

February 4, 2021

STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA

MEETING

A regular meeting of the Stellarton Police Commission was held on Thursday, February 4, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

PRESENT

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

AGENDA

Comm. D. Taylor approved the Agenda as presented, seconded by Comm. S. Taylor
Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Comm. N. Terris made a motion to accept the January 5, 2021 Police Commission Minutes, seconded by Comm. D. Taylor **Motion Carried.**

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Parking on Corner of Maple Street

Chief M. Hobeck reported driving by the area on several occasions and not noticing any cars parked on the corner. Chief Hobeck reported that he is still actively looking at the situation.

Vandalized Sign

Chief Hobeck reported that he is unsure if the spray paint can be removed from the sign. He said they haven't considered replacing the sign. He will revisit the site with the Town Engineer to get his input.

Chair B. Knight reported a deer sign on Acadia Avenue had been vandalized.

Pricing Package Tazer7

Chief M. Hobeck reported our department would not be entertaining the idea of purchasing the Tazer7s at this time. He said the tazers cost \$2,500 to \$3,000 each, which he felt was prohibitive; a monthly subscription to cloud space to store data is also required. Chief Hobeck reported needing to replace an outdated x26p tazer; a budget item this year. He concluded saying that when the x26p models are phased out, we will look at the Tazer7.

Comm. D. Taylor asked if it was a requirement for each police officer on duty to have a tazer. Chief Hobeck said there is no provincial standard or requirement as to how many officers can have them.

Less-Lethal Weapon

Chief M. Hobeck reported that the BolaWrap (an American product) has a price tag of \$1,800 to \$2,000; this price does not include the training package that would be required. Chief Hobeck said the weapon is not being used by Canadian agencies, but they are working on having it introduced into Canada. He noted that there are a lot of less-lethal weapon options on the market.

MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT – JANUARY 2021

The Monthly Activity Report for January 2021 was presented and reviewed.

Following review of the report, Chief M. Hobeck recommended the Commission ratify having Const. Makayla Morrell move to a part time position from a term position; her six-month term position is coming to an end.

The above recommendation was moved by Comm. D. MacGillivray, seconded by D. Taylor. **Motion Carried.**

The Monthly Activity Report for January 2021 was accepted as presented on motion Comm. D. MacGillivray seconded by Comm. B. Atkinson. **Motion Carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE

Nova Scotia Chiefs of Police Association – President

Chief Hobeck reported that the province is conducting a review of the RCMP contract policing jurisdictions as well as municipal police. Chief Hobeck said the correspondence talks about physical responsibility, sustainability and effectiveness; it is not a judgment of municipal police agencies. He will have more information once the review begins. Town Clerk S. Higdon reported that this correspondence will be presented to Council as well.

Chief M. Hobeck touched briefly on a recent visit from Justice Minister Mark Furey. The Minister is visiting all police chiefs in the province to discuss the Street Crime Unit Program. Chief Hobeck expressed to the Minister his thoughts on what our department would like to see going forward with the program.

Letter of thanks from Citizen

Chief B. Knight read a letter from a town citizen thanking our police officers for handling a situation in a way that gave them peace of mind and a sense of security.

Comm. D. Taylor said speaking from experience, he can understand the impact police officers, in general, can have on individual situations.

Comm. B. Atkinson said he receives compliments from citizens about our police officers being more visible around the town, etc.

Chair B. Knight is proud of the excellent service provided by our police department.

Comm. N. Terris said what she likes about community policing is that there is that special touch.

Chair B. Knight would like to see these letters put in a file for easy access.

PUBLIC TRANSIT AND MVA

Comm. D. MacGillivray reported that public transit is starting this Spring in the towns of Stellarton and New Glasgow. Chief Hobeck made reference to Section 124 in the Motor Vehicle Act that relates to buses and their rights to making stops within the town. In summary, he said a bus can stop wherever it needs to stop to let commuters on/off; adding that if the bus can get off the road to stop, that is great.

Chair B. Knight informed members that the CHAD Transit office is now located in the Town of Stellarton, 76 Foord Street.

LONG TERM STRATEGIEY PLANNING FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Comm. D. Taylor would like to see the Commission start discussions on long-term strategic planning for our department and eventually put a plan in place.

Comm. D. MacGillivray said a strategic plan is a good idea and made the suggestion of hiring a facilitator to work with the Commission.

Chair B. Knight felt having the Commission involved in this process is important.

Comm. D. MacGillivray said Chief Hobeck knows better than anyone what our department needs and what their wish list would be. He said once the list is prepared, it could be presented to the Commission through the Chair. Comm. S. Campbell felt a wish list is a good idea to see what the needs of the department are and if they are attainable.

Comm. D. MacGillivray said this item should be included in budget discussions.

Town Clerk S. Higdon will be recommending that Council also look at the Town's strategic plan as well.

Chair B. Knight said we will need to look into what it would cost for a facilitator.

NEW DRUG

Chair B. Knight read an article "RCMP warns new drug seized from a vehicle entering Nova Scotia from New Brunswick." Comm. D. Taylor suggested putting this information on our police Facebook profile. Chief Hobeck agrees with the sharing of this type of information on social media.

COVID-19 VACCINATION – POLICE OFFICERS

Chief Hobeck reported that police officers are no longer in Phase 2 for COVID-19 vaccinations. He reported that the police chiefs were advised that police officers are no longer on the priority list for Phase 2; they have been bumped in with the general population. Chief Hobeck reported that the police chiefs will having a conference call with Dr. Strang next week to express their displeasure with this news. He also reported that the police chiefs have also discussed writing a letter to the province looking for support for the police officers in getting the vaccine in Phase 2. Comm. D. Taylor proposed the Commission send a letter now in support of the police.

Comm B. Atkinson moved a motion that we support the police in sending a letter of support to the province – re police officers receiving the COVID-19 vaccine in Phase 2, seconded by Comm. D. Taylor. **Motion Carried.**

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting date is scheduled for March 4, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

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

STELLARTON POLICE COMMISSION
February 4, 2021
STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA

CHAIRMAN

TOWN CLERK