



BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS for the HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

MINUTES January 15, 2025

PRESENT: Commissioner Gavin Giles, Chair
Commissioner Greg O'Malley, Vice Chair
Commissioner Becky Kent
Commissioner Tony Mancini
Commissioner Virginia Hinch
Commissioner Yemi Akindoju

STAFF: Cathie O'Toole, Chief Administrative Officer
Martin Ward, K.C., General Counsel
Andrea Lovasi-Wood, Legislative Assistant
Catie Campbell, Legislative Support

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 1:08 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 6, 2025 and January 8, 2025

MOVED by Commissioner Kent, seconded by Commissioner O'Malley

THAT the minutes of January 6, 2025 and January 8, 2025 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 Kent, seconded by Commissioner Hinch

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

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 – NONE

8. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

8.1 Correspondence

Correspondence was received and circulated for items: 10.2.1, 10.2.2 and 10.3.1.

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

8.2 Petitions – None

8.3 Presentations – None

9. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

10. REPORTS/DISCUSSION

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

Chief Don MacLean, Halifax Regional Police (HRP) spoke to key operational updates, ongoing recruitment efforts, statistics from 2024 and noted past and upcoming events. Chief MacLean and Deputy Chief Andrew Matthews, HRP responded to questions of clarification from the Board regarding cross-jurisdictional arrest warrants.

Superintendent Don Moser, Acting Officer in Charge, Royal Canadian Mounted Police Halifax Regional Detachment (RCMP HRD) spoke to key operational updates. Superintendent Moser and Inspector Jeff Mitchell, RCMP HRD responded to questions of clarification regarding wellness support for officers.

10.2 STAFF

10.2.1 Royal Canadian Mounted Police Halifax Regional Detachment (RCMP HRD) 2025/2026 Resource Request: RCMP HRD Recommendation Report

The following was before the Board:

- Staff report dated January 8, 2025
- Royal Canadian Mounted Police Halifax Regional Detachment handout dated January 13, 2025
- Correspondence from Alex Handyside

Superintendent Don Moser, Acting Officer in Charge, Royal Canadian Mounted Police Halifax Regional Detachment (RCMP HRD) responded to questions of clarification from the Board and noted no changes had been made to the proposed budget.

MOVED by Commissioner Kent, seconded by Commissioner Hinch

THAT the Board of Police Commissioners for Halifax Regional Municipality recommend that the Halifax Regional Municipality Budget Committee support the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Halifax Regional Detachment (RCMP HRD) resource request for additional fourteen (14) regular member positions as part of the budget deliberations for the 2025-2026 operating budget as set out in Attachment 1 of the staff report dated January 8, 2025.

Superintendent Moser and Inspector Jeff Mitchell, RCMP HRD responded to questions of clarification from the Board regarding average response time, population decrease in specific areas, community engagement for satellite offices and noted commitment on providing updates on the intimate partner violence taskforce.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10.2.2 Halifax Regional Police 2025/26 Operating Budget

The following was before the Board:

- Staff report dated January 15, 2025
- Correspondence from Charles Naugle, Alex Handyside

MOVED by Commissioner O'Malley, seconded by Commissioner Kent

That, having ensured that the proposed Halifax Regional Police Operating Budget for 2025/26 as presented at the December 4, and December 18, 2024, meetings of the Board of Police Commissioners is consistent with those matters referred to in subsection 55(3) of the Police Act, the Board of Police Commissioners moves the following recommendation:

- 1. That Halifax Regional Council approve the proposed 2025/26 Halifax Regional Police Operating Budget of \$101,255,700, which includes a proposed increase in the composition as set out in the Proposed Service Enhancements identified in the 2025/26 Budget Information Package and as presented by Chief MacLean to the Board on December 18, 2024.**

Chief Don MacLean, Halifax Regional Police (HRP) responded to questions of clarification from the Board regarding the administration of policing services and membership well-being.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10.3 MEMBERS OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

10.3.1 Commissioner O'Malley – Recommendation to Procure an Armoured Rescue Vehicle

The following was before the Board:

- Request for Consideration form from Commissioner O'Malley
- Correspondence from Veronica Post, Jim Hoskins, Alex Handyside, Rebecca Hartery

Cathie O'Toole, Chief Administrative Officer spoke to the topic and noted the Board's role regarding the Municipality's capital budget. They also spoke to the approved fleet enhancement in the 2024/25 Capital Budget for replacement of two vehicles in Halifax Regional Police's (HRP) emergency response team. O'Toole confirmed that two armoured Ford F350 trucks were purchased and due to be delivered in May 2025. O'Toole noted that the proposed 2025/26 Capital Budget to be tabled on February 5, 2025 would include funding for the purchase of a requested armoured rescue vehicle and would be listed as capital budget account CV24005. O'Toole clarified that the proposed armoured rescue vehicle specifications were under development and would be similar to those acquired by comparable municipalities. O'Toole noted the Municipality's responsibilities for public safety and their occupational health and safety obligations as an employer to HRP.

MOVED by Commissioner O'Malley, seconded by Commissioner Kent

Pursuant to the Provisions of Sections 8(2)(l) of Halifax Regional Municipality By-Law P-104, the Halifax Board of Police Commissioners hereby recommends to the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), through the Municipality's capital budget process, with respect to the provisioning of the Halifax Regional Police, that the CAO undertake the appropriate investigation and procurement process as are in the CAO's discretion, with respect to the acquisition of an Armoured Rescue Vehicle for use by the Halifax Regional Police pursuant to the provisions of such policies as are adopted by the Halifax Regional Police and Halifax Board of Police Commissioners in relation thereto.

Commissioner O'Malley proposed the motion be substituted with a simplified version "That the Board of Police Commissioners for the Halifax Regional Municipality recommend that Regional Council approve the including of funding for the acquisition of an Armored Rescue Vehicle for use by the Halifax Regional Police in the Municipality's 2025/26 Capital Budget.". As provided for in section 50 (2) of Administrative Policy One, *The Procedures of the Board of Police Commissioners*, the amendment was accepted as friendly.

The motion now read:

MOVED by Commissioner O'Malley, seconded by Commissioner Kent

THAT the Board of Police Commissioners for the Halifax Regional Municipality recommend that Regional Council approve the including of funding for the acquisition of an Armored Rescue Vehicle for use by the Halifax Regional Police in the Municipality's 2005/26 Capital Budget.

Martin Ward, K.C., General Counsel responded to questions of clarification from the Board regarding appropriate procedural mechanism for approval and highlighted the proposed acquisition would require approval by Halifax Regional Council.

O'Toole responded to questions of clarification from the Board and noted the acquisition would become part of the 2025/26 Capital Budget deliberations pending Board approval. O'Toole provided a jurisdictional scan of other municipalities who acquired armoured rescue vehicles and noted the need for HRP to have necessary safety tools. They clarified the armoured safety vehicle exterior would not be equipped with mounted weaponry. O'Toole highlighted HRP would develop a policy on when the armoured rescue vehicle would be utilized.

Chief Don MacLean, HRP responded to questions of clarification from the Board regarding the use and functionality of the armoured Ford F350 vehicles. Chief MacLean outlined the proposed armoured rescue vehicle would not be used in day-to-day operations and only utilized in high level critical incidents.

Andrea Lovasi-Wood, Legislative Assistant and Ward spoke to a procedural issue with the proposed motion that required suspension of section 50 (2) of Administrative Policy One, *The Procedures of the Board of Police Commissioners*.

Commissioner Kent proposed the motion include a part 1 “Suspend the rules of procedure under section 14(2) of Administrative Policy Number One, the *Procedures of the Board of Police Commissioners Administrative Policy*; and”. As provided for in section 50 (2) of Administrative Policy One, *The Procedures of the Board of Police Commissioners*, the amendment was accepted as friendly.

The motion now read:

MOVED by Commissioner O’Malley, seconded by Commissioner Kent

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

- 1. Suspend the rules of procedure under section 14(2) of Administrative Policy Number One, the *Procedures of the Board of Police Commissioners Administrative Policy*; and**
- 2. Recommend that Regional Council approve the including of funding for the acquisition of an Armored Rescue Vehicle for use by the Halifax Regional Police in the Municipality’s 2005/26 Capital Budget.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

11. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

12. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE) – NONE

13. NOTICES OF MOTION – NONE

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – February 3, 2025

15. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:31 p.m.

Catie Campbell
Legislative Assistant