

**November 4, 2021**  
**STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA**

### **MEETING**

A regular meeting of the Stellarton Police Commission was held on Thursday, November 4, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

### **PRESENT**

Chairman B. Knight, Comms. D. MacGillivray, B. Atkinson, N. Terris and S. Campbell. Comm. K. Mason and Police Chief M. Hobeck were able to link up to the meeting via telephone. Also present, CAO S. Higdon and Inspector C. Pond.

### **AGENDA**

Comm. N. Terris approved the agenda with the addition of one item: Mental Health Crisis, seconded by Comm. S. Campbell. **Motion Carried.**

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Comm. B. Atkinson made a motion to accept the October 7, 2021 Police Commission minutes, seconded by Comm N. Terris. **Motion Carried.**

### **BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

#### a. Bylaws and Mufflers

Chief Hobeck reported that there has been a lot of discussion from other agencies across the province relating to this topic. He said other agencies had some concerns before about towns creating bylaws to deal with things that should be dealt with through the Motor Vehicle Act. Chief Hobeck said some agencies are enforcing a section in the Act pertaining specifically to mufflers, etc.

Chief Hobeck confirmed that our department now has a decibel reader. He said that the issue they have been having around decibel readers was training and the ability to testify in court (if the reading is a true 100% accurate reading). Chief Hobeck reported that some changes were made recently to the Motor Vehicle Act with respect to that. He will have more to report on this at the next meeting.

### **MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT – OCTOBER 2021**

The activity report for the month of October 2021 was reviewed by members. Inspector C. Pond said the activity report shows the number of incoming calls still quite high, closing in on 250. Inspect. C. Pond said the biggest issue the department has seen in the last month has been thefts. Identification is a big issue right now because everyone is wearing a mask.

The activity report for the month of October 2021 was approved as presented on motion Comm. N. Terris seconded by Comm. B. Atkinson. **Motion Carried.**

### **SPEED LIMIT - HRM**

Chairman B. Knight reported receiving an email re: HRM granted the ability to set speed limits in certain residential neighbourhoods. He would like to see a motion from this Commission to send a letter to the Minister of the Department of Transportation requesting that they empower communities with the ability to reduce speed limits on specific residential roadways. Chairman B. Knight reported approaching one of our local MLAs on the topic and receiving support. Comm. S. Campbell said the MVA allows for

a municipality to request posted speed limits below 50/kms. if accompanied by necessary documentation including current operating speeds and roadway characteristics. If a motion is made to send a letter to the Minister, Comm. S. Campbell would like this documentation included with the letter.

It was moved by Comm. N. Terris that we send a letter to the Minister of the Department of Transportation requesting that they empower communities with the ability to reduce speed limits on specific residential roadways, seconded by Comm. D. MacGillivray. Inspector C. Pond and CAO S. Higdon will look into what supporting documentation needs to accompany the letter. **Motion Carried.**

### **MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS**

Chair B. Knight reported that the ADHOC Committee invited the Police Chiefs of each local agency, along with the RCMP to attend one of their meetings to speak on their concerns relating to the mental healthcare crisis in the community.

Chairman B. Knight said what came from that meeting is: 1. Yes, we have mental healthcare issues here in our community, 2. we do need a mental healthcare unit, and 3. we do need 24/7 coverage. Chairman B. Knight said the new government has set up a new department dedicated to addictions and mental health. He said the Committee has a meeting set up for the 18<sup>th</sup> of November with the new department to sit down and discuss these mental health issues.

Chief Hobeck said it is encouraging that they are opening discussion on the mental health crisis.

Chief Hobeck said there is a training seminar planned on crisis intervention with speakers involved in the mental health process; the date and location has not yet been finalized. He reported that he should have more information on this at the next meeting.

Comm. B. Atkinson reported that one can get what is called an “incident report” from the hospital to report positive or negative experiences in out-patients that they can send to the Nova Scotia Health Authority. Comm. B. Atkinson said the comments in the report do not have to relate to mental health. Comm. S. Campbell felt that this information was good to know.

### **STELLARTON POLICE SERVICE STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATES**

#### **a. Modern Facility**

No new updates.

#### **b. Develop Volunteer Programs**

No new updates.

#### **c. Upgrade and Improve Technology**

CAO S. Higdon reported that the Commission will be going in-camera to discuss this update from Comm. K. Mason.

STELLARTON POLICE COMMISSION  
November 4, 2021  
STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Volunteer Programs

Inspect. C. Pond reported that the Youth Corps program is starting up again and that Sgt. P. Veenhuis has advertised for new recruitments. Chief Hobeck reported having nine members in attendance for their first meeting and a couple more youth showing interest.

Comm. D. MacGillivray asked for an update on the Chief's health

**NEX MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for December 2, 2021 at 2 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**CHAIRMAN**

**TOWN CLERK**