



**BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES  
March 21, 2022**

**PRESENT:** Commissioner Lindell Smith, Chair  
Commissioner Carole McDougall, Vice Chair  
Commissioner Lisa Blackburn  
Commissioner Harry Critchley  
Commissioner Becky Kent

**REGRETS:** Commissioner Yemi Akindoju  
Commissioner Anthony Thomas

**STAFF:** Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer  
Martin Ward, Solicitor  
Chief Dan Kinsella, Halifax Regional Police  
Acting Chief Superintendent Darren Campbell, 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).*

*The meeting was called to order at 12:33 p.m., and recessed at 2:20 p.m. the Board of Police Commissioners reconvened in at 2:30 p.m. the Board of Police Commissioners adjourned at 4:08 p.m.*

## **1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:33 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.

## **2. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Commissioners noted special community announcements and acknowledgements.

## **3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 28, 2022 and March 9, 2022**

MOVED by Commissioner Critchley, seconded by Commissioner McDougall

**THAT the minutes of February 28, 2022 and March 9, 2022 be approved as circulated.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

Additions:

- Item 11.1 – Commissioner Critchley – Special presentation from Sunny Mariner, Canadian lead on Violence Against Women Advocate Case Review

Deletions:

- Item 10.2.4 Commissioner Critchley – Independent legal opinion regarding the Board's jurisdiction as it relates to the review and approval of the annual HRP budget proposal

MOVED by Commissioner Blackburn, seconded by Commissioner Critchley,

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

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

## **5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES**

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

## **7. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS**

### **7.1 Review of Proposed Board of Police Commissioners 2022 Meeting Schedule – December 13, 2021**

The following was before the Board of Police Commissioners:

- Staff recommendation report dated February 7, 2022

MOVED by Commissioner Blackburn, seconded by Commissioner McDougall

**THAT the Board of Police Commissioners approve the proposed 2022 meeting schedule until June 2022 as outlined in Attachment 1 of the February 7, 2022 staff report.**

Iain MacLean, Municipal Clerk responded to questions of clarification from the Board of Police Commissioners.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**7.2 Commissioner Critchley – Human Resources consultant to study the issues of understaffing and increased mental health claims within the Halifax Regional Police – February 28, 2022**

The motion on the floor read:

MOVED by Commissioner Critchley, seconded by Commissioner Blackburn

**THAT the Chair of the Board of Police Commissioners direct the Chief Officer of the Halifax Regional Police (HRP) to, in consultation with and with the approval of the Board of Police Commissioners, hire a Human Resources consultant to study the issues of understaffing, increased mental health claims, and increased long-term absences within the Halifax Regional Police. The objective of this study would be to present a report to the Board of Police Commission which would outline:**

- a) the contributing factors giving rise to these issues; and**
- b) recommendations for addressing these issues in the short, medium, and long term.**

**This report could then inform budget deliberations in future fiscal years.**

Laura Nolan, Acting Executive Director Human Resources & Corporate Communications advised the Board of Police Commissioners regarding the human resources staffing that Human Resources & Corporate Communications currently provide Halifax Regional Police and responded to questions of clarification from the Board of Police Commissioners.

Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer responded to questions of clarification from the Board of Police Commissioners.

Commissioner Critchley proposed that the motion be amended to request the Chief Administrative Officer work in collaboration with the Chief of Halifax Regional Police to direct HRM human resources staff to conduct the study. As provided for in section 53 (2) of Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, the amendment was accepted as friendly.

The motion as amended now read:

MOVED by Commissioner Critchley, seconded by Commissioner Blackburn

**THAT the Board of Police Commissioners request that the Chief Administrative Officer in collaboration with the Chief Officer of the Halifax Regional Police to, in consultation with and with the approval of the Board of Police Commissioners, direct Human Resources & Corporate Communications to study the issues of understaffing, increased mental health claims, and increased long-term absences within the Halifax Regional Police. The objective of this study would be to present a report to the Board of Police Commission which would outline:**

- a) the contributing factors giving rise to these issues; and**
- b) recommendations for addressing these issues in the short, medium, and long term.**

**This report could then inform budget deliberations in future fiscal years.**

**MOTION AS AMENDED PUT AND PASSED.**

**8. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS**

**8.1 Correspondence**

Correspondence was received and circulated for item 8.3.1.

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

## **8.2 Petitions – None**

## **8.3 Presentation**

### **8.3.1 Presentation – Policing and Family Violence Against Men – Kelsey Green**

The following was before the Board of Police Commissioners:

- Correspondence from Kelsey Green
- Presentation dated March 21, 2022

Kelsey Green gave a presentation on family violence, equal parenting, the need to improve police response to family violence incidents and the enforcement of family court orders, as well as a proposal to develop a non-ideological collaborative consultation approach to family violence. Green responded to questions of clarification from the Board of Police Commissioners.

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

## **10. REPORTS**

### **10.1 STAFF**

#### **10.1.1 Wortley Report Progress Update**

The following was before the Board of Police Commissioners:

- Wortley Report Progress Update tracking document dated March 2022
- Information report from Halifax District Royal Canadian Mounted Police dated March 18, 2022

Chief Dan Kinsella, Halifax Regional Police and Acting Chief Superintendent Darren Campbell, Halifax District Royal Canadian Mounted Police (Halifax District RCMP) responded to questions of clarification from the Board of Police Commissioners.

Neera Ritcey, Divisional Manager, Corporate Affairs, Halifax Regional Police responded to questions of clarification from the Board of Police Commissioners.

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

#### **10.2.1 Commissioner Critchley - Staff report on section 51 of the Police Act**

The following was before the Board of Police Commissioners:

- Request for Board of Police Commissioners' consideration form submitted by Commissioner Critchley

MOVED by Commissioner Critchley, seconded by Commissioner Blackburn

**That the Board of Police Commissioners request a staff report from HRM Legal Services clarifying the meaning of the phrases “discipline,” “personnel conduct,” “contract negotiations,” and “security of police operations” in section 51 of the Police Act (collectively, the “grounds” for going in camera). The staff report should provide a definition for each of these phrases and explain what evidence is required under each ground before the Board can move in camera.**

Martin Ward, Solicitor advised the Board of Police Commissioners regarding whether it is necessary to further standardize the in camera process and responded to questions of clarification from the Board of Police Commissioners.

Iain MacLean, Municipal Clerk responded to questions of clarification from the Board of Police Commissioners.

Commissioner Critchley proposed that the motion be amended to request that the Chief Administrative Officer review the Board of Police Commissioners procedures for going in camera and include these procedures in the Commission's Policy Manual. As provided for in section 53 (2) of Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, the amendment was accepted as friendly.

The motion as amended now read:

MOVED by Commissioner Critchley, seconded by Commissioner Blackburn

**THAT the Board of Police Commissioners request that the Chief Administrative Officer review the Board of Police Commissioners procedures for going in camera and include these procedures in the Commission's Policy Manual.**

**MOTION AS AMENDED PUT AND PASSED.**

**10.2.2 Commissioner Critchley – Staff report regarding ongoing HRP policies and procedures review**

The following was before the Board of Police Commissioners:

- Request for Board of Police Commissioners' consideration form submitted by Commissioner Critchley

MOVED by Commissioner Critchley, seconded by Commissioner Blackburn

**THAT the Chair of the Board of the Police Commissioners direct the Chief Officer of the Halifax Regional Police to draft a staff report providing details regarding their ongoing policies and procedures review.**

Chief Dan Kinsella, Halifax Regional Police advised the Board of Police Commissioners that an information report and presentation on the issue is scheduled to be submitted at the Commission's May or June meeting and responded to questions of clarification from the Board of Police Commissioners.

As provided for in section 66 of Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, the motion was withdrawn with consent of the Board of Police Commissioners.

**10.2.3 Commissioner Critchley – Staff report intended to develop a new, statutorily compliant review and approval process for the annual HRP budget**

The following was before the Board of Police Commissioners:

- Request for Board of Police Commissioners' consideration form submitted by Commissioner Critchley

MOVED by Commissioner Critchley, seconded by Commissioner Kent

**THAT the Board of Police Commissioners request a staff report from HRM Legal and Financial Services for the purpose of developing a new budget review and approval process for the 2023/24 fiscal year which is in compliance with the Police Act.**

Martin Ward, Solicitor advised the Board of Police Commissioners that items 10.2.3 Commissioner Critchley – Staff report intended to develop a new, statutorily compliant review and approval process for the annual HRP budget, and 10.2.4 Commissioner Critchley – Independent legal opinion regarding the Board's jurisdiction as it relates to the review and approval of the annual HRP budget proposal, be considered at the same time.

Commissioner Critchley proposed that the motion be amended to combine the motions in Item 10.2.3 and Item 10.2.4 into one motion. Item 10.2.3 would be part 1 and Item 10.2.4 would be part 2 of the amended motion. As provided for in section 53 (2) of Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, the amendment was accepted as friendly.

The motion as amended now read:

MOVED by Commissioner Critchley, seconded by Commissioner Kent

**THAT the Board of Police Commissioners:**

- 1. Request the Chief Administrative Officer provide a staff report for the purpose of developing a new budget review and approval process for the 2023/24 fiscal year which is in compliance with the Police Act.**
- 2. Seek an independent legal opinion regarding the Board's jurisdiction under the Police Act, including as it relates to the review and approval of the annual Halifax Regional Police budget proposal under section 53 of the Act.**

Ward advised the Board of Police Commissioners regarding the respective legislative roles of the Commission and Council in the budget review process and that changes to this process would need to be made by Regional Council and responded to questions of clarification from the Board of Police Commissioners.

Commissioner Critchley proposed that the motion be amended so the motion is a recommendation from the Board of Police Commissioners to Regional Council, that the staff report recommended in part 1 of the motion also consider public participation at the Board of Police Commissioners during the budget review and approval process, and that part 2 request a staff report and not an independent legal opinion. As provided for in section 53 (2) of Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, the amendment was accepted as friendly.

The motion as amended now read:

MOVED by Commissioner Critchley, seconded by Commissioner Kent

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

- 1. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer provide a staff report for the purpose of developing an operational and capital budget review and approval process for the Halifax Regional Police, including public consultation and associated timelines, for the 2023/24 fiscal year in compliance with the Police Act.**
- 2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer provide a staff report regarding the Board of Police Commissioners' jurisdiction under the Police Act, including as it relates to the review and approval of the annual Halifax Regional Police budget proposal under Section 53 of the Police Act.**

**MOTION AS AMENDED PUT AND PASSED.**

**10.2.5 Commissioner McDougall - Canadian Association of Police Governance 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference in Saskatoon**

MOVED by Commissioner McDougall, seconded by Commissioner Blackburn

**THAT the Board of Police Commissioners approve Commissioner Kent to attend the Canadian Association of Police Governance 33rd Annual Conference and First Nations Police Governance Conference to be held in-person in Saskatoon from September 7 to 11, 2022 on behalf of the Board of Police Commissioners Halifax Regional Municipality.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**10.3 COMMISSIONER UPDATES – NONE**

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

Chief Dan Kinsella, Halifax Regional Police gave an update on recent and upcoming Halifax Regional Police initiatives and responded to questions of clarification from the Board of Police Commissioners.

Acting Chief Superintendent Darren Campbell, Halifax District RCMP gave an update on recent Halifax District RCMP initiatives and staffing announcements and responded to questions of clarification from the Board of Police Commissioners.

**11. ADDED ITEMS**

**11.1 Commissioner Critchley – Special presentation from Sunny Mariner, Canadian lead on Violence Against Women (VAW) Advocate Case Review**

The following was before the Board of Police Commissioners:

- Request for Board of Police Commissioners' consideration form submitted by Commissioner Critchley

MOVED by Commissioner Critchley, seconded by Commissioner Kent

**THAT the Halifax Board of Police Commissioners invite Sunny Mariner, an internationally recognized expert on Violence Against Women Advocate Case Review, to provide a thirty-minute presentation to the Board either at a special meeting of the Board or during the Board's regularly scheduled June meeting.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

**13. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE)**

**Private and Confidential Information Items**

1. Correspondence dated February 15, 2022
2. Correspondence dated February 24, 2022

**14. NOTICES OF MOTION**

**15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – April 25, 2022**

**16. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 4:08 p.m.

Andrea Lovasi-Wood  
Legislative Assistant