

**July 2, 2020**  
**STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA**

**MEETING**

A regular meeting of the Stellarton Police Commission was held on Thursday, July 2, 2020 at 4:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

**PRESENT**

Chair B. Knight, Comms. D. MacGillivray, D. Taylor, B. Atkinson and N. Terris. Also present, Town Clerk S. Higdon, Police Chief M. Hobeck and Inspector C. Pond.

**AGENDA**

Comm. B. Atkinson moved the approval of the Agenda with the addition of one item: COVID-19 Atlantic Travel Bubble update from Town Clerk, S. Higdon, seconded by Comm. D. MacGillivray.

**Motion Carried.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Minutes of the June 4, 2020 meeting were approved on motion Comm. S. Campbell, seconded by Comm. D. Taylor. **Motion Carried.**

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

*Beaufort Street Intersection – Yellow Markings*

Comm. B. Atkinson reported that the yellow markings (indicating that there is no right lane turn) had not been painted on at the intersection.

*New Flashing Pedestrian Crossing Sign – Post Office*

Comm. B. Knight is unsure if residents are aware that the new pedestrian crossing sign flashes. He suggested mentioning it on the Town's Facebook page to make residents aware of the flashing lights.

Comm. D. MacGillivray asked if the lights flash on both sides of the crosswalk as he only noticed them flashing on one side. Chief M. Hobeck confirmed that the lights do flash on both sides of the street.

*Vehicles Parking Too Close to Crosswalk*

The Chief M. Hobeck reported noticing vehicles parking too close to the crosswalk in front of the post office.

*Vehicles Blocking Driveway*

Chief M. Hobeck also reported receiving a complaint from the owner of a property across from the post office – vehicles blocking his driveway.

Chief M. Hobeck will investigate all of these issues.

**MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT – JUNE 2020**

Chief M. Hobeck presented the Monthly Activity Report for June 2020.

Comm. D. Taylor spoke on the rising number of calls within the Town relating to mental health. He thought additional training focusing on mental health would be a pro-active approach for our Department. Chief M. Hobeck said things are starting to open up around potential training courses on mental health. He feels mental health and escalation techniques will be on the forefront of a lot of organizations' training schedules. He said our department will be looking at that proactively.

Chair B. Knight felt policing failures worldwide show a systemic need for better mental health crisis response.

Comm. D. Taylor said negotiating training would be a good step forward.

Chief M. Hobeck spoke on a program “Verbal Judo”, the practice of using words to prevent or end acts of physical violence and avoid letting a situation escalate. He is looking at getting the program. He has taught the program before and thinks it would be a starting point.

Comm. B. Atkinson suggested the idea of collecting statistics on cases related to drugs and mental health to build a case to get our mental health clinic back.

Comm. B. Knight said come budget time, we have to relook at hiring a fulltime/daytime officer to assist with the completion of case management - save money or provide a service.

Comm. N. Terris spoke on the drug problem in Pictou County, how she feels it isn't being handled the way she was brought up to believe, and how some residents are scared to say anything. Chief M. Hobeck explained to her how the system works. Chief M. Hobeck said if residents are frightened, they can contact Crime Stoppers anonymously and pass on as much information as they can without giving away their identify.

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

#### **QUOTES FOR LEASE OF NEW VEHICLE**

Chief M. Hobeck reported receiving three quotes for a new police vehicle. One of those three quotes was to purchase a vehicle; the company does not lease. Where the Department has to lease a vehicle, this quote is not an option for consideration.

Chief M. Hobeck recommended the Board go with the Dodge Durango from Dartmouth Dodge – turnkey. He noted that the dealership has the stripping deco to go on the vehicle. Chief M. Hobeck said they provide the best price because of the volume of leasing they do for the government. He said the Dodge Durango the Department currently has is from the same dealership. Same options. Similar buyout and price. He said for what the Department uses the vehicle for, it seems to be a very effective vehicle.

Comm. D. Taylor made a motion to recommend to Council that we accept the Dartmouth Dodge lease agreement of \$38,400.00 purchase price of a Dodge Durango 2020 V, turnkey. 48month lease, seconded by Comm. S. Campbell. **Motion Carried.**

#### **ATLANTIC TRAVEL BUBBLE**

Town Clerk S. Higdon reported the province released some frequently asked questions on the Atlantic Travel Bubble (between the four Atlantic provinces). The Board was given copies of those questions. The frequently asked questions have also been sent out to all staff and placed on the Town's Facebook account. The Police Department was given a copy as well.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Chief M. Hobeck shared a letter from a resident thanking Sgt. P. Veenhuis and Const. G. MacPherson for their service relating to a mental health incident in the Town. Sgt. P. Veenhuis was also praised for his inner-work with an employee at MLA Pat Dunn's office and another incident in the Town that he handled with professionalism.

#### **NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting date is scheduled for September 3, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.

The Commission then met In Camera

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

**CHAIRMAN**

**TOWN CLERK**

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