



BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS for the HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

MINUTES April 2, 2025

PRESENT:

Commissioner Greg O'Malley, Chair
Commissioner Becky Kent, Vice Chair
Commissioner Tony Mancini
Commissioner Virginia Hinch
Commissioner Vincent Beswick-Escanlar

REGRETS:

Commissioner Yemi Akindoju

STAFF:

John Traves, K.C., CD, Municipal Solicitor/Chief Governance Officer
Martin Ward, Solicitor
Andrea Lovasi-Wood, Legislative Assistant
Simon Ross-Siegel, 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.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Commissioner Greg O'Malley, Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 1:17 p.m. and acknowledged that the meeting took place in the traditional and ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq people, and that we are all treaty people.

1.1 Swearing In of Commissioner Vincent Beswick-Escanlar

Vincent Beswick-Escanlar was sworn in as a Commissioner of the Board of Police Commissioners for the Halifax Regional Municipality.

1.2 Election of Chair

Andrea Lovasi-Wood, Legislative Assistant called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Board of Police Commissioners for the Halifax Regional Municipality.

MOVED by Commissioner Mancini, seconded by Commissioner Hinch

THAT Commissioner O'Malley be nominated Chair of the Board of Police Commissioners for the Halifax Regional Municipality.

Commissioner O'Malley was declared the successful nominee.

MOVED by Commissioner Mancini, seconded by Commissioner Hinch

THAT Commissioner O'Malley be appointed Chair of the Board of Police Commissioners for the Halifax Regional Municipality.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Commissioner O'Malley was declared the Chair of the Board of Police Commissioners for the Halifax Regional Municipality.

Commissioner O'Malley assumed the Chair.

Due to the election of Commissioner O'Malley to Chair, the Board was required to proceed with the election of Vice Chair.

1.3 Election of Vice Chair

Commissioner O'Malley called for nominations for the position of Vice Chair of the Board of Police Commissioners for the Halifax Regional Municipality.

MOVED by Commissioner Mancini, seconded by Commissioner Hinch

THAT Commissioner Kent be nominated Vice Chair of the Board of Police Commissioners for the Halifax Regional Municipality.

Commissioner Kent was declared the successful nominee.

MOVED by Commissioner Hinch, seconded by Commissioner Mancini

THAT Commissioner Kent be appointed Vice Chair of the Board of Police Commissioners for the Halifax Regional Municipality.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Commissioner Kent was declared the Vice Chair of the Board of Police Commissioners for the Halifax Regional Municipality.

2. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS – NONE

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 3, 2025

MOVED by Commissioner Mancini, seconded by Commissioner Beswick-Escanlar

THAT the minutes of March 3, 2025 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

As provided for in section 10 (5) of Administrative Policy One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Board of Police Commissioners*, Commissioner Mancini requested that Information Item 4 The Police Response to Hate Crimes & Hate Incidents in Halifax and Information Item 5 Wortley Report Progress Update: Summary of recommendations – update, be brought forward to a future Board of Police Commissioners meeting.

MOVED by Commissioner Kent, seconded by Commissioner Mancini

THAT the agenda be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Later in the meeting, as provided for in section 35 (1) of Administrative Policy One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Board of Police Commissioners*, Commissioner Mancini requested that Item 10.2.2 Halifax Regional Police Victim Services Unit on Intimate Partner Violence Initiatives – Presentation be considered prior to Item 10.2.1 Community Safety Update on Public Safety Strategy and Crisis Response – Presentation.

Later in the meeting, it was MOVED by Commissioner Kent, seconded by Commissioner Mancini

THAT the following item be deferred to the June 4, 2025 meeting of Board of Police Commissioners:

- **Item 10.2.1 Community Safety Update on Public Safety Strategy and Crisis Response – Presentation**

MOTION TO DEFER 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 – None

8.2 Petitions – None

8.3 Presentations

8.3.1 Elizabeth Fry Society of Mainland NS Presentation on Intimate Partner Violence

The following was before the Board:

- Presentation dated April 2, 2025

Emma Halpern, Executive Director, Elizabeth Fry Society of Mainland Nova Scotia gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Board.

9. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

10. REPORTS/DISCUSSION

10.1 HALIFAX REGIONAL POLICE/ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HALIFAX REGIONAL DETACHMENT CHIEF UPDATES

Superintendent Don Moser, Acting Officer in Charge, Royal Canadian Mounted Police Halifax Regional Detachment (RCMP HRD) spoke to two recent RCMP HRD led town hall public engagements, key operational updates, upcoming events and responded to questions of clarification from the Board.

Chief Don MacLean, Halifax Regional Police (HRP) spoke to key operational updates, staffing and recruitment updates, HRP policies recently shared on the HRP website, past and upcoming events and responded to questions of clarification from the Board. MacLean spoke to recent incidents involving targeted individuals, HRP's policy regarding the use of the mass notification system, and police efforts to confiscate unlicensed firearms. MacLean also spoke to HRP's policy regarding the use of conducted energy weapons including taser devices.

Moser and MacLean spoke to trauma informed response approaches to matters involving intimate partner violence.

10.2 STAFF

10.2.1 Community Safety Update on Public Safety Strategy and Crisis Response – Presentation

The following was before the Board:

- Handout dated April 2, 2025
- Staff presentation dated April 2, 2025

This matter was deferred; refer to the Order of Business.

10.2.2 Halifax Regional Police Victim Services Unit on Intimate Partner Violence Initiatives – Presentation

The following was before the Board:

- Staff presentation dated April 2, 2025

Dolly Mosher, Coordinator, Halifax Regional Police Victim Services gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Board. Mosher spoke to ongoing training, funding and other resourcing.

Superintendent Don Moser, Royal Canadian Mounted Police Halifax Regional Detachment responded to questions of clarification from the Board.

10.2.3 Appointment to the Nova Scotia Association of Police Governance Board

The following was before the Board:

- Staff report dated March 24, 2025

Joshua Bates, Policing Policy Strategist responded to questions of clarification from the Board.

MOVED by Commissioner Mancini, seconded by Commissioner Beswick-Escanlar

THAT the Board of Police Commissioners for Halifax Regional Municipality appoint one member to serve on the Nova Scotia Association of Police Governance board.

MOVED by Commissioner Mancini, seconded by Commissioner Beswick-Escanlar

THAT the Board of Police Commissioners for Halifax Regional Municipality nominate Commissioner Kent to serve on the Nova Scotia Association of Police Governance board.

Commissioner Kent was declared the successful nominee.

The motion now read:

MOVED by Commissioner Mancini, seconded by Commissioner Beswick-Escanlar

THAT the Board of Police Commissioners for Halifax Regional Municipality appoint Commissioner Kent to serve on the Nova Scotia Association of Police Governance board.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

11. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

12. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE)

12.1 In Camera (In Private) Minutes – March 3, 2025

This matter was dealt with in public.

MOVED by Commissioner Kent, seconded by Commissioner Mancini

THAT the In Camera (In Private) minutes of March 3, 2025 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

13. NOTICES OF MOTION – NONE

13.1 Commissioner Mancini

TAKE NOTICE that, at a future meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners for the Halifax Regional Municipality, I intend to move a motion to request a staff report from Halifax Regional Police evaluating the performance of and findings to date from the use of the RCMP H Division (Nova Scotia) Sexual Assault Investigations Review Committee (SAIRC) process in the review of sexual assault cases which did not lead to arrest.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – June 4, 2025

15. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:31 p.m.

Simon Ross-Siegel
Legislative Assistant