



**BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
November 18, 2019**

PRESENT: Commissioner Natalie Borden, Chair
Commissioner Carole McDougall, Vice-Chair
Commissioner Tony Mancini
Commissioner Lindell Smith
Commissioner Carlos Beals
Commissioner Lisa Blackburn
Commissioner Tony Mancini

REGRETS: Commissioner Anthony Thomas
Chief Superintendent Janis Gray, Halifax District Detachment, RCMP
Superintendent Don MacLean, HRP

STAFF: Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer
Chief Dan Kinsella, HRP
Inspector Erin Pepper, Halifax District Detachment, RCMP
Amy Siciliano, HRM Public Safety Advisor
Martin Ward, Solicitor
Robyn Dean, 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:
www.halifax.ca*

The meeting was called to order at 12:32 p.m. and adjourned at 1:51 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:32 p.m., in Halifax Hall, 2nd Floor, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 21, 2019 and November 5, 2019 (Special Meeting)

MOVED by Commissioner Blackburn, seconded by Commissioner Beals

THAT the minutes of October 21, 2019 and November 5, 2019 (Special Meeting) be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

MOVED by Commissioner Mancini, seconded by Commissioner McDougall

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

7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

7.1 Correspondence – None

7.2 Petitions – None

7.3 Presentations – None

8. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

9. REPORTS/DISCUSSION

9.1 STAFF

9.1.1 HRM Wortley Report Recommendations – Update

- **Community Engagement**
- **Data Collection**

Chief Dan Kinsella gave an update on the action plan to date around community engagement and data collection. The Chief noted that the review of the Wortley Report Recommendations continues. Two upcoming events were also noted, including the 902ManUp Panel and Deputy Mayor Mancini's Town Hall meeting in Dartmouth. Additionally, the Chief confirmed that several meetings have taken place with stakeholders (such as the Department of Justice) on stakeholder participation.

The Chief provided an update on data collection as it relates to the Wortley Report Recommendations. Specifically, it was noted that the RCMP is working in tandem with HRP and that several meetings have occurred with the Department of Justice. Finally, the Chief emphasized the importance of remembering that this is a long-term process that will pose a significant change in the way data is collected, which will involve significant human and technical resources.

9.1.2 Police Sexual Assault Investigations Process Overview – Presentation

The following was before the Board of Police Commissioners:

- A joint presentation from the RCMP and HRP entitled Sexual Assault Investigations within the Halifax Regional Municipality

The Chief introduced Detective Sergeant Don Stienburg who came forward to give the presentation. Stienburg stated that they had been working as a Police Officer for the past 33 years and that significant and constant progress has been made in the way sexual assault investigations are conducted since that time. Specifically, the new process of conducting sexual assault investigations aims to empower the victim and collaborate with victims on their choice in the investigation. Furthermore, Stienburg noted that Victims Services employ volunteer members that are trained to assist victims and respond to the unique aspects of this type of crime in order to prevent further victimization.

Stienburg provided an overview of the process of sexual assault investigations. It was noted that the procedure includes the following phases:

- Trauma-informed first response
 - Victim Services is engaged early in the process
- Preliminary investigation
 - Key details of the crime are gathered from the victim
 - Evidence is gathered and next steps (i.e., search warrant, scene containment, etc.) are determined
 - The direction of the investigation is triaged by the supervisor
- Routing to the Major Crime Unit
- Integrated Special Investigation Section: Sexual Assault Investigative Team (SAIT Unit)
 - The SAIT Unit is typically only employed for more serious sexual assault investigation files, such as those requiring search warrants, processing of Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner kits, expertise in specialized techniques, etc.
- Prosecution

Stienburg responded to a number of questions from the Board. It was confirmed that when Officers are working with victims they wear casual, plain clothes and are not in uniform while the interviews are taking place. Furthermore, in response to questions surrounding HRP's involvement in the prevention of sexual assault, Stienburg noted that Liaison Officers often give presentations at schools (including Dalhousie University, Saint Mary's University, and Mount Saint Vincent University). Stienburg also spoke to the precautions taken to ensure cases do not fall through the cracks. Specifically, it was noted that the investigators are all very invested in their cases and remain in close contact with victims to provide resources and support.

The Board discussed Victim Services Officers (VSOs) at great length. Specific questions posed by the Board include the following:

- When do VSOs begin working with individuals?
 - Victim Services is notified through Versadex as soon as a sexual assault is reported. Victims are contacted within a week of this date
- How many VSOs are currently employed by HRP?
 - Four (4) paid Officers and 90 volunteers, 30 of which are specifically assigned to sexual assault investigations

- What type of debriefing takes place for volunteers? Is there a standard in place to check in with volunteers? Are volunteers fully-resourced to be effective at what they do?
 - The response from the public is that VSOs are very effective in their positions. VSOs receive supervision as part of the ongoing process. It was further noted that check-ins are included as part of the training received by staff
 - The Board expressed interest in receiving a presentation from HRP on the training and resources provided to VSOs

9.1.3 2019 Work Plan Document

The following was before the Board of Police Commissioners:

- Draft Board of Police Commissioners 2019 Work Plan

Commissioner Borden thanked the Board for engaging in the Work Plan session and gave an overview of the 2019 Work Plan Document. Additionally, Commissioner Borden requested that members of the Board identify their items of interest by November 25, 2019 so that assignments may be drafted.

9.2 MEMBERS OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

9.3 COMMISSIONER UPDATES

9.3.1 Management Employee Relations Committee - Update

Commissioner Borden noted that there had not been a meeting of the Management Employee Relations Committee since the last meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners. No update that was provided to the Board.

9.3.2 Canadian Association of Police Governance Board – Update

Commissioner McDougall noted that the Canadian Association of Police Governance Board met with the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police and the Canadian Association of Police at the end of September 2019 and will be meeting again on November 19, 2019 via conference call.

9.3.3 Nova Scotia Association of Police Governance Board – Update

Commissioner McDougall noted that a meeting with the Nova Scotia Association of Police Governance Board will take place on November 28, 2019 in Truro, Nova Scotia.

9.4 HRP/RCMP CHIEF UPDATES

RCMP:

Chris Leather provided the RCMP update in Chief Superintendent Gray's absence. It was noted that the RCMP's current priorities are the street check apology and the number of changes at the Criminal Investigation Division (CID). In response to questions from the Board, Leather confirmed that additional consultation on the street check apology is taking place with the province and that it is an ongoing priority for the Department.

HRP:

Chief Kinsella provided the HRP update. It was noted that the staffing issues in the CID are prevalent, however the vacant positions will be filled as soon as possible. The Chief stated that various hiring and/or promotional processes have already begun, the results of which are expected by the end of December 2019. Additionally, the Chief noted that a number of Officers attended the November 11, 2019 Remembrance Day Ceremony at Grand Parade and that in the week prior to the current meeting, HRP hosted the 2019 Major Crime Investigations Conference. Finally, the Chief noted that the invitations for HRP's street check apology had been sent out and that the Board should receive them shortly.

9.5 PROPOSED 2020 BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING SCHEDULE

The following was before the Board of Police Commissioners:

- A staff recommendation report dated November 14, 2019

Robyn Dean, Legislative Assistant, noted that there will be no October meeting due to the scheduled election.

MOVED by Commissioner McDougall, seconded by Commissioner Blackburn

THAT the Board of Police Commissioners approve the proposed 2020 meeting schedule as outlined in Attachment 1 of the staff report dated November 14, 2019.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10. ADDED ITEMS

11. ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

12. IN CAMERA (In Private)

12.1 Approval of In Camera (In Private) Minutes – October 21, 2019

This item was dealt with by the Board in public.

MOVED by Commissioner Mancini, seconded by Commissioner Beals

THAT the Board of Police Commissioners approve the October 21, 2019 In Camera (In Private) minutes as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

13. NOTICES OF MOTION – NONE

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- December 16, 2019 at the Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre, 2158 Gottingen St, Halifax
- January 20, 2020 at Halifax Hall, 2nd Floor City Hall, 1841 Argyle St, Halifax

15. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:51 p.m.

Robyn Dean
Legislative Assistant