



## BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS for the HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

### MINUTES November 15, 2023

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

REGRETS: Commissioner Lisa Blackburn  
Commissioner Anthony Thomas

STAFF: Cathie O'Toole, Chief Administrative Officer  
Martin Ward, Senior Solicitor  
Andrea Lovasi-Wood, Legislative Assistant  
Catie Campbell, 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 4:03 p.m. and recessed at 6:43 pm. The Board reconvened at 6:53 p.m. and adjourned at 7:09 p.m.*

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

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:03 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**

Commissioners noted special community announcements and acknowledgments.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 4, 2023, October 18, 2023 and October 25, 2023**

MOVED by Commissioner Critchley, seconded by Commissioner Akindoju

**THAT the minutes of October 4, 2023, October 18, 2023 and October 25, 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 Smith, 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 a future meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners:**

- **Item 10.2.4 – The Procedures of the Board of Police Commissioners Administrative Policy;**
- **Item 10.2.5 – Amendments to the Board of Police Commissioners Policy Manual;**
- **Item 10.3.1 – Commissioner Critchley – Mental Health and Policing;**
- **Item 13.1 – In Camera (In Private) Minutes – October 4, 2023; and**
- **Item 13.2 – SECURITY MATTER – Private and Confidential Report.**

**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 – NONE**

**8. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS**

**8.1 Correspondence**

Correspondence was received and circulated for item 10.2.1.

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

**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**

Acting Chief Don MacLean, Halifax Regional Police spoke to the Police Science Program, gave an overview of key operational activities, encouraged safe winter driving and noted participation in the annual Atlantic Women Law Enforcement Conference. MacLean responded to questions of clarification from the Board. MacLean noted Halifax Regional Police continued to monitor incidents of hate crime.

Chief Superintendent Jeffrey Christie, Officer in Charge, Halifax District Royal Canadian Mounted Police spoke to key operational activities and noted participation in Remembrance Day activities. Christie highlighted key takeaways from the National Conference on Homelessness.

**10.2 STAFF**

**10.2.1 Halifax Regional Police 2024/25 Operating Budget Framework – Supplementary Information**

The following was before the Board:

- Halifax Regional Police report dated November 15, 2023
- Correspondence from Jeff Warnica, Linda Todd, Nancy Hunter, Ed Power
- Halifax Regional Police presentation dated November 15, 2023, revised November 15, 2023

Acting Chief Don MacLean, Halifax Regional Police (HRP) gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Board. MacLean clarified eligibility to retire, contractual obligations, collaboration with Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) Human Resources staff and HRP's commitment to recruitment and retention. MacLean spoke to challenges with the 'cop to population' formula and noted the responsibilities of the proposed new patrol officers. MacLean acknowledged concerns in downtown Dartmouth with increased crime and noted Halifax Regional Police staff were consulted in the development of the proposed budget.

Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance and Asset Management/Chief Financial Officer spoke to the budget process and noted on November 29, 2023 the Board of Police Commissioners would be recommending Halifax Regional Police's 2024/25 budget to the Budget Committee.

Deputy Chief Reid McCoombs, Halifax Regional Police responded to questions of clarification from the Board. McCoombs provided clarification on the Emergency Response Team (ERT).

Cathie O'Toole, Chief Administrative Officer responded to questions of clarification from the Board regarding an HRM human resources support to the Halifax Regional Police. O'Toole noted adjustments to officer compensation, increased HRM human resources support for HRP and their meetings with the former Chief of Police, current Acting Chief of Police, Halifax Regional Police union president and the Executive Director of Human Resources to work on actions related to recruitment and retention. O'Toole noted commitment to analyzing the culture of HRP and its impact on employee retention, as well as the impact of HRM's rapidly growing population.

**10.2.2 Halifax District Royal Canadian Mounted Police 2024/2025 Funding Request**

The following was before the Board:

- Halifax District Royal Canadian Mounted Police report dated November 8, 2023
- Halifax District Royal Canadian Mounted Police presentation dated November 15, 2023

Chief Superintendent Jeffrey Christie, Officer in Charge, Darrell Harvey, Strategic Business Planner, and Inspector Jeffrey Mitchell, Management & Administration Services Officer, Halifax District Royal Canadian Mounted Police (Halifax District RCMP) gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Board. Christie spoke to how the Halifax District RCMP budget was approved through the Municipality, Province and Federal government. Christie noted ongoing work to develop responses to intimate partner violence, reviewed the process of logging calls for service, the role of public servant employees and mandatory training for officers and staff.

Danielle Desjardins, Department of Justice responded to questions of clarification from the Board regarding the Halifax District RCMP budgeting process and provincial oversight.

Bill Moore, Executive Director, Community Safety and Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance and Asset Management/Chief Financial Officer responded to questions of clarification from the Board.

### **10.2.3 Board of Police Commissioners 2024/25 Proposed Governance Budget – Presentation**

The following was before the Board:

- Staff presentation dated November 15, 2023

John Traves, K.C., CD, Executive Director of Legal & Legislative Services/Municipal Solicitor/Chief Governance Officer gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Board. Traves noted the Board's governance budget would be incorporated into the Legal and Legislative Services budget.

### **10.2.4 The Procedures of the Board of Police Commissioner Administrative Policy**

The following was before the Board:

- Staff report dated November 1, 2023

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

### **10.2.5 Amendments to the Board of Police Commissioners Policy Manual**

The following was before the Board:

- Staff report dated November 1, 2023

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

## **10.3 MEMBERS OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS**

### **10.3.1 Commissioner Critchley – Mental Health and Policing**

The following was before the Board:

- Request for Consideration form from Commissioner Critchley

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

## **10.3 COMMISSIONER UPDATES**

### **11. ADDED ITEMS – NONE**

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

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

#### **13.1 In Camera (In Private) Minutes – October 4, 2023**

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

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

The following was before the Board:

- Private and Confidential report dated November 1, 2023

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

**14. NOTICES OF MOTION – NONE**

**12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – November 22, 2023**

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Catie Campbell  
Legislative Assistant