



**BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS  
DRAFT MINUTES  
May 3, 2023**

**PRESENT:** Commissioner Becky Kent, Chair  
Commissioner Harry Critchley, Vice Chair  
Commissioner Lindell Smith  
Commissioner Lisa Blackburn  
Commissioner Gavin Giles

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

**STAFF:** Cathie O'Toole, Chief Administrative Officer  
Josh Bates, Policy Advisor, Board of Police Commissioners  
Martin Ward, Solicitor  
Iain MacLean, Municipal Clerk  
Andrea Lovasi-Wood, Legislative Assistant  
Catie Campbell, Legislative Assistant

*These minutes are considered draft and will require approval by the Board of Police Commissioners at a future meeting.*

*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).*

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*The meeting was called to order at 12:32 p.m., and recessed at 3:20 p.m. The Board reconvened at 3:33 p.m. The Board moved into an In Camera (In Private) session at 4:12 p.m. and reconvened at 4:21 p.m. The Board adjourned at 4:34 p.m.*

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

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:32 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 – NONE**

## **3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 3, 2023**

MOVED by Commissioner Critchley, seconded by Commissioner Smith

**THAT the minutes of April 3, 2023 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 Smith

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

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Later in the meeting, it was MOVED by Commissioner Critchley, seconded by Commissioner Blackburn

**THAT the following item be deferred to the June 7, 2023 meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners:**

- **Item 10.2.4 – Update on Options for the Implementation of the Violence Against Women Advocate Case Review Model**

**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**

### **7.1 The use of polygraphs by Halifax Regional Police**

The following was before the Board:

- Request to present dated January 12, 2023

Matt Stickland spoke to the use of polygraphs by Halifax Regional Police and responded to questions of clarification from the Board regarding situational use of polygraphs and the Board's oversight role.

## **8. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS**

### **8.1 Correspondence – None**

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**8.2 Petitions – None**

**8.3 Presentation – None**

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

## **10. REPORTS/DISCUSSION**

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

Chief Superintendent Jeffrey Christie, Officer in Charge, Halifax District Royal Canadian Mounted Police (Halifax District RCMP) spoke to software updates, attachments returning to full staff, training programs and the Policing Transformation Study Report dated April 19, 2023. Christie responded to questions of clarification from the Board regarding the future implementation of body cameras for officers and noted the project was being piloted.

Chief Dan Kinsella, Halifax Regional Police gave a summary of key operational activities and provided community announcements. Kinsella highlighted National Volunteer Week, events for Nova Scotia Special Olympics.

### **10.2 STAFF**

#### **10.2.1 Wortley Report Tracking Document**

The following was before the Board:

- Wortley Report Progress Update dated April 26, 2023

Bill Trask, Executive Director of Policy and Information Management, Nova Scotia Department of Justice (DoJ) provided an overview on the DoJ's progress on the Wortley Report recommendations. Trask noted there are 10 recommendations being led by the DoJ; 2 have been completed and there are 8 ongoing. Trask highlighted collaboration with various stakeholders and the Province's policing. Trask responded to questions of clarification regarding sub-committees, progress timelines and next steps.

Chief Dan Kinsella, Halifax Regional Police provided an overview on Halifax Regional Police's progress on the Wortley Report recommendations. Kinsella noted ongoing commitment to diverse hiring, race-based data collection and goal to increase community offices. Kinsella responded to questions of clarification from the Board regarding training for new and long-term officers, identifying mandatory versus voluntary training.

Chief Superintendent Jeffrey Christie, Officer in Charge, Halifax District Royal Canadian Mounted Police (Halifax District RCMP) provided an overview on the Halifax District RCMP's progress on the Wortley Report recommendations. Christie spoke to ongoing community engagement work and commitment to diverse hiring. Christie responded to questions of clarification from the Board regarding training for new and long-term officers, identifying mandatory versus voluntary training.

#### **10.2.2 Halifax Regional Police and Halifax District Royal Canadian Mounted Police Mental Health Calls Response**

The following was before the Board:

- Staff presentation dated May 3, 2023
- Staff presentation dated May 3, 2023

Chief Dan Kinsella, Halifax Regional Police, Superintendent Greg Mason, Halifax Regional Police and Matt White, Director, Mental Health and Addictions, Nova Scotia Health Authority gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Board regarding mental health training for officers, determination of emotionally disturbed persons (EDP), legislative requirements, potential plans for collaboration with hospitals and community outreach.

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Chief Superintendent Jeffrey Christie, Officer in Charge, Halifax District Royal Canadian Mounted Police (Halifax District RCMP), Sergeant Lynden Morrison, Halifax District RCMP and White gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Board regarding mental health training for officers and watch times for officers in the hospital.

MOVED by Commissioner Blackburn, seconded by Commissioner Smith

**THAT the Board of Police Commissioners:**

- 1. Request a staff report providing data from Halifax Regional Police (HRP) and Halifax District Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) regarding their response to mental health calls, including:**
  - a. Total calls for mental health by time of day and days of week over 2 years;**
  - b. Percentage of calls requiring the use of the Involuntary Psychiatric Treatment Act (IPTA) to take someone to a medical facility;**
  - c. Percentage of calls in which the individual was kept in hospital under the IPTA and the percentage returned home with no stay;**
  - d. Percentage of calls in which persons kept in hospital when the Mental Health Mobile Crisis Team (MHMCT) was involved in the call and advised transport to hospital;**

**and any other applicable information.**

- 2. Request HRP and Halifax District RCMP to cooperate with the Community Safety Office in its establishment of costing and partnership models for a Community Mental Health Crisis Service.**

Bill Moore, Executive Director of Community Safety responded to questions of clarification from the Board regarding Halifax Regional Municipality's Public Safety Strategy.

Commissioner Smith proposed the addition of 'request that Halifax District RCMP provide an update regarding ongoing conversations regarding expansion of MHMCT beyond what is currently available'. 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 now read:

MOVED by Commissioner Blackburn, seconded by Commissioner Smith

**THAT the Board of Police Commissioners:**

- 1. Request a staff report providing data from Halifax Regional Police (HRP) and Halifax District Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) regarding their response to mental health calls, including:**
  - a. Total calls for mental health by time of day and days of week over 2 years;**
  - b. Percentage of calls requiring the use of the *Involuntary Psychiatric Treatment Act* (IPTA) to take someone to a medical facility;**

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- c. **Percentage of calls in which the individual was kept in hospital under the IPTA and the percentage returned home with no stay;**
  - d. **Percentage of calls in which persons kept in hospital when the Mental Health Mobile Crisis Team MHMCT was involved in the call and advised transport to hospital;**
- and any other applicable information.**
2. **Request HRP and RCMP to cooperate with the Community Safety Office in its establishment of costing and partnership models for a Community Mental Health Crisis Service; and**
  3. **Request that Halifax District RCMP provide an update detailing ongoing conversations regarding expansion of MHMCT beyond what is currently available.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

As set out in section 34 of Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, a motion was required to extend the time of the meeting.

MOVED by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Blackburn

**THAT the Board of Police Commissioners extend the time of the meeting past 3:30 p.m.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**10.2.3 Halifax District Royal Canadian Mounted Police Community Consultations and Community Action Team – Presentation**

The following was before the Board:

- Staff presentation dated May 2, 2023

Chief Superintendent Jeffrey Christie, Officer in Charge, Halifax District Royal Canadian Mounted Police (Halifax District RCMP) and Sergeant Deepak Prasad, Halifax District RCMP gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Board regarding staffing and collaboration with stakeholders and different levels of government.

**10.2.4 Update on Options for the Implementation of the Violence Against Women Advocate Case Review Model**

The following was before the Board:

- Information report dated April 27, 2023

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

**10.3 MEMBERS OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS**

**10.3.1 Commissioner Kent – Canadian Association for the Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement 2023 Annual Professional Development Conference**

The following was before the Board:

- Request for consideration form from Commissioner Kent

Commissioner Kent stepped down from the Chair and Commissioner Critchley assumed the Chair.

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MOVED by Commissioner Kent, seconded by Commissioner Blackburn

**THAT the Board of Police Commissioners approve Commissioner Kent, Chair, and at least one additional Commissioner to attend the Canadian Association for the Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement 2023 Annual Professional Development Conference to be held in-person and virtually in Halifax, Nova Scotia from May 29 to 31, 2023 on behalf of the Halifax Board of Police Commissioners.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Commissioner Kent resumed the Chair.

#### **10.4 COMMISSIONER UPDATES – NONE**

#### **11. ADDED ITEMS – NONE**

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

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

MOVED by Commissioner Giles, seconded by Commissioner Critchley

**THAT the Board of Police Commissioners convene to in camera to discuss Item 13.2 SECURITY MATTER and 13.3 CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

#### **13.1 In Camera (In Private) Minutes – April 3, 2023**

This matter was dealt with in public as follows:

MOVED by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Critchley

**THAT the In Camera (In Private) minutes of April 3, 2023 be approved as circulated.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

#### **13.2 SECURITY MATTER – Private and Confidential Report**

The following was before the Board:

- Private and confidential staff report dated April 26, 2023

This matter was dealt with In Camera (In Private).

#### **13.3 CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS – Private and Confidential Report**

This matter was dealt with In Camera (In Private) and ratified in public as follows:

The following was before the Board:

- Private and confidential handout dated April 27, 2023
- Private and confidential handout dated May 3, 2023
- Private and confidential handout dated May 3, 2023

MOVED by Commissioner Critchley, seconded by Commissioner Blackburn

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**THAT the Board of Police Commissioners approve the release of a private and confidential report dated May 3, 2023 to the public.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Commissioner Kent provided a statement regarding the funding of an independent civilian review of the issues relating to the Board's oversight, governance and policy responsibilities that arise out of the response by Halifax Regional Police to protests on August 18, 2021. The Chair stated that Cooper, Sandler, Shime & Schwartzentruber LLP had been retained to conduct the review.

**14. NOTICES OF MOTION – NONE**

**15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – June 7, 2023**

**16. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 4:42 p.m.

Catie Campbell  
Legislative Assistant