



**BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS  
SPECIAL MEETING  
April 19, 2021**

PRESENT: Commissioner Lindell Smith  
Commissioner Carole McDougall, Vice Chair  
Commissioner Lisa Blackburn  
Commissioner Becky Kent  
Commissioner Anthony Thomas

REGRETS: Commissioner Carlos Beals

STAFF: Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer  
Martin Ward, Solicitor  
Katherine Salsman, Solicitor  
Chief Dan Kinsella, Halifax Regional Police  
Chief Superintendent Janis Gray, Halifax District Royal Canadian Mounted Police  
Iain MacLean, Municipal Clerk  
Andrea Lovasi-Wood, Legislative Assistant

*The following does not represent a verbatim record of the proceedings of this meeting.*

*The agenda, reports, supporting documents, and information items circulated are online at [halifax.ca](http://halifax.ca).*

**Board of Police Commissioners Special Meeting Minutes  
April 19, 2021**

*The meeting was called to order at 12:40 p.m. and recessed at 1:05 p.m. The Board reconvened at 1:07 p.m. and recessed at 1:54 p.m. Th Board reconvened at 1:58 p.m moved into an In Camera (In Private) session at 3:14 p.m. The Board reconvened at 4:06 p.m. and adjourned at 4:07 p.m.*

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Lindell Smith, Chair called the meeting to order at 12:40 p.m. and acknowledged that the meeting took place in the traditional and ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq people, who are the original peoples.

The Chair noted that a two minute moment of silence to honour the memories of the Portapique victims would be held during the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

The Chair noted the resignation of Natalie Borden from the Board of Police Commissioners and thanked former Commissioner Borden for their service to the Board.

**2. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Commissioners noted several special community announcements.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 8, 2021**

MOVED by Commissioner McDougall, seconded by Commissioner Blackburn

**THAT the minutes of March 8, 2021 be approved as circulated.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

*Additions: NONE*

*Deletions: NONE*

MOVED by Commissioner Blackburn, seconded by Commissioner McDougall

**THAT the agenda be approved as presented.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES – NONE**

**6. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS – NONE**

**7. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE**

**8. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS**

**8.1 Correspondence**

Iain MacLean, Municipal Clerk noted that general correspondence was received from Bob Found, Kaelen MacDonald, Brian Middleton, Dave St. Laurent, Ken Cashin, Maureen Betts, Brad Hartman, Steven Kaszab, Kimberley Dares and Michel P. Spears. This correspondence was circulated to the Committee.

**8.2 Petitions – NONE**

**8.3 Presentations – NONE**

**9. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE**

## **10. REPORTS/DISCUSSION**

### **10.1 STAFF**

#### **10.1.1 HRM Wortley Report Recommendations – Update**

- **Preparation for Two Year Wortley Report Summary**

The Board discussed the elements they wish to have included in the two year Wortley Report Summary. The Board determined that the report should be written for the public. The two year report should be comprehensive in nature indicating the Wortley recommendations accomplished and still to be achieved, detail the initiatives regarding race-based data collection, a of timeline of events from the issuance of the Wortley Report, an excerpt of the letter from the Human Rights Commission and perhaps the Commission's opinion of the work achieved so far. There should also be a focus on communications and relationship with the community.

Chief Dan Kinsella, Halifax Regional Police, indicated that much of the work on police and community relations will continue after this two year period.

#### **10.1.2 Halifax Regional Police Information Technology Audit Action Plan**

The following was before the Board of Police Commissioners:

- A staff report dated April 19, 2021

Chief Dan Kinsella, Halifax Regional Police, updated the Board on the progress with the Halifax Regional Police Information Technology (IT) Audit Action Plan and Halifax Regional Police's commitment to achieve the Auditor General's recommendations. Kinsella advised the Board that the action plan update will be provided quarterly or bi-monthly with the next update to be provided at the June meeting. Kinsella answered Board questions.

#### **10.1.3 Halifax Regional Police & Royal Canadian Mounted Police Financial Reporting**

The following was before the Board of Police Commissioners:

- A staff recommendation report dated April 19, 2021 from Halifax Regional Police
- A staff report dated April 19, 2021 from Halifax District Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Chief Dan Kinsella, Halifax Regional Police, provided the Board an overview of Halifax Regional Police's 2020/21 – third quarter financial update and answered Board questions. Kinsella noted a correction to the reporting date in the staff report, the reporting date is December 31, 2020 not December 31, 2021.

Chief Superintendent Janis Gray, Halifax District Royal Canadian Mounted Police provided the Board an overview of the Halifax District's year by year budget analysis as of March 31, 2021 and answered Board questions.

Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer, answered Board questions regarding the contract structure between the provincial and federal governments for the provision of RCMP service to HRM. Dubé also advised the Board that if they want more information regarding the RCMP budget for discretionary items the Board needs to ask for specific questions to be answered through the Chief Administrative Officer, NSFM, the contract management committee, or the Director of Policing Services.

#### **10.1.4 Halifax Regional Police & Royal Canadian Mounted Police Strategic Plan Updates**

The following was before the Board of Police Commissioners:

- A staff recommendation report dated April 19, 2021 from Halifax Regional Police
- A staff report dated April 19, 2021 from Halifax District Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Chief Dan Kinsella, Halifax Regional Police, referred the Board to the staff report for an update of Halifax Regional Police's progress with their strategic plan and answered Board questions.

At 2:00 pm Chief Superintendent Janis Gray, Halifax District Royal Canadian Mounted Police, provided remarks to honour the memory of the 22 Portapique victims, including Heidi Stevenson, this was followed by the Board of Police Commissioners holding a two minute moment of silence as a sign of remembrance.

Chief Superintendent Janis Gray, Halifax District Royal Canadian Mounted Police advised the Board of the Halifax District's Operations key deliverables for 2021/22 and answered Board questions.

#### **10.1.5 Royal Canadian Mounted Police Request for Board of Police Commissioners to Support Redirection of Funds**

The following was before the Board of Police Commissioners:

- A staff letter to Board of Police Commissioner Chair Smith dated March 29, 2021

Chief Superintendent Janis Gray, Halifax District Royal Canadian Mounted Police provided the Board an overview of the Halifax District's letter to the Board asking for support of the Halifax District's request to redirect funds from the Halifax Regional Police budget to the Halifax District to allow for the staffing of two criminal analysts as RCMP public service employees and not as municipal employees via the Halifax Regional Police as they are currently staffed and funded.

Chief Dan Kinsella, Halifax Regional Police, confirmed agreement with the Halifax District's request.

Gray, Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer, and Martin Ward, Solicitor, advised the Board of the process to communicate Board acceptance of the RCMP request to the CAO and HRM's Chief Financial Officer.

Moved by Commissioner Blackburn, seconded by Commissioner McDougall

**THAT the Board of Police Commissioners received the letter contained in item 10.1.5 as information and endorse the request by Halifax District Royal Canadian Mounted Police to redirect funds from the Halifax Regional Police budget to the Halifax District Royal Canadian Mounted Police to allow for the staffing of the current two criminal analysts as RCMP public service employees.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

#### **10.1.6 Independent Legal Counsel for Board of Police Commissioners**

The following was before the Board of Police Commissioners:

- A staff recommendation report dated March 4, 2021

Katherine Salsman, Solicitor, provided the Board an overview of the report on independent legal counsel for the Board of Police Commissioners. Salsman indicated that upon completion of their research it is recommended that the Board seek ad hoc independent legal counsel when a specific issue arises via a request by motion at a meeting to the municipal solicitor, Chief Administrative Officer or Regional Council.

Martin Ward, Solicitor, clarified the differences between Nova Scotia's policing model and the model used in other Canadian provinces. In other parts of Canada police departments report directly to the police commission who is responsible for policing, not the municipality. In Nova Scotia municipalities are ultimately responsible for policing and if the municipality creates a police department that municipality must create a municipal police commission that oversees police governance on behalf of a municipality's council.

Ward noted that a perceived conflict between the Board, as a committee of Regional Council, and Halifax Regional Police would be rare. Ward advised that the Board should weigh the perceived conflict of interest with the reality that at most Board meetings the legal counsel provided is procedural and is best provided by HRM solicitors who are subject matter experts in municipal procedure and legislation.

Ward answered Board questions regarding the process that should be used in the future if the Board wishes to pass a motion requesting independent legal advice. The process should include Board discussion of the item followed by Board deferment of the item pending the Board's receipt of independent legal opinion. The motion seeking deferment would specify that the request for independent legal counsel, including setting of budget, would be forwarded to municipal solicitor, CAO or Regional Council. Ward advised that the Board could consider a motion at a future meeting regarding a formalized process to set an ongoing budget for such requests.

MOVED by Commissioner Kent, seconded by Commissioner McDougall

**THAT the Board of Police Commissioners endorse the use of occasional ad hoc independent legal advice as required, by way of a motion at a meeting where the need arises. This may be requested of either the Municipal Solicitor, CAO or Regional Council depending on the need for funding and/or budget approval.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

## **10.2 MEMBERS OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS**

### **10.2.1 Commissioner Smith – BOPC Committee to Define Defunding Police**

Commissioner Smith updated the Board regarding the progress of the Committee to Define Defunding Police. Smith indicated that the Committee is considering public engagement via small targeted focus groups, which may be in person and might include expenses for child care/snacks. As well, there will be one to two larger virtual public engagement sessions. Details regarding honorariums and the draft community survey will be forwarded for Board review and comment. The timeline for public engagement sessions still needs to be concluded. The submission date for the Committee's final report and recommendations is set for the end of June.

### **10.2.2 Commissioner Smith – Canadian Association of Police Governance, Governance Summit**

Commissioner Smith advised the Board of the Canadian Association of Police Governance, Governance Summit on April 27 and June 30, 2021 and detailed the benefit of Commissioners attending the governance summits including how to develop policies around body worn cameras.

Commissioners Kent and McDougall expressed an interest in attending the virtual summit which includes attendance for up to ten participants. The Board asked that after attendance that a report be submitted regarding lessons learned to the Board.

MOVED by Commissioner McDougall, seconded by Commissioner Kent

**THAT the Board of Police Commissioners approve Commissioners Kent and McDougall, and up to 8 additional participants to attend the Canadian Association of Police Governance, Governance Summit to be held virtually on April 27 and June 30, 2021 on behalf of the Board of Police Commissioners Halifax Regional Municipality.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

### **10.3 COMMISSIONER UPDATES**

#### **10.3.1 Management Employee Relations Committee**

Commissioner Smith provided an update of the most recent Halifax Regional Police Management Employee Relations Committee including progress on Journey to Change training.

### **10.4 HALIFAX REGIONAL POLICE/ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE CHIEF UPDATES**

Chief Kinsella, Halifax Regional Police, and Chief Superintendent Janis Gray, Halifax District Royal Canadian Mounted Police, updated the Board on recent initiatives and answered Board questions.

### **11. ADDED ITEMS – NONE**

### **12. ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION – NONE**

### **13. IN CAMERA (In Private)**

MOVED by Commissioner Blackburn, seconded by Commissioner Kent

**THAT the Board of Police Commissioners convene to In Camera (In Private) to discuss a Private and Confidential In Camera (In Private) Information Report - re: Security Matter.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

### **Private and Confidential Information Items**

1. Private and Confidential In Camera (In Private) Information Report - re: Security Matter

### **14. NOTICES OF MOTION**

### **15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – May 17, 2021**

### **16. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 4:07 p.m.

Andrea Lovasi-Wood  
Legislative Assistant