



BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS for the HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

MINUTES March 4, 2024

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

REGRETS: Commissioner Anthony Thomas

STAFF: Cathie O'Toole, Chief Administrative Officer
Martin Ward, Solicitor
Andrea Lovasi-Wood, Legislative Assistant
Jamie D'Angelo, 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.

The meeting was called to order at 1:03 p.m. The Board adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:03 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 – January 8, 2024

MOVED by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Blackburn

THAT the minutes of January 8, 2024 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 Akindoju

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Later in the meeting, it was MOVED by Commissioner Giles, seconded by Commissioner Akindoju

THAT the following item be deferred to the May 1, 2024 meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners:

- Item 7.1 Update on Steps to Achieve an Integrated Operating Model – July 10, 2023

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

7.1 Update on Steps to Achieve an Integrated Operating Model – July 10, 2023

The following was before the Board:

- Extract from the July 10, 2023 Board of Police Commissioners minutes

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

7.2 Update on Progress of the Implementation of the Violence Against Women Advocate Case Review Model – October 4, 2023

The following was before the Board:

- Extract from the October 4, 2023 Board of Police Commissioners minutes

Superintendent Andrew Matthews, Criminal Investigation Division, Halifax Regional Police updated the Board that submission of the Halifax Regional Police report on the topic was pending as they were

awaiting advice from Halifax Regional Municipality's legal department regarding possible legislative concerns of sharing private and confidential information with third parties. Matthews and Acting Chief Don MacLean, Halifax Regional Police responded to questions of clarification from the Board.

8. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

8.1 Correspondence – None

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 Regional Detachment Royal Canadian Mounted Police, (HRD RCMP), introduced Inspector Don Moser. Christie spoke to key operational activities, recent changes to training during recruitment and updated the Board regarding work towards achieving an integrated operating model as detailed in the Policing Model Transformation Study. Christie responded to questions of clarification from the Board.

Inspector Don Moser, Acting Superintendent of Operations, HRD RCMP, updated the Board on operational activities and the criminal investigation division.

Acting Chief Don MacLean, Halifax Regional Police, Halifax Regional Police, updated the Board on recruitment, key operational activities, community outreach, crime prevention and work towards achieving an integrated operating model as detailed in the Policing Model Transformation Study.

10.2 STAFF

10.2.1 Amendments to the Board of Police Commissioners' Policy Manual

The following was before the Board:

- Staff report dated February 22, 2024

Josh Bates, Policing Policy Strategist spoke to the topic and responded to questions of clarification from the Board.

MOVED by Commissioner Critchley, seconded by Commissioner Blackburn

THAT the Board of Police Commissioners for the Halifax Regional Municipality:

- 1. Adopt the revised board self-evaluation for inclusion in the Board of Police Commissioners' Policy Manual, as outlined in Attachment 1 of the staff report dated February 22, 2024.**
- 2. Adopt the revised attendance policy for inclusion in the Board of Police Commissioners' Policy Manual, as outlined in Attachment 2 of the staff report dated February 22, 2024.**
- 3. Work with the Halifax Regional Police to develop a revised Use of Force Policy for inclusion in the Board of Police Commissioners' Policy Manual.**

MOVED by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Blackburn

THAT part 1 of the motion be amended to include "and this policy will indicate that board self-evaluation will occur every second year".

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED.

The motion as amended now read:

MOVED by Commissioner Critchley, seconded by Commissioner Blackburn

That the Board of Police Commissioners for the Halifax Regional Municipality:

- 1. Adopt the revised board self-evaluation for inclusion in the Board of Police Commissioners' Policy Manual, as outlined in Attachment 1 of the staff report dated February 22, 2024, and this policy will indicate that board self-evaluation will occur every second year.**
- 2. Adopt the revised attendance policy for inclusion in the Board of Police Commissioners' Policy Manual, as outlined in Attachment 2 of the staff report dated February 22, 2024.**
- 3. Work with the Halifax Regional Police to develop a revised Use of Force Policy for inclusion in the Board of Police Commissioners' Policy Manual.**

MOTION AS AMENDED PUT AND PASSED.

10.3 MEMBERS OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

10.3.1 Commissioner Critchley - Violence Against Women Advocate Case Review

The following was before the Board:

- Request for Consideration form from Commissioner Critchley

MOVED by Commissioner Critchley, seconded by Commissioner Smith

- 1. THAT the Board of Police Commissioners for the Halifax Regional Municipality direct the Chief Officer of Halifax Regional Police (HRP) to prepare a staff report which should include:**
 - a. A breakdown of the number of allegations of sexual offences investigated by SAIT which do not lead to charges being laid, plus the reasons why; and**
 - b. A recommendation as to whether or not the Board should direct the Chief Officer of HRP to implement the Violence Against Women Advocate Case Review (VACR) program as proposed by Sunny Mariner at the Board's June 20, 2022, meeting.**
- 2. That, if there are any concerns regarding the jurisdiction of the Board as it relates to (1), the Board of Police Commissioners for the Halifax Regional Municipality secure an independent legal opinion regarding whether or not it has the jurisdiction to direct the Chief Officer of HRP to implement the VACR program as proposed by Sunny Mariner at the Board's June 20, 2022, meeting.**

Martin Ward, Solicitor, advised the Board that the information requested in the first motion could be included in the staff report on the Violence Against Women Advocate Case Review (VACR) program as referenced during the Board's consideration of Item 7.2. Ward further advised that the second motion was out of order and premature as a staff report was to be submitted to the Board at a future meeting.

As provided for in section 61 of Administrative Policy One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Board of Police Commissioners*, the second motion was withdrawn with consent of Board of Police Commissioners.

The question was called on the first motion:

MOVED by Commissioner Critchley, seconded by Commissioner Smith

1. **THAT the Board of Police Commissioners for the Halifax Regional Municipality direct the Chief Officer of Halifax Regional Police (HRP) to prepare a staff report which should include:**
 - a. **A breakdown of the number of allegations of sexual offences investigated by SAIT which do not lead to charges being laid, plus the reasons why; and**
 - b. **A recommendation as to whether or not the Board should direct the direct the Chief Officer of HRP to implement the Violence Against Women Advocate Case Review (VACR) program as proposed by Sunny Mariner at the Board's June 20, 2022, meeting.**

Chief Superintendent Jeffrey Christie, Officer in Charge, Halifax Regional Detachment Royal Canadian Mounted Police (HRD RCMP), spoke to their concerns about the volume of work required and possible disclosure of personal information if reasons needed to be provided for charges not being laid as outlined in part (a) of the motion.

Commissioner Smith proposed “plus the reasons why” be deleted from part (a) of the motion. As provided for in section 50 (1) of Administrative Policy One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Board of Police Commissioners*, the amendment was accepted as friendly.

The motion now read:

1. **THAT the Board of Police Commissioners for the Halifax Regional Municipality direct the Chief Officer of Halifax Regional Police (HRP) to prepare a staff report which should include:**
 - a. **A breakdown of the number of allegations of sexual offences investigated by SAIT which do not lead to charges being laid; and**
 - b. **A recommendation as to whether or not the Board should direct the direct the Chief Officer of HRP to implement the Violence Against Women Advocate Case Review (VACR) program as proposed by Sunny Mariner at the Board's June 20, 2022, meeting.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10.4 COMMITTEE MEMBER UPDATES – NONE

11. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

12. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE)

Private and Confidential Information Items

1. Private and Confidential In Camera (In Private) Information Report - re: Legal Advice

13. NOTICES OF MOTION – NONE

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – May 1, 2024

15. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

**Board of Police Commissioners Minutes
March 4, 2024**

Jamie D'Angelo
Legislative Assistant