

April 1, 2021

STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA

MEETING

A regular meeting of the Stellarton Police Commission was held on Thursday, April 1, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

PRESENT

Chairman B Knight, Comms. D. Taylor, B. Atkinson and N. Terris. Also present, Town Clerk S. Higdon, Police Chief M. Hobeck and Inspector C. Pond and Marketing & Communications Coordinator, P. Clarke. Regrets were received from Comm. D. MacGillivray.

AGENDA

Comm. N. Terris approved the Agenda with two additions: 4a Police Scam Education and 4b Citizen Vacancy, seconded by Comm. B. Atkinson **Motion Carried.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Comm. S. Campbell made a motion to accept the March 4, 2021 Police Commission Minutes, seconded by Comm. D. Taylor. **Motion Carried.**

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

No business arising from the minutes.

MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT – MARCH 2021

The monthly activity report for the month of March 2021 was presented and reviewed.

4a Police Scam Education

Marketing & Communications Coordinator Paige Clarke spoke on partnering with Const. G. Vandergrift on offering scam education focusing on reaching seniors and educating them on how technology is used for this. A few of their ideas include: brochure/leaflet for seniors' complexes with information; online campaign/online access to information; and a Facebook or YouTube livestream where Const. G. Vandergrift could present and answer questions that residents would send in.

Coordinator, P Clarke reported that the project is taking several forms to make the information is accessible to everyone. Const. G. Vandergrift is leading the research and the informative part of the project with P. Clarke working with him during the process.

Chair B. Knight applauded Const. G. Vandergrift for coming forward with an interest to get this information out to the public, with a specific focus on seniors.

Comm. D. Taylor stated that he does presentations for Crime Stoppers Nova Scotia related to this issue and would have a number of sources they may be able to use if they would be interested in having him join one of their meetings. P. Clarke was thanked for her presentation.

4b Citizen Vacancy

Town Clerk S. Higdon reported that as per town policy, representatives that sit on town committees, such as the Police Commission, their terms are for three years. After the first three years they have an option, if they wish, to continue for the second term; after such second term, the position has to be advertised in the paper to see if there is any public interest. S. Higdon said if there are no applications that come forth, the representative sitting on the committee presently can continue if interested.

Comm. D. Taylor said that he would be interested in continuing if there is no public interest.

The monthly activity report for the month of March 2021 was accepted as presented on motion Comm. D. Taylor, seconded by Comm. B. Atkinson. **Motion Carried**

CORRESPONDENCE

a. Letter to Chief Cechetto from Executive Director of DOJ (attached to form part of the minutes) Town Clerk S. Higdon read a letter dated March 18th 2021 from the Executive Director of the Department of Justice David MacLean to Chief Cechetto, President of the NS Associations of Chiefs of Police. The letter is in response to the President's correspondence dated Jan 25, 2021 requesting further clarification on facets of the Minister's letter delivered January 21, 2021 respecting a preliminary analysis of policing service delivery across nova scotia.

i. Letter from Stellarton Town Council to Minister Randy Delorey (attached to form part of the minutes) S. Higdon stated that the above letter was presented to Council under correspondence to which a motion was made to respond to Minister of Justice Randy Delorey. S. Higdon read the letter dated March 25, 2021 from Commissioner B. Knight, Chair of the Stellarton Police Commission.

b. Email from Pictou County Aid Re: Dispatcher Feedback.

Chief Hobeck read the email from the Administrator of the Pictou County Automatic Aid that dispatch deals with. In the email, the Administrator stated that they wanted to pass on some positive feedback for the dispatcher working Saturday, March 20th dayshift. The email went on to say that "the dispatch was doing a fantastic job and has been for some time. Clear, concise, professional sounding communications without delay and her I AM RESPONDING messages were informative with the right information. Her skill and professionalism has not gone unnoticed between members of multiple fire departments. You can pass that positive feedback on to the dispatcher." Chief Hobeck passed this on to the dispatcher that was on that shift.

STELLARTON POLICE SERVICE STRATEGIC PLAN

Town Clerk S. Higdon reported that the strategic planning session took place on March 18th with members of the Police Commission, along with Chief M. Hobeck and Inspector C. Pond. She agreed with Chair Knight that it was a great session. The draft is before the Commission. She reported that the session included: looking at a mission statement and a vision statement, talking about some values, our strengths/weaknesses/opportunities and threats, which brought us to three goals for the Stellarton Police Service:

1. A modern facility,
2. develop police volunteer programs, and
3. upgrade and improve technology for a more efficient service.

S. Higdon said if the Commission is okay with what was discussed on March 18th and provided in this draft, if they would approve the draft to go to Council.

Both Comms. N. Terris and B. Atkinson thought the draft looked great. Comm. D. Taylor didn't disagree but stressed that the strategic plan has to be a living document. He suggested reviewing the goals every six months, see where we are and if we need to modify them.

It was moved by Comm. N. Terris made a motion to accept this draft copy of the strategic plan to go forward to the Council for approval, seconded by Comm. B. Atkinson. **Motion Carried.**

BABE MASON WAY

Chair B. Knight reported that it has been brought to his attention that individuals are driving down Babe Mason Way in four-wheel trucks and cutting across the back of the soccer field and going down Old Foxbrook Road. He is not sure what can be done. He asked if Chief Hobeck could work with the Town Clerk and Engineer to come up with some kind of solution.

STOP SIGN ON FOORD STREET

Chair B. Knight reported receiving complaints of vehicles going through the stop signs.

COMPUTER UPDATE FOR POLICE VEHICLE

Comm. D. Taylor reported sourcing a number of different devices. He said Brian Shephard, owner of LM Computers was able to source out refurbished Zebra tablets. Comm. D. Taylor reported sending a link to members on the tablets. The tablet is a Zebra 10.0, Intel Core i5, 8 GB RAM, 128 GB SSD with two-year warranty. Cost of the tablets are \$700/each plus taxes. Comm. D. Taylor feels the tablet will take care of all of what the department needs. The tablets will be mounted in the police vehicles. Comm. D. Taylor said Mr. Shepard has ordered two tablets for us to look; when they arrive, he will contact Inspector Pond and the Chief to take a quick rundown on the tablets to see if it is what our department is looking for and go from there. Inspector C. Pond reported that he is waiting to hear back from the Town of New Glasgow's IT person, Derek Eisan to see what the requirements would be.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting date is scheduled for May 6, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Comm. N. Terris the meeting adjourned.

CHAIRMAN

TOWN CLERK

STELLARTON POLICE COMMISSION
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