

February 6, 2020
STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA

MEETING

A regular meeting of the Stellarton Police Commission was held on Thursday, February 6, 2020 at 4:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

PRESENT

Comms. D. MacGillivray, S. Campbell, D. Taylor, B. Atkinson, and N. Terris. Also present, Town Clerk S. Higdon, and Police Chief M. Hobeck. Comm. D. MacGillivray chaired the meeting in Chair B. Knight's absence.

AGENDA

Comm. D. Taylor approved the Agenda with one change: Const. A. Rideout was to make a presentation on Street Crime Unit at tonight's meeting; he was unable to attend. This item was tabled until Const. A. Rideout is available to make presentation, seconded by Comm. S. Campbell.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the January 9, 2020 meeting was approved on motion Comm. N. Terris, seconded by Comm. B. Atkinson. **Motion Carried.**

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Lowering of Speed Limit

Chief M. Hobeck reported that the speed survey conducted from George Street was attached to this month's activity report. This item was tabled until Spring when a more accurate picture of speeds in the area could be achieved. He said with fluctuating weather conditions an accurate reading is hard to achieve. He also reported that he will wait until Spring before bringing in the Department of Transportation to review speed limits in the areas of concern.

Body Cameras

Chief M. Hobeck reported that the body cameras have arrived. The cameras should be operational by next week.

No Right Turn on Red – Second Sign

Chief M. Hobeck reported this sign will be erected in Spring when weather permits.

Full Time/Day Time Officer

Chief M. Hobeck reported that he would have a better idea of where we stand on this item after budget talks next week.

MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT – JANUARY 2020

Chief M. Hobeck presented the Monthly Activity Report for the month of January 2020.

As indicated above, the speed survey from George Street was attached to the monthly activity report this month. Survey results: average speeds reported around 39 kilometers per hour; maximum speeds came in at 60 km./hr. The report showed most speeds were recorded below 39 km./hr., with some reading 40 – 43 km./hr. Chief M. Hobeck said as far as speeding in the area, we are not seeing it.

Chief M. Hobeck said the readings could be a result of the time of year or other factors could be involved. He said a further study of the area is needed. He feels this study was a good building block and gave us an idea of where the speeds are at.

A staffing addition was also added to the report this month's report: term officer Const. Breann Kyte. Chief M. Hobeck reported Const. B. Kyte is a great addition to our team.

Questions/Comments

Comm. D. MacGillivray said George Street is narrow and sometimes there is a perception of speeding. He reminded members that George Street was widened last year and maybe the perception of speed is less with the widening of the street. Chief M. Hobeck agreed with Comm. D. MacGillivray's comment, adding that he would agree that perception of speed is sometimes worse than the actual speed. He said on most residential streets there is a perception of speeding when the vehicles are actually travelling 50 km./hr. on the street; the legal speed limit. Chief M. Hobeck said maybe lowering the speed limit to 40 km. per hour is the answer; if drivers think the speed limit is 40 km., then they are only going to go slower.

Comm. D Taylor made two observations on the monthly report: 1. The number of violations for operation of a motor vehicle; and 2. Comments made at a recent Crime Stoppers meeting – that driving while impaired seems to be sneaking back up. Chief M. Hobeck stated that our department has very good inner-agency cooperation from the Towns of Westville and New Glasgow now that we can do joint check points. He also stated that going forward, funding is available from the province for training directly relating to impaired driving. Our department is sending two officers to Amherst for a week-long Detox course. Another officer is going to be a Drug Recognition Expert as well and will be attending an intense two-week course. Chief M. Hobeck said more training around this subject and working with other local agencies will help us to address this subject better.

Comm. D. Taylor enquired as to whether or not there was any interest in inviting MADD (a non-profit organization working to stop impaired driving, and offers support to victims of this crime) to one of our Commission meetings to make a presentation. Town Clerk S. Higdon said that she could get their information from the Chief and invite them to a meeting.

Chief M. Hobeck extended an invitation to the Board that haven't been out on a ride-along with one of our officers. If any member is interested in doing so they can contact him or the Town Clerk and those arrangements will be made.

Beaufort Street (towards Acadia Avenue)

Comm. B. Atkinson brought up a concern with visibility the last ten feet of Beaufort Street. He would like to see yellow markings (similar to those at the intersection of Foord Street and Acadia Avenue) indicating that there is no right lane turn at the stop there. He stated that visibility (of oncoming traffic from Acadia Avenue) is poor in this area.

Comms. D. Taylor and D. MacGillivray both noted that the town removed trees from that area last year for the same reason.

Comm. D. MacGillivray commented that perhaps the stop-bar is too far back. The suggestion was made of putting this bar parallel to Acadia Avenue. Chief M. Hobeck will take a look at the intersection.

The Monthly Activity Report for the month of January 2020 was accepted as presented on motion Comm. B. Atkinson seconded by Comm. N. Terris. **Motion Carried.**

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting date is scheduled for March 5, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Comm. D. Taylor the meeting adjourned.

CHAIRMAN

TOWN CLERK

STELLARTON POLICE COMMISSION
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