



**BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES  
April 15, 2019**

**PRESENT:** Commissioner Steve Craig, Chair  
Commissioner Carole McDougall, Vice-Chair  
Commissioner Tony Mancini  
Commissioner Natalie Borden  
Commissioner Lindell Smith  
Commissioner Carlos Beals

**REGRETS:** Commissioner Anthony Thomas

**STAFF:** Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer  
Superintendent Don MacLean, Halifax Regional Police  
Inspector Robert Doyle, Halifax District Detachment, RCMP  
Martin Ward, Solicitor  
David Perusse, 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](http://www.halifax.ca)*

*The meeting was called to order at 12:34 p.m. and adjourned at 2:48 p.m.*

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 18, 2019 & March 25, 2019**

MOVED by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner McDougall

**THAT the minutes of March 18, 2019 and March 25, 2019 be approved.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

MOVED by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Borden

**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**

**7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS**

**7.1 Correspondence**

The Legislative Assistant noted that the Municipal Clerk's Office received correspondence relating to item 9.2.2. This correspondence was circulated to the Board.

For a detailed list of correspondence received, refer to the specific item.

**7.2 Petitions - None**

**7.3 Presentations - None**

**8. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD - NONE**

**9. REPORTS**

**9.1 STAFF**

**9.1.1 Armoured Rescue Vehicles – Presentation – Inspector Jim Butler**

The following was before the Board:

- A staff presentation titled "Information on Armoured Rescue Vehicles (ARV)"

Inspector Jim Butler, Halifax Regional Police, provided the Board with a presentation on Armoured Rescue Vehicles (ARV), including an overview of their functions, available models, and the operational needs of the HRP.

Responding to questions from members of the Board, Inspector Butler noted that the vehicles generally range in cost from \$300,000 to \$500,000. This would not come from the HRP budget, but rather, the HRM fleet budget. They further noted that there are policies in place that would dictate the operational use of these vehicles.

The Chair thanked Inspector Butler for the presentation.

## **9.2 MEMBERS OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS**

### **9.2.1 Proposal for Changes to Board Statistics Reporting – Commissioner Borden**

The following was before the Board:

- A report from Commissioner Borden dated April 15, 2019

Commissioner Borden spoke to the Board about the proposed changes to statistics reporting, noting that the feedback and recommendations provided by Commissioners and staff at the January 15, 2019 meeting of the Board have been incorporated into the updated recommendations.

MOVED by Commissioner Borden, seconded by Commissioner McDougall

**THAT the Board of Police Commissioners approve the changes to statistics reporting to the Board, and adopt the reporting templates, as outlined in the report dated April 15, 2019.**

Members of the Board provided further feedback on the recommendations, including that public complaint statistics be included, and the inclusion of an additional column outlining the risk if a task outlined in the Strategic Plan is not completed.

### **MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

The Chair thanked Commissioner Borden for their work.

### **9.2.2 Wortley Report**

The following was before the Board:

- A report by Dr. Scot Wortley on Street Checks in Halifax
- Correspondence submitted by Sarah Hechavarria, Laura MacDonald, and Councillor Shawn Cleary

#### **9.2.2.1 Police Complaints Procedure Presentation**

The following was before the Board:

- A staff presentation titled "Halifax Regional Municipality Police Complaints Process"

Superintendent Don MacLean, Halifax Regional Police, and Inspector Robert Doyle, Halifax District Detachment, RCMP, provided the Board with a presentation on the Police Complaints Process for policing services in the Halifax Regional Municipality. The presentation outlined the differences in the process between the HRP and RCMP, as well as the general steps the public can take in filing a complaint.

Responding to questions from members of the Board, Superintendent MacLean and Inspector Doyle noted that complaints are generally first handled by their home agency. If a member of the public is not satisfied with the resolution of their complaint and wish to appeal, then it would go to the Police Complaints Commissioner, an independent review body. The Serious Incident Response Team (SIRT) is independent from police services and does not handle police complaints. They noted that an independent review body like SIRT could be possible, but would require legislative direction from the Province. They further noted that demographic information is generally not collected in the complaints process for either police service.

Commissioner McDougall noted that more work needs to be done to increase the public's awareness of how they can file a complaint, and clarity on how complaints are handled once submitted.

MOVED by Commissioner McDougall, seconded by Commissioner Mancini

**THAT the Board of Police Commissioners request that the communications teams for the Halifax Regional Police and the Halifax District RCMP, work together to develop and deliver an effective public awareness campaign for their respective public complaints processes.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

The Chair thanked Superintendent MacLean and Inspector Doyle for their presentation.

#### **9.2.2.2 Actions on Minister's Directive**

Speaking to the item, the Chair explained that shortly after the Wortley report was released, Justice Minister Mark Furey provided directives to police services relating to street checks. These directives included that any quotas for street checks be removed, and that all members read the Wortley Report and their services' respective codes of conduct.

The Chair asked that Superintendent MacLean and Inspector Doyle provide the Board with an update on the steps that their respective police services have taken following the Minister's directive.

Inspector Doyle noted that in addition to directing all Halifax District RCMP members to read the Wortley Report, members were also directed to read the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, as well as the RCMP's Code of Conduct. They further noted that the Code of Conduct has also been made available to the public via the Board of Police Commissioner's webpage. Additionally, members were provided with access to an African Canadian experience course.

Superintendent MacLean noted that in addition to the actions outlined in the Minister's directive, HRP have also directed all members to read the HRP's Code of Ethics, as well as the HRP's Policy on Street Checks; both of which have also been made available to the public via the Board of Police Commissioner's webpage.

The Chair thanked Superintendent MacLean and Inspector Doyle for the update.

### 9.2.2.3 Legal Overview on Street Checks

Martin Ward, HRM Legal Services, provided the Board with an overview of the legality of Street Checks as a policing method, noting that the legal authority generally arises from the Common Law, but is limited by the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. With regards to the Board of Police Commissioners' role in regulating street checks, Ward noted that the Board is tasked with civilian oversight and governance of police services in the Municipality on behalf of Halifax Regional Council. With regards to street checks, the Board's authority is largely limited to policy direction, rather than operational matters, as outlined in the *Police Act*.

Ward noted that although the Board's authority to act on the recommendations set out in the Wortley Report are somewhat limited, the Board is able to make recommendations to the Minister of Justice and policing services.

The Chair thanked Ward for the overview.

### 9.2.2.4 Discussion of Wortley Report Options

The Board discussed the options set out in the Wortley report relating to street checks. There was a general acknowledgement among Commissioners that the report reflects how street checks have been abused, resulting in the need for real actions to be taken to address this issue. Noting that the Board's authority on the matter is largely limited to forwarding recommendations, Commissioners noted that the circumstances call for a moratorium on street checks as well as a firm acknowledgement and apology for the harm caused by the disproportionate application of street checks.

MOVED by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Beals

#### **THAT the Board of Police Commissioners:**

- 1. Recommend that the Chief of the Halifax Regional Police and the Chief Superintendent of the RCMP, Halifax District, suspend street checks pending the receipt and adoption of policy from the report requested September 18, 2017, to establish a street checks policy after receipt of the Halifax Street Checks Report;**
- 2. Formally recognize that the practices of police checks has disproportionately affected the African Nova Scotian community and prepare a joint statement with the Chief of Police and Chief Superintendent to formally apologize to the African Nova Scotian community; and**
- 3. Direct the Chair of the Board of Police Commissioners to prepare and send a letter to the Nova Scotia Minister of Justice outlining the Board's position on street checks, as well as its recommendation to the Halifax Regional Police, and the RCMP, Halifax District.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

### 9.3 COMMISSIONER UPDATES - NONE

### 9.4 HRP/RCMP CHIEF UPDATES

Inspector Doyle provided the Board with an update, noting that the Halifax District RCMP have recorded a significant increase in cellphone related motor vehicle accidents. As a result, Halifax District members are working to combat this trend.

Superintendent MacLean provided the Board with an update, noting that the annual Halifax Regional Police Volunteer Appreciation Dinner took place on April 11, 2019.

The Chair thanked Superintendent MacLean and Inspector Doyle for the updates.

**10. ADDED ITEMS - NONE**

**11. IN CAMERA (In Private)**

*The Board of Police Commissioners may rise and go into a private In Camera (In Private) session, in accordance with Section 51 of the Nova Scotia Police Act for the purposes of dealing with the following;*

**11.1 Approval of In Camera (In Private) Minutes – March 18, 2019 & March 25, 2019**

The Board agreed to deal with this item during public session.

MOVED by Commissioner Borden, seconded by Commissioner Beals

**THAT the Board of Police Commissioners approve the March 18, 2019 & March 25, 2019 In Camera (In Private) minutes as presented.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**12. NOTICES OF MOTION - NONE**

**13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

- May 13, 2019
- June 17, 2019

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 2:48 p.m.

David Perusse  
Legislative Assistant