



**BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
February 27, 2017**

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

REGRETS: Commissioner Steve Graham, Vice Chair

STAFF: Chief Jean-Michel Blais, Halifax Regional Police
Chief Superintendent Lee Bergerman, Halifax District Detachment, RCMP
Deputy Chief Bill Moore, Halifax Regional Police
Superintendent Colleen Kelly, Halifax Regional Police
Inspector Rob Doyle, Halifax District Detachment, RCMP
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/170227bopc-agenda.php>*

The meeting was called to order at 12:34 p.m., and recessed at 2:30 p.m. The Board moved into an In Camera (In Private) session at 3:04 p.m. which adjourned at 3:31 p.m. The Board reconvened to the public session at 3:32 p.m. and adjourned at 3:33 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:34 p.m.

Roundtable introductions were held for the benefit of Inspector Rob Doyle, Halifax District Detachment, RCMP.

1.1 Presentation to former Commissioners Steve Adams and Russell Walker

Chief Blais and Chief Superintendent Bergerman presented former Commissioners Councillor Steve Adams and Councillor Russell Walker each with Retired Commissioners badges and a framed RCMP print, in thanks for their years of service on the Board.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 23, 2017 (special)

MOVED by Commissioner Mancini, seconded by Commissioner Parris

THAT the minutes be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

At the request of the Chair, the Committee agreed to take a 15 minute recess before moving In Camera to allow the Chief to speak with the media regarding agenda item 9.1.3 Drug Exhibit Audit Update. The Chair also noted that Adam Reid from Halifax Pride will be joining the meeting around 1:30 to be available to discuss agenda item 9.1.4 - HRP Participation in the 2017 Pride Parade – with the Board.

MOVED by Councillor MacMaster, seconded by Councillor Mancini

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - NONE

5. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS - NONE

6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

6.1 Creation of the Halifax Regional Police Foundation

The following information was before the Board:

- Staff recommendation report dated February 22, 2017

Chief Blais briefly reviewed the staff report recommending the formation of a Halifax Regional Police Foundation.

MOVED by Commissioner Mason, seconded by Commissioner Mancini

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

1. **Endorse the establishment of a Halifax Regional Police Foundation (HRPF) under the auspices of the Community Foundation of Nova Scotia;**
2. **Approve the direction of all future proceeds from the sale of HRP-crested merchandise and related logoed items to the Foundation;**
3. **Endorse the transfer of all non-HRM budgeted monies presently under the control of the Chief of Police intended for community-related programming to the new Foundation once established.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The Chief indicated that staff would work with the Legislative Assistant to get this to Council.

7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

7.1 Correspondence

7.1.1 Correspondence from Darren Parks, dated January 16, 2017 re: HRP Use of Street Checks

The Board accepted the correspondence. No action required.

7.1.2 Correspondence from Jim Hoskins dated February 6, 2017 re: By-Law for Distracted Driving

The Board accepted the correspondence. No action required.

7.2 Petitions - None

7.3 Presentation - None

8. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

9. REPORTS

9.1 STAFF

9.1.1 Citizen Satisfaction Survey

The following was before the Board:

- A staff recommendation report dated February 22, 2017

Dr. Christopher Giacomantonio, Research Coordinator, Halifax Regional Police, reviewed with the Board the staff recommendation report, which is available on file and online, and responded to questions from the Board.

Board members provided the following feedback:

- Members hope to see the survey before it is implemented, to be able to review the language.
- The importance of the ability to group policy specific questions.
- The importance of the ability to understand the context of demographics within specific populations.

MOVED by Commissioner MacMaster, seconded by Commissioner Mitchell

THAT the HRM Board of Police Commissioners approve Halifax Regional Police, working through the Board and in partnership with Halifax District RCMP, should instate and identify appropriate funds for quarterly telephone surveys on citizen attitudes toward and perceptions of policing in HRM, as outlined in the February 22, 2017 staff report.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.1.2 Criminal Records Checks

The following was before the Board:

- A staff information report dated February 22, 2017

Deputy Chief Bill Moore, Halifax Regional Police, reviewed with the Board the information report, which is available on file and online, noting that the figures are based on 2015 numbers for administrative purposes. Deputy Chief Moore indicated during the review of the information report that it has been determined that certain applicants were overcharged for a period of time when applying for criminal record checks for employment purposes requiring fingerprinting, and that staff are looking at how to conduct reimbursements for the overcharges.

Deputy Chief Moore responded to questions from the Board. The Board discussed with Deputy Chief Moore costs and fees associated with performing the checks.

The Chair thanked staff for the information, and indicated that this information may be brought back for further discussion at a future meeting.

9.1.3 Drug Exhibit Audit Update

The following information was before the Board:

- Staff information report dated February 23, 2017, with attached:
 - Disposition of Evidence: A Secondary Review to the 2015-16 Drug Audit dated February 24, 2017
 - 2015-16 Drug Exhibit Audit Recommendations: Status Update dated February 24, 2017
- Full Inventory of Drug-related Exhibits – Outstanding Items as of February 27, 2017; reconciliation ongoing

Chief Blais presented the staff report to the Board, including the secondary review to the 2015-16 Drug Audit, and a status update on the recommendations coming out of the 2015-16 Audit. Chief Blais's presentation is available on file and online. He circulated to the Board a document entitled "Full Inventory of Drug-related Exhibits – Outstanding Items as of February 27, 2017; reconciliation ongoing".

Chief Blais responded to questions from the Board.

Councillor Mason indicated he would be interested in a breakdown of age and stage of open cases with HRP, as a future item for discussion.

Responding to a request from the Board, Chief Blais reviewed the process that takes place when a seizure of evidence occurs and what happens to that evidence when it comes time for disposal. Chief Blais indicated that records were not properly kept prior to the audit, and staff now have a very tight procedure for processing exhibits and a new and improved exhibit space.

At the request of the Board, Chief Blais reviewed the history of the audit, noting that it was started as a result of the acknowledgement that there was some malfeasance done with the discovery of "cut" product missing from evidence, which is now part of an ongoing investigation. Chief Blais advised that through the result of that investigation staff realized there were issues with evidence and initiated an internal audit, which resulted in the recommendations outlined before the Board.

Responding to an inquiry by the Board, Chief Blais advised that annual audits would be conducted following the completion of this audit, and that the Board will be updated regularly on the progress.

At the request of the Board, Chief Blais discussed the human resources and financial constraints involved with completing the audit.

Responding to questions from the Board regarding at what point and when the audit would be completed, Chief Blais advised that it will be complete when the 10,000 exhibits are identified, and staff do not have a concrete time frame at this time, but estimated that could take several years.

Members noted the importance of understanding how long it will take to complete the audit, and of knowing whether funding for more resources is needed to assist in the completion.

9.1.4 Halifax Regional Police Participation in the 2017 Pride Parade - Update

Chief Blais provided an update to the Board that over the last several months HRP had been in discussions with Halifax Pride about HRP participation in the 2017 Pride Festival and how to best support the LGBT2Q+ community. He indicated that these discussions have brought to the attention of HRP several important factors, including that there are divisions in the LGBT2Q+ community in Halifax and in other cities which are increasing the challenges the community faces, and that the debate about police participation in pride parades, started in Toronto, is also occurring in Halifax. Chief Blais advised that with this in mind HRP recently advised Halifax Pride that it would like to increase its participation in the 2017 Pride Festival, and continue to support the festival by providing traffic duty and security, but not participate in the Pride Parade.

The Chair welcomed Adam Reid, Executive Director of Halifax Pride, who addressed the Board indicating that after taking over as Chair of Halifax Pride in December 2016, they reached out to HRP on this issue. Adam Reid indicated that the conversations have been ongoing and Halifax Pride appreciates the support and partnership of HRM and HRP.

Responding to questions from the Board, Chief Blais indicated that HRP employees are welcome to participate in the parade in their own capacity, out of uniform and there will be other opportunities for participation throughout the Festival.

The Chair thanked Adam Reid for attending.

9.1.5 Review of Internal/External Reports and Recommendations – Deputy Chief Bill Moore

Deputy Chief Bill Moore advised that HRP staff will be working on an on-going basis to review reports from Internal and External bodies relating to matters affecting policing, to incorporate the findings of these reports into HRP policy. The Deputy Chief advised that if members are aware of any reports that should be reviewed, to forward them to himself or Kathleen Patterson.

9.2 MEMBERS OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS - None

9.3 COMMISSIONER UPDATES - None

10. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

MOVED by Councillor Mancini, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT the Board of Police Commissioners convene In Camera following a 15 minute recess.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The Board recessed at 2:30 p.m., to move In camera following a 15 minute recess.

The Board reconvened to the public session at 3:32 p.m.

11. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE)

11.1 Approval of Minutes – December 19, 2016 - In Camera

A motion was approved during the In Camera session that the Board approve the December 19, 2016 In Camera meeting minutes.

11.2 Personnel Matter – Updates on personnel matters

This matter was discussed during the In Camera session, with the following motion ratified during the public session:

MOVED by Councillor Mancini, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT the Board of Police Commissioners direct the Chair, in consultation with the Solicitor and the Chief of Police, to write a letter of response to the complainant, as per the Board of Police Commissioners In Camera discussion of February 27, 2017.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – March 20, 2017

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:33 p.m.

Jennifer Weagle
Legislative Assistant