units on behalf of the police service. He gave the example of B(4) in Scenario #1, the addition of a Health and Wellness Coordinator, asking whether this service is currently provided to the police service by another HRM program.

Chief Blais indicated he would have further information on this for the next meeting.

Commissioner Mason requested a list of reserves and the reserve structure, including what each reserve is for and balances. He further requested information on retirement incentives for the past few years, as well as how the figure for on-the-job injuries was calculated.

Chief Blais advised that staff will bring forward this information for the next meeting.

Commissioner MacMaster indicated that having information on primary, secondary, and tertiary roles for sworn and non-sworn members of the police service would be helpful in terms of general context.

The Chair noted that revenue may be impacted by the forthcoming report on criminal record checks.

The Chair requested clarification from the CAO with regard to the impact of ongoing HRPA arbitration, and the impact of that outcome being outside of this budget.

Mr. Dube advised that the predicted amount has been put in a contingency account within the Department of Finance, and that Council will be advised of that figure at an In Camera meeting.

Commissioner Mitchell asked for a ranking or priority of the seven items listed under service enhancements in Scenario 1 for the next meeting.

The Chair indicated that the budget will be presented for further feedback at the January 16, 2017 meeting, and at a special meeting scheduled for January 23, 2017, if required.

## **6. HALIFAX REGIONAL POLICE STREET CHECKS – *Dr. Christopher Giacomantonio***

The following documentation was before the Board:

- HRP Street Check Data 2005 – 2016
- RCMP Street Check Data Jan 1, 2016 – Oct. 31, 2016

Chief Blais introduced Dr. Chris Giacomantonio, Research Coordinator, Halifax Regional Police. Dr. Giacomantonio indicated that the information before the Committee came about from a Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy access request by CBC. He noted that the data is very preliminary and he is working to process the data. Dr. Giacomantonio indicated that there are many ways to interpret the data, and he used the following main units of analysis:

- Street check record: this refers to the information related to a specific instance of checking, at a specific place and time, and may be linked to one or more entity records.
- Entity record: This refers to the information related to a specific individual involved in a specific street check.

- Unique individual: This refers to the information related to a specific individual who appears one or more times in an entity record in the overall dataset.

He noted that contributory factors to the data are unknown, although it is known that past criminal records or police contact determines the strongest predictor of street checks.

The Chair clarified, with the agreement of Dr. Giacomantonio, that this is the first time analysis has been done on street check data in HRM.

Chief Blais, Deputy Chief Bill Moore, and Dr. Giacomantonio responded to questions from members of the Board, with the following information noted:

- A recommendation that came out of the report on the Kirk Johnson matter was for a joint HRP/RCMP committee, which will be coming forward to the Board at a future meeting.
- Staff have yearly block training which has a component where they talk about issues related to the community.
- Street checks could be a visual observation and notation or through interaction with an individual.
- Staff will be reviewing procedure to determine if processes are contributing to the disproportionality of the data.
- There was a directive years ago for officers to write tickets and perform street checks but it was determined inappropriate. The focus is now on quality over quantity.
- There are issues with the categories allowed in the Versadex system, which is not meant for data analysis.

Commissioner Parris commented that this is the International Decade for People of African Descent, ending in 2024. A United Nations Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent held a civil society gathering and prepared a preliminary report. Commissioner Parris read a portion of that report, as follows:

"There is clear evidence that racial profiling is endemic in the strategies and practices used by law enforcement. Arbitrary use of carding or street checks disproportionately affects people of African descent."

Commissioner Parris questioned whether there is a strong determination of the effectiveness of street checks, and whether there should be a moratorium on street checks until the value and effectiveness of them can be determined.

Dr. Giacomantonio agreed that further examination is required to determine whether street checks are effective and noted that there is limited research on the topic.

Chief Blais indicated that before a moratorium on street checks is discussed, the data must be analyzed to determine the facts behind it. He clarified that there are many pieces to the puzzle of analyzing the data, which four million bits of information, and is being compared with 2011 census data and was collected from the Versadex system, which was not intended for that purpose. Chief Blais recognized that HRP is responsible to respond to systemic racism and will continue to work toward that and work with the community.

Discussion ensued on the subject of street checks.

Chief Blais confirmed that staff will be bringing back further analysis of the data to the Board.

Noting that the HRP and RCMP data is marked as not for circulation and protected, the Chair asked Chief Blais and Chief Superintendent Bergerman to confirm with the Legislative Assistant whether the data can be linked to the online agenda for this meeting.

**7. BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS WORK PLAN SESSION**

The following documentation was before the Board:

- Memo from the Legislative Assistant dated January 4, 2017

Further to the initial discussion at the December meeting regarding a work planning session, possible dates, times and locations for the planning sessions were before the Board. The Chair noted that two half-day sessions will be booked, with the second if required.

The Chair indicated that the work planning sessions will be used to develop an annual work plan and discuss priority planning for policy development.

Commissioner Mancini indicated that a facilitator from within HRM will be used for the sessions, which will be held off site.

The Board provided feedback to the Legislative Assistant regarding the dates and times proposed. The Chair asked that the Legislative Assistant return for the January 16<sup>th</sup> meeting alternate dates and times based on feedback.

**8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – January 16, 2017 (regular) & January 23, 2017 (special, if required)

**8.1 Discussion re: Alternate Meeting Days and Times**

The following documentation was before the Board:

- Memo from the Legislative Assistant dated January 6, 2017

At the request of the Board, alternative meeting days of the week and times were examined for the Board's consideration. The Board discussed the proposals, and agreed to continue meeting as per the previously approved 2017 meeting schedule of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 2:27 p.m.

Jennifer Weagle  
Legislative Assistant