

**March 4, 2021**

**STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA**

### **MEETING**

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

### **PRESENT**

Chairman 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. D. Taylor approved the Agenda as presented, seconded by Comm. B. Atkinson  
**Motion Carried.**

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Comm. D. MacGillivray made a motion to accept the February 4, 2021 Police Commission Minutes, seconded by Comm. N. Terris. **Motion Carried.**

### **BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

Chair B. Knight reported the great job that the Stellarton Police Service did at 127/129 Hudson Street. Noted the fact that it was through Insp. Pond's initiative and working with Building Inspector to get the property under dangerous and unsightly.

### **STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE**

Town Clerk S. Higdon reported meeting with Chief M. Hobeck to discuss the strategic plan process. During this meeting, she suggested to him the idea of her working with Inspector Pond to co-facilitate the process with Commission members. She explained that a facilitated session would be held, separate from the regular Police Commission meeting. During this session, members would present/discuss what information they would like to see in the plan; discuss strengths/weaknesses and come up with some goals. The information collected would then be used to develop the plan. She asked the Commission if they would be in favor of this. Chair B. Knight said he would be in favor of Inspector Pond and the Town Clerk co-facilitating and working with the Commission.

S. Higdon reported that her and Inspector Pond have looked at strategic plans from other agencies. Comm. D. Taylor asked if a copy of one of those plans could be emailed to members to review prior to the session to get an understanding of how a strategic plan is assembled. S. Higdon said this would not be a problem.

Chief Hobeck noted that a strategic plan is more of a broader scale rather than getting down in the weeds of particular issues. Its just a general direction of where you want to go.

Once a date is decided on for the information session, S. Higdon will inform Commission members.

## **MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT – FEBRUARY 2021**

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

Comm. D. Taylor was happy to see the monthly telephone calls received down compared to when the calls received were up in the 200s.

Comm. D. MacGillivray hopes to see foot patrols increase in the spring. Chief Hobeck said foot patrols should increase assuming we have the resources to do that.

Comm. D. MacGillivray asked if there were any plans to see police officers out on bikes this summer. Chief Hobeck reported he would like to see the bike out every day this summer. Last year a couple of the term police officers were brought in to be out on the bikes.

Comm. D. Taylor suggested holding a helmet drive in the spring and have the officers do something within the schools. Chief Hobeck said the challenge we are having with the schools right now is our program is on hold because of Covid-19. Chair B. Knight suggested doing a video and getting the video into the schools. Chief Hobeck thought both ideas were doable. He suggested the idea of an outdoor bike rodeo in the spring.

Chair B. Knight would like to see more police presence around Maple Street. He finds vehicles slow down with police presence.

Chair B. Knight informed members that Council reviewed the new budget and in order to balance the budget, one of the items that was not able to be added was the additional fulltime, daytime police officer. He said Council will revisit the need for this item in next year's budget. Questions were asked about other budget items.

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

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### Minister of Justice

Town Clerk S. Higdon said a letter was received via email February 19, 2021 from Minister Furey to Emily Lutz, President of the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities. Due to their due date of requesting information of February 26<sup>th</sup>, it was sent to the Commission via email and it was also received a information at the last Committee of a Whole meeting. A response was sent back to Ryan Brothers with Comm. D. Taylor's comments. Comm. D. Taylor asked Chief Hobeck if the Chiefs will still have a meeting with the new Minister of Justice. He is assuming that is going to happen. Comm. D. Taylor asked to let Commission know so they could suggest a few topics.

### Reimbursement of Police Vehicles

Comm. B. Atkinson asked about potential reimbursement of police vehicles after their use. Chief Hobeck said that would not be an option due to the costs for the whole province.

### Police Officers Vaccination Update

Chief Hobeck reported the Nova Scotia Chiefs of Police Association drafted a letter to Dept. of Health. The NSACP has not yet received a response. Chair B. Knight reported that a motion was passed by Council to send a letter in support of the police officers getting vaccinated in Phase 2. He reported that the letter, along with a letter of support

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from the Commission, are ready if needed. Chief Hobeck would like to wait for a response from Dr. Strang before taking any further action.

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting date is scheduled for April 1, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**CHAIRMAN**

**TOWN CLERK**