



BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS for the HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

MINUTES **September 4, 2024**

PRESENT: Commissioner Gavin Giles, Vice Chair
Commissioner Lindell Smith
Commissioner Lisa Blackburn
Commissioner Gregory O'Malley

REGRETS: Commissioner Becky Kent, Chair
Commissioner Yemi Akindoju

STAFF: Cathie O'Toole, Chief Administrative Officer
Martin Ward, K.C., General Counsel
Jamie D'Angelo, Legislative Assistant
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.

The meeting was called to order at 1:01 p.m., and recessed at 2:08 p.m. the Board reconvened at 2:20 p.m. The Board moved into an In Camera (In Private) session at 2:41 p.m. and reconvened at 3:16 p.m. The Board adjourned at 3:17 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:01 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 – August 7, 2024

MOVED by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner O'Malley

THAT the minutes of August 7, 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

Deferred to a future meeting of Board of Police Commissioners:

- Item 7.1 Off Duty and Extra Duty Employment Policy – August 7, 2024
- Item 10.3.1 Commissioner Kent – Summary of 2024 Canadian Association of Police Governance Annual Conference

MOVED by Commissioner Blackburn, seconded by Commissioner O'Malley

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

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 Off Duty and Extra Duty Employment Policy – August 7, 2024

The following was before the Board:

- Staff report dated July 18, 2024
- Extract from the August 7, 2024 Board of Police Commissioners draft minutes

This matter was deferred during the approval of the Order of Business.

8. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

8.1 Correspondence

Correspondence was received and circulated for items: 8.3.1 and 10.2.1.

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

8.2 Petitions – None

8.3 Presentations

8.3.1 Nancy Saunders, Caregivers for Collaborative Mental Health Care re: reducing mental illness and addictions distress in HRM

The following was before the Board:

- Request to present dated July 8, 2024
- Presentation dated September 4, 2024
- Correspondence from Nancy Saunders

Nancy Saunders and Heather Spidell, Caregivers for Collaborative Mental Health gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Board. Saunders and Spidell clarified their want to have the Board bridge the gaps to allow first responders the ability to provide compassionate care to those in crisis. They also urged the Board to have all first responders receive trauma informed training, including response to mental health crisis, how to defuse mental health incidents and communication with families.

9. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

10. REPORTS/DISCUSSION

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

Chief Superintendent Jeffrey Christie, Officer in Charge, Royal Canadian Mounted Police Halifax Regional Detachment (RCMP HRD) informed the Board of Dennis Daley, Assistant Commissioner Commanding Officer RCMP Nova Scotia, giving the Nova Scotia apology on behalf of RCMP to the African Nova Scotians on September 7, 2024. Christie spoke to recent and upcoming RCMP HRD initiatives as well as a summary of key operational activities.

Chief Don MacLean, Halifax Regional Police (HRP) Spoke about the 119th Canadian Association of Police event held in Halifax. MacLean provided updates on key operational activities, recent HRP recruitment and recent HRP community initiatives. MacLean responded to questions of clarification from the Board about how new and updated policies were communicated to officers.

10.2 STAFF

10.2.1 Halifax Independent Civilian Review Into August 18, 2021 Encampment Evictions

The following was before the Board:

- Report dated August 12, 2024
- Staff handout dated September 3, 2024
- Correspondence from Zane Woodford and Michael P. Spearns

MOVED by Commissioner Blackburn, seconded by Commissioner Smith

THAT the Board of Police Commissioners for Halifax Regional Municipality:

1. **Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to request the Halifax Regional Police (HRP) prepare a staff report to address the Halifax Independent Civilian Review's recommendations pertaining to HRP;**
2. **Refer the Halifax Independent Civilian Review's report to Regional Council and recommend that Regional Council request the CAO to prepare a staff report to review the Independent Civilian Review's recommendations pertaining to Halifax Regional Municipality, develop an action plan and report back to Council; and**

- 3. Create a working group comprised of three Board members, including the Chair, to review the Halifax Independent Civilian Review's recommendations pertaining to the Board of Police Commissioners and to report back to the Board.**

Cathie O'Toole, Chief Administrative Officer proposed that part 1 of the motion be modified to remove direction from the Chief Administrative Officer. As provided for in section 50(2) of Administrative Policy One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Board of Police Commissioners*, the amendment was accepted as friendly.

The motion now read:

MOVED by Commissioner Blackburn, seconded by Commissioner Smith

THAT the Board of Police Commissioners for Halifax Regional Municipality:

- 1. Request the Halifax Regional Police (HRP) prepare a staff report to address the Halifax Independent Civilian Review's recommendations pertaining to HRP;**
- 2. Refer the Halifax Independent Civilian Review's report to Regional Council and recommend that Regional Council request the CAO to prepare a staff report to review the Independent Civilian Review's recommendations pertaining to Halifax Regional Municipality, develop an action plan and report back to Council; and**
- 3. Create a working group comprised of three Board members, including the Chair, to review the Halifax Independent Civilian Review's recommendations pertaining to the Board of Police Commissioners and to report back to the Board.**

Commissioner O'Malley proposed that part 1 of the motion be modified to include "and develop an action plan and report back to the Board". As provided for in section 50(2) of Administrative Policy One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Board of Police Commissioners*, the amendment was accepted as friendly.

The motion now read:

MOVED by Commissioner Blackburn, seconded by Commissioner Smith

THAT the Board of Police Commissioners for Halifax Regional Municipality:

- 1. Request the Halifax Regional Police (HRP) prepare a staff report to address the Halifax Independent Civilian Review's recommendations pertaining to HRP and develop an action plan and report back to the Board;**
- 2. Refer the Halifax Independent Civilian Review's report to Regional Council and recommend that Regional Council request the CAO to prepare a staff report to review the Independent Civilian Review's recommendations pertaining to Halifax Regional Municipality, develop an action plan and report back to Council; and**
- 3. Create a working group comprised of three Board members, including the Chair, to review the Halifax Independent Civilian Review's recommendations pertaining to the Board of Police Commissioners and to report back to the Board.**

O'Toole responded to questions of clarification from the Board.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10.3 MEMBERS OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

10.3.1 Commissioner Kent – Summary of 2024 Canadian Association of Police Governance Annual Conference

This matter was deferred during the approval of the Order of Business.

10.4 COMMITTEE UPDATES

10.4.1 Board of Police Commissioners Community Survey on Policing

Motion:

The following was before the Board:

- Staff report dated August 22, 2024

MOVED by Commissioner Blackburn, seconded by Commissioner Smith

THAT the Board of Police Commissioners for the Halifax Regional Municipality request Regional Council to allocate \$25,000 in the board's 2025-2026 budget for the purpose of conducting a monthly independent community survey on policing.

Josh Bates, Policing Policy Strategist spoke to the topic and responded to questions of clarification from the Board. Bates spoke to the reasons for why a monthly survey was preferred to the annual survey.

Martin Ward, K.C., General Counsel responded to questions of clarification from the Board.

Cathie O'Toole, Chief Administrative Officer responded to questions of clarification from the Board.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE)

12.1 In Camera (In Private) Minutes – August 7, 2024 and July 24, 2024

This matter was dealt with in public.

MOVED by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner O'Malley

THAT the In Camera (In Private) minutes of August 7, 2024 and July 24, 2024 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Commissioner Blackburn, seconded by Commissioner O'Malley

THAT the Board of Police Commissioners for the Halifax Regional Municipality convene to In Camera (In Private) to discuss Item 12.2 PERSONNEL MATTER.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.2 PERSONNEL MATTER - Private and Confidential

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

13. NOTICES OF MOTION - NONE

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – October 2, 2024 (If required)

15. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:17 p.m.

Jamie D'Angelo
Legislative Assistant