

**January 9, 2020**  
**STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA**

### **MEETING**

A regular meeting of the Stellarton Police Commission was held on Thursday, January 9, 2020 at 4:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

### **PRESENT**

Chairperson B. Knight, Comms. S. Campbell, D. Taylor, B. Atkinson, D. MacGillivray and N. Terris. Also present, Town Clerk S. Higdon, and Police Chief M. Hobeck.

### **AGENDA**

Comm. D. MacGillivray approved the Agenda with the addition of two items: 4b Fulltime/daytime officer and 4c. Clarification on term positions, seconded by Comm. D. Taylor. **Motion Carried.**

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Comm. S. Campbell made a motion to accept the December 5, 2019 Police Commission Minutes, seconded by Comm. B. Atkinson. **Motion Carried.**

### **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

- a. Stop Sign on Foord Street

Chief M. Hobeck reported speaking with the Town Engineer regarding a study of the intersection of Jubilee Avenue and Foord Street. Discussions were put on hold because of Christmas holidays and bad weather conditions.

- b. Lowering of Speed Limit

Chief M. Hobeck said the first step in looking at lowering the speed limit is: conduct a study of the average speeds on the affected streets (starting with George Street) to determine if there are any issues in the area. Chief M. Hobeck reported that the speed sign on George Street was taken down a week ago. The December monthly activity report did not contain this data; the data will be available for the next Commission meeting. Chief M. Hobeck is waiting to hear if the province needs to do a traffic study as well. Comm. B. Atkinson would like to see the sign at Fox Brook Road location in the Spring when there is more activity with kids in the area.

- c. Body Cameras

After a further study of the camera system in the interview room, it was determined that the computers require a couple upgrades to have the system in there. Chief M. Hobeck reported that once the upgrades are complete, the cameras will be ordered.

- d. Red Flashing Lights - Stop Signs– Foord Street

Chief M. Hobeck reported looking at prices but no lights have been ordered. The town engineer and himself have to look at placement of the lights and how they will fit on the poles before any lights will be ordered. He noted that one of the stop signs is on a telephone pole; which could mean a different set up for placement.

Comm. B. Atkinson commented that the flashing light he was referring to was a guide wire from post-to-post and the flashing light hangs in the center; the light is not off the pole.

- e. “No Right Turn on Red” Sign – Foord Street

In relation to the “No Right Turn on Red” sign, Comm. D. Taylor asked if there was a second sign going up. Chief M. Hobeck confirmed this, reporting that the delay in putting the sign up related to: issues over a bracket being built to attach the sign and weather conditions. Town Clerk S. Higdon reported this may not get done until spring.

f. "New" Stop Sign Ahead Sign – Foord Street

Comm. B. Atkinson reported receiving a complaint that the sign was too low. He asked if Public Works staff would raise the sign.

**MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT – DECEMBER 2019**

Chief M. Hobeck presented the Monthly Activity Report for the month of December 2019. Comm. D. MacGillivray made note that foot patrols double from the previous month. Chief M. Hobeck said on his foot patrols, he can see there are definitely parking issues along Foord Street. Going forward, he is going to encourage the officers to get out and issue warnings to people, letting them know where the signs are and what they are doing wrong (blocking driveways, too close to crosswalks, etc.)

At this time, Chief M. Hobeck informed members that Const. Destiny Merriam is no longer with the department; she has joined the RCMP and new Const. Makayla Morrell started with the department just after Christmas.

The Monthly Activity Report for the month of December 2019 was accepted as presented on motion Comm. D. Taylor seconded by Comm. B. Atkinson. **Motion Carried.**

**Fulltime/Daytime Officer**

Discussions took place on the proposal of hiring a fulltime/daytime officer. Chair B. Knight said a fulltime/daytime officer is required to assist with the completion of case management files that are not getting completed in a timely manner because of shiftwork, vacations, etc. A daytime officer (detective/case manager) would follow up on these cases in a timely manner; complete all required paperwork.

Town Clerk S. Higdon said additional officer would affect the 2021 police budget and would require, from the Commission, a recommendation to Council for budget consideration.

Comm. D. Taylor supported the idea.

Chief M. Hobeck said there is going to be a cost savings on overtime hours and the "term" budget could be cut. He will also consult with the Town's Financial Advisor, Brenda MacKay for cost savings.

Comm. S. Campbell had a couple of questions: where would this go in the budget and would current officers be considered first. All of those questions will be detailed later.

It was then moved by Comm. D. Taylor that a recommendation be made to Town Council for budget consideration for a fulltime/daytime officer, seconded by Comm. B. Atkinson. **Motion Carried.**

**Term Employees**

Chair B. Knight asked for clarity re: term employees. Chief M. Hobeck clarified that one year after a term position starts it would then be to his discretion to hire fulltime. He thinks this is a positive move.

Comm. B. Atkinson thanked the police department for areas of improved safety.

Comm. Don Taylor had a question about computer security.

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting date is scheduled for February 6, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

On motion by Comm. B. Atkinson the meeting adjourned.

**CHAIRMAN**

**TOWN CLERK**