

June 2, 2022

STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA

MEETING

A regular scheduled monthly meeting of the Stellarton Police Commission was held on Thursday, June 2, 2022 at 2:30 pm in Council Chambers.

PRESENT

Chairman B. Knight, Comm. S. Campbell, Comm. Nancy Terris, Comm. P. Kay, Chief M. Hobeck, CAO S. Higdon, Inspector C. Pond and Administrative Assistant M. Thibeau.

AGENDA

Chairman B. Knight requested that a Safety Talk be added to the agenda as Item #5, Parking be added to the agenda as Item #6, Stellarton Police Strategic Plan will be Item #7, Next Meeting will be Item #8 and adjournment to be Item #9. CAO S. Higdon stated that there is a correction to the next Police Commission meeting which will be September 8th, as the Commission does not meet in the summer months. Comm. N. Terris made a motion that the agenda be approved, seconded by Com. S. Campbell. **Motioned Carried.**

Approval of the Minutes

Comm. S. Campbell made a motion to accept the May 12th 2022 Police Commission minutes, seconded by Comm. P. Kay. **Motion Carried.**

Business Arising from the Minutes- None

Monthly Activity Report

Chief Hobeck stated that calls were up (247) after a lull of a few months. Chief Hobeck also stated that there was a change in the structure of the report, and hopefully would be easier to follow. He added foot and bike patrol hours were up as well as Community Relations. Chairman Knight asked what areas were being patrolled on bike patrol, Chief Hobeck indicated that most would be conducted on the street and would focus on bike safety and enforcement and that there would be a program with the ice cream shop to reward those wearing helmets. Chief Hobeck added that Sgt. Veenhuis had represented the Stellarton Police Service at the Michelin Junior Bike at the Wellness Center and that he and Cst. Vandergrift along with Marketing and Communications Coordinator Paige Clarke had attended GR. Saunders, with Paige wearing the Police's mascot costume, "Officer Friendly," at the event, which was a real hit with the children. Chief Hobeck added that Cst. Munro had attended a traffic enforcement initiative in the County with other Police agencies with 117 tickets issued along with 44 warnings. Chief Hobeck then stated he had attended a service at Bethel Baptist Church that was for First Responders. S. Campbell asked if the missing persons listed on the monthly report had been located, Insp. Stated that they had.

Approval of the Monthly Activity Report

Comm. N. Terris made a motion to accept the Monthly Activity Report for May 2022, seconded by S. Campbell. **Motion Carried**

Safety

Chairman Knight expressed his frustration at observing individuals not pushing the button to instigate the traffic lights in front of the post office before crossing the street. Chairman Knight asked Chief Hobeck if there was a way to start a program to educate the public in the use of the crossing lights. Chief Hobeck stated that he could possibly look at doing something with Paige Clarke and "Officer Friendly" to better educate children on safely crossing the street. Comm. N. Terris stated that in the past the lights were not working. CAO Higdon stated that all were repaired.

Parking

Chairman Knight spoke of observing many vehicles parked on crosswalks. Chairman Knight stated he had a conversation with Chief Hobeck in regard to possibly increasing parking tickets from ten dollars to twenty dollars and have them tied into the province where tickets would need to be paid before licenses would be renewed. Comm. P. Kay asked if there were a maximum number of taxis allowed to park on Foord Street, as many people are finding it difficult to find a place to park. Chief Hobeck stated that there was not. The issue of increased Parking fines will be taken to council.

Stellarton Police Service Strategic Planning Updates

a) Modern Facility

CAO Higdon stated that there was no update to provide.

b) Development of Volunteer Programs

Chief Hobeck stated that there was no update since Sgt. Paul Veenhuis had addressed the Commission at the last meeting.

c) Upgrade and Improve Technology

CAO S. Higdon stated that this was ongoing. Chairman Knight asked the status of the in-car computers. Chief Hobeck stated that these have been put on hold until the new server is installed for Police. Chief Hobeck added that three new body cams had arrived along with a new audio/video system for the interview room. Chairman Knight then asked if the Street Crime Unit had body cams.

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Chief Hobeck stated that they do not, however he would bring it up at the next Joint Management Meeting.

Additional Comments

Comm. S. Campbell questioned the signage at the Petro Canada and wondered if "Entrance" and "Exit" signs could be installed at the entrance on Lawrence Blvd.

Chief Hobeck stated that signs had already arrived for this location and would be installed soon. Chief Hobeck added that a "Yield" sign would be added when entering the roundabout and that any other signage would be the responsibility of the landowner.

Comm. S. Campbell questioned the lack of signage at the track on Auburn Avenue in regards to loitering. Chief Hobeck stated that "No Loitering" or "No Entrance after Dusk" signs could be installed. CAO. S. Higdon stated that this could be brought up at the Committee of the Whole.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for September 8th, 2022 at 230 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Comm. P. Kay, the meeting was adjourned