



BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS for the HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

MINUTES **May 21, 2025**

PRESENT:

Commissioner Greg O'Malley, Chair
Commissioner Becky Kent, Vice Chair
Commissioner Tony Mancini
Commissioner Virginia Hinch
Commissioner Yemi Akindoju
Commissioner Vincent Beswick-Escanlar

STAFF:

Bill Moore, Commissioner of Public Safety
Martin Ward, K.C., General Counsel
Andrea Lovasi-Wood, Legislative Assistant
Simon Ross-Siegel, 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.

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 – April 2, 2025

MOVED by Commissioner Kent, seconded by Commissioner Hinch

THAT the minutes of April 2, 2025 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 Kent – CAPG Annual Conference

Deletions: None

MOVED by Commissioner Kent, seconded by Commissioner Hinch

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Later in the meeting as provided for in section 35 (1) of Administrative Policy One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Board of Police Commissioners*, Commissioner O'Malley requested that Item 12. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE) be considered prior to Item 11.1.

5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES – NONE

6. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS – NONE

7. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

7.1 Community Safety Update on Public Safety Strategy and Crisis Response - Presentation

The following was before the Board:

- Staff presentation dated May 21, 2025

Amy Siciliano, Public Safety Advisor gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Board.

Bill Moore, Commissioner of Public Safety, Chief Don MacLean, Halifax Regional Police and Chief Superintendent John Duff, Officer in Charge, Royal Canadian Mounted Police Halifax Regional Detachment responded to questions of clarification from the Board.

8. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

8.1 Correspondence – None

8.2 Petitions – None

8.3 Presentations – None

9. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD

9.1 Commissioner Mancini - The Police Response to Hate Crimes & Hate Incidents in Halifax

The following was before the Board:

- Staff report dated March 17, 2025
- Staff presentation dated May 21, 2025

Joanne Smith, Research & Development Coordinator, Halifax Regional Police (HRP), Corporal Martin Fetterman, Hate Crime Coordinator, Royal Canadian Mounted Police Halifax Regional Detachment and Constable Madeleine Goldsmith, Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator, HRP gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Board.

Chief Don MacLean, HRP responded to questions of clarification from the Board.

10. REPORTS/DISCUSSION

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

Chief Don MacLean, Halifax Regional Police spoke to recruitment, key operational updates, past and upcoming events, staffing updates and responded to questions of clarification from the Board. MacLean and Bill Moore, Commissioner of Public Safety responded to questions of clarification from the Board regarding vehicle born attacks.

Chief Superintendent John Duff, Officer in Charge, Royal Canadian Mounted Police Halifax Regional Detachment (RCMP HRD) introduced themselves to the Board.

Superintendent Don Moser, Senior Operations Officer, RCMP HRD spoke to staffing updates and recognitions, past and upcoming events, key operational updates and responded to questions of clarification from the Board.

Moser and MacLean spoke to drone use programs and opportunities for operational support.

10.2 STAFF

10.2.1 Board of Police Commissioners 2024-2025 Annual Report and Work Plan

The following was before the Board:

- Staff report dated April 24, 2025

Joshua Bates, Policing Policy Strategist responded to questions of clarification from the Board.

MOVED by Commissioner Kent, seconded by Commissioner Mancini

THAT the Board of Police Commissioners for Halifax Regional Municipality forward the staff report dated April 24, 2025 to Regional Council for information.

Bates and Chief Don MacLean, Halifax Regional Police responded to questions of clarification from the Board.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10.2.2 Amendment to Board of Police Commissioners Policy on Extra Duty Employment

The following was before the Board:

- Staff report dated April 29, 2025, revised May 12, 2025

MOVED by Commissioner Hinch, seconded by Commissioner Kent

That the Board of Police Commissioners for the Halifax Regional Municipality adopt the amendment to clause 6.3 and the inclusion of clause 6.11 in the Extra Duty Employment policy, as outlined in the staff report dated April 29, 2025, revised May 12, 2025.

Joshua Bates, Policing Policy Strategist responded to questions of clarification from the Board.

Chief Don MacLean, Halifax Regional Police and Chief Superintendent John Duff, Officer in Charge, Royal Canadian Mounted Police Halifax Regional Detachment responded to questions of clarification from the Board.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10.2.3 Matters of Immediate Strategic Significance (Critical Point)

The following was before the Board:

- Staff report dated April 29, 2025

MOVED by Commissioner Beswick-Escanlar, seconded by Commissioner Mancini

THAT the Board of Police Commissioners for Halifax Regional Municipality adopt in principle, subject to a period of public comment, the policy entitled Matters of Immediate Strategic Significance (Critical Point), for inclusion in the Board of Police Commissioners' Policy Manual, as outlined in Attachment 1 of the staff report dated April 29, 2025.

Joshua Bates, Policing Policy Strategist responded to questions of clarification from the Board.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10.2.4 Armoured Rescue Vehicle Policy

The following was before the Board:

- Staff report dated May 1, 2025

MOVED by Commissioner Kent, seconded by Commissioner Mancini

THAT the Board of Police Commissioners for Halifax Regional Municipality adopt in principle, subject to a period of public comment, the policy entitled Armoured Rescue Vehicle, for inclusion in the Board of Police Commissioners' Policy Manual, as outlined in Attachment 1 of the staff report dated May 1, 2025.

Joshua Bates, Policing Policy Strategist responded to questions of clarification from the Board.

Bates, Martin Ward, K.C., General Counsel, Bill Moore, Commissioner of Public Safety, and Chief Don MacLean, Halifax Regional Police spoke to policy wording regarding operational deployment and concerns regarding discrepancies between references to Chief of Police and the Chief Officer across Board of Police Commissioner policies.

Commissioner Kent requested that the definition section of the policy replace the definition of "Chief of Police" to "Chief Officer" meaning the Chief of Halifax Regional Police. 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 Kent, seconded by Commissioner Mancini

THAT the Board of Police Commissioners for the Halifax Regional Municipality adopt in principle, subject to a period of public comment, the policy entitled Armoured Rescue Vehicle, for inclusion in the Board of Police Commissioners' Policy Manual, as outlined in Attachment 1 of the staff report dated May 1, 2025, including an amendment to the definition section of the policy to replace the definition of "Chief of Police" to "Chief Officer" meaning the Chief of Halifax Regional Police.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10.3 MEMBERS OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

10.3.1 Commissioner Mancini - Review of Halifax Regional Police Use of RCMP H Division (Nova Scotia) Sexual Assault Investigations Review Committee (SAIRC) Process

The following was before the Board:

- Request for Consideration form from Commissioner Mancini

MOVED by Commissioner Mancini, seconded by Commissioner Hinch

THAT the Board of Police Commissioners for Halifax Regional Municipality direct the Chief Officer of the Halifax Regional Police and recommend that the Officer in Charge of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Halifax Regional Detachment prepare staff report from the Halifax Regional Police evaluating the performance of and findings to date from the use of the RCMP H Division (Nova Scotia) Sexual Assault Investigations Review Committee (SAIRC) process in the review of sexual assault cases which did not lead to arrest.

Chief Don MacLean, Halifax Regional Police and Superintendent Don Moser, Senior Operations Officer, Royal Canadian Mounted Police Halifax Regional Detachment responded to questions of clarification from the Board.

MOVED by Commissioner Kent, seconded by Commissioner Beswick-Escanlar

THAT the motion be amended to include "an interim six month" before staff report.

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED.

The main motion now read:

MOVED by Commissioner Mancini, seconded by Commissioner Hinch

THAT the Board of Police Commissioners for Halifax Regional Municipality direct the Chief Officer of the Halifax Regional Police and recommend that the Officer in Charge of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Halifax Regional Detachment prepare an interim six month staff report from the Halifax Regional Police evaluating the performance of and findings to date from the use of the RCMP H Division (Nova Scotia) Sexual Assault Investigations Review Committee (SAIRC) process in the review of sexual assault cases which did not lead to arrest.

MOTION AS AMENDED PUT AND PASSED.

11. ADDED ITEMS

11.1 Commissioner Kent – CAPG Annual Conference

The following was before the Board:

- Request for consideration form from Commissioner Kent

MOVED by Commissioner Kent, seconded by Commissioner Akindoju

THAT the Board of Police Commissioners for Halifax Regional Municipality:

1. In accordance with section 4 of the Board of Police Commissioners Administrative Policy One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Board of Police Commissioners Administrative Policy*, waive section 15 of the Policy, requiring a staff report from either the Chief or Policy Advisor to the Board; and
2. Approve Commissioners O'Malley, Beswick-Escanlar and Mancini to attend the 36th Annual Canadian Association of Police Governance (CAPG) conference in Victoria, BC as representatives for the Board.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE)

MOVED by Commissioner Mancini, seconded by Commissioner Kent

THAT Board of Police Commissioners for the Halifax Regional Municipality convene to In Camera (In Private) to discuss Item 12.1 PERSONNEL MATTER.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.1 PERSONNEL MATTER – Private and Confidential Report

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

The following was before the Board:

- Private and confidential staff report dated April 25, 2025

MOVED by Commissioner Beswick-Escanlar, seconded by Commissioner Kent

THAT the Board of Police Commissioners for the Halifax Regional Municipality direct that the private and confidential staff report dated April 25, 2025 be maintained private and confidential.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

13. NOTICES OF MOTION – NONE

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – June 4, 2025

15. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:37 p.m.

Simon Ross-Siegel
Legislative Assistant