

January 7, 2021

STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA

MEETING

A regular meeting of the Stellarton Police Commission was held on Thursday, January 7, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Chair B. Knight wished Board members a Happy New Year.

PRESENT

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

AGENDA

Comm. N. Terris approved the Agenda, seconded by Comm. D. Taylor with the following additions:

- 4a Parking on Corner of Maple Street,
- 4b New Technology for Policing,
- 4c Election of Chair & Vice Chair, and
- 4d Emergency Alerts.

Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Comm. D. MacGillivray made a motion to accept the December 3, 2020 Police Commission Minutes, seconded by Comm. B. Knight. **Motion Carried.**

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Vandalized “Caution” Sign

Comm. B. Atkinson revisited the issue of the vandalized “Caution” sign coming into Stellarton from Westville via Foster Avenue. Comm. D. MacGillivray reported on another vandalized sign in the same area – the Town of Stellarton sign purchased through a grant from the province. Comm. D. MacGillivray reported that the sign has been graffitied for a couple years now. Town Clerk S. Higdon stated that the sign would not be able to be replaced because the grant has run out. She said the sign could be removed but not repaired unless town council wants to pay for replacement of the sign. Comm. D. MacGillivray reported that there is another Town of Stellarton sign in the same area that is expected to be replaced in the near future. He feels this sign offers sufficient signage for that area. Chief M. Hobeck will report the vandalized signs to the Town Engineer.

Radio Communications

Chief M. Hobeck reported that all three agencies (Westville, New Glasgow and the RCMP) and Shubie are in agreement on a procedure to share a common channel when on a common call.

Chair B. Knight thanked our police department for pursuing some of the aggravating drivers with loud mufflers within the town. He also appreciates the support our officers are receiving from Westville’s police department.

MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT – DECEMBER 2020

The Monthly Activity Report for the month of December 2020 was presented.

After a brief discussion, the Monthly Activity Report for December 2020 was accepted as presented on motion Comm. D. Taylor seconded by Comm. B. Atkinson. **Motion Carried.**

PARKING ON CORNER OF MAPLE STREET

Chair B. Knight reported that council has been receiving complaints from residents re: parking coming around the corner on Maple Street making the area dangerous. Chair B. Knight suggested “no parking” signs. Comm. D. Taylor commented that the winter parking ban would come in effect if violators are parking overnight. Chair B. Knight said there was no indication given of overnight parking. Comm. D. MacGillivray and Chair B. Knight suggesting having Chief Hobeck speak with residents in the area before taking the action of issuing tickets.

NEW TECHNOLOGY FOR POLICING

Chief M. Hobeck reported that every couple of years a newer upgraded version of the tazer comes out on the market. He said less lethal options of policing are big right now and most agencies across North America are looking at different platforms available to them. He said the Tazer 7 is one of them. He said it is an upgrade in technology that comes with a cost as it is an American product put out by an American company. He said there are other less lethal options of policing available to us in the province including: pepper ball systems that are quite effective and non-lethal. He said the department is always looking at new technology that is going to help us out where we don't have to use our hands or firearms. He said the Tazer 7 is certainly worth looking at. He is waiting to hear back on a total cost package for the device, including training etc.

Comm. B. Atkinson asked if the poles arrived for the new lights at the A&W site. Chief M. Hobeck reported that we are still waiting on the poles; the bases are in and the lights arrives months ago.

NOMINATIONS FOR CHAIRPERSON

Town Clerk S. Higdon assumed the Chair calling for nominations for the position of Chairperson. Comm. D. Taylor nominated Comm. B. Knight seconded by B. Atkinson. Comm. B. Knight accepted the nomination. Hearing no further nominations, Chair B. Knight continues as the Chairperson. **Motion Carried.**

NOMINATIONS FOR VICE CHAIRPERSON

Chair B. Knight called for nominations for the position of Vice Chairperson. Comm. D. MacGillivray nominated Comm. D. Taylor, seconded by Comm. B. Atkinson. Comm. D. Taylor accepted the nomination. Hearing no further nominations, Comm. D. Taylor was declared the new Vice Chairperson. **Motion Carried.**

EMERGENCY ALERTS

Vice Chair D. Taylor asked if our police department has a process in place to deliver critical alerts to the public if a potentially dangerous situation arises. Chief M. Hobeck explained that there is an emergency alert ready system in place. He discussed the process in detail noting that once the decision is made to put out an alert it is done within 20 minutes of making that decision. He said the biggest time constraint is the decision to put the alert out.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chair B. Knight thanked Commission members for volunteering their time to be on the Board. He also thanked Chief Hobeck for doing a great job since becoming Police Chief for the town.

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Chief M. Hobeck reported that one of our officer's is on administrative leave at this time. Const. Makayla Morrell's work term is up; she is now parttime. Const. Breanne Kyte is still on a term position. Chair B. Knight reported receiving positive feedback on our officers.

Chief M. Hobeck reported that one of the things our officers missed out on this past year because of the lockdown and COVID-19 was getting out in the community as much as they would have liked to show the proactive side of policing.

Chief M. Hobeck reported that police training took place in December noting our officers enjoyed the edge weapon training. Chief Hobeck stated that training opportunities have been lessened quite a bit because of COVID-19.

NEXT MEETING DATE

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

CHAIRMAN

TOWN CLERK