

September 7, 2023
STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA

MEETING

A regular scheduled meeting of the Stellarton Police Commission was held on Thursday, September 7, 2023 at 2:30 pm in Council Chambers.

PRESENT

Chairman B. Knight, Comm D. MacGillivray Comm. P. Kay, Comm D. Taylor, Comm K. Mason, Comm P. Lloyd, Chief M. Hobeck, Insp. C. Pond, and CAO S. Higdon.

AGENDA

Chairman Knight asked if there were any additions to the agenda. CAO S Higdon stated that Item 4 (Swearing in of Term Officer) would not be taking place, as he was currently at the range receiving training. CAO S. Higdon stated that she would like to add the Police Budget Report for the period ending July 31, 2023. CAO S. Higdon stated that these two items could be switched in the agenda and that this item would now be Item 4. Chairman Knight asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Comm P. Kaye made a motion that the agenda be approved. Seconded by Comm D. Taylor. **Motion Carried.**

Approval of the Minutes

Chairman Knight asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the July 6, 2023 Police Commission meeting. Comm K. Mason made a motion that the minutes be approved. Seconded by Comm D. Taylor. **Motion Carried.**

Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

Police Budget

CAO S. Higdon stated that she had received the report the previous day from finance, and it was for the period ending July 31st, 2023. CAO S, Higdon stated that the budget was currently at 33% and that nothing stood out. Chairman B. Knight asked if there were any questions on the budget. Comm D. MacGillivray stated that he noticed that salaries and wages were over about \$25,000. He added that if this was to continue, it would be \$75,000 for the year. CAO S. Higdon responded that there were two officers who were off sick, and this caused a lot of overtime, adding one of the officers had returned to duty.

Chairman B. Knight asked for a motion to accept the budget. Comm D. MacGillivray made a motion that the budget be accepted. Seconded by Comm P. Lloyd. **Motion Carried.**

Monthly Activity Report- July & August

Chairman B. Knight asked if there were any questions. Comm D. MacGillivray stated that he noticed there was a significant amount of time spent on foot/bike patrol, traffic enforcement and community relations and offered his thanks for this. Chairman B. Knight added that he has observed a lot of Police Patrols within the town. Comm D. Taylor stated that he sees Police occurrences are remaining high and there seems to be no relief. Chairman B. Knight stated that he noticed Westville Police backing up Stellarton quite often and vice versa. Chairman B. Knight then asked for a motion to accept the monthly activity reports. Comm K. Mason made a motion to accept the reports. Seconded by Comm D. Taylor. **Motion Carried.**

Media Release

Chief Hobeck stated that there was a call to South Foord and one of the officers was aware of a warrant for an individual. Upon arrest, a backpack was searched that contained a loaded firearm, a magazine with ammunition, a small amount of narcotics and some cash. He was arrested on scene. The narcotics were sent for analysis and further charges may be laid when results are returned. Comm D. MacGillivray on behalf of the commission offered his thanks to the officer.

Correspondence

Chief Hobeck reported receiving an email from the New Glasgow Regional Police informing him of their decision to withdraw their resources from the Pictou County Integrated Street Crime Unit. Chief Hobeck added that New Glasgow would like to use these resources on their own issues within New Glasgow and Trenton. Chief Hobeck then stated that he had a meeting with Chief Dunbar of the Westville Police and the S/Sgt of the RCMP and they had agreed that they would like to continue with the Street Crime unit albeit a little smaller than it was. Chief Hobeck added that the work the Street Crime Unit had done was tremendous, adding this unit will be located at the RCMP detachment in Stellarton. Chief Hobeck stated the Joint Management Team will continue and that information would be shared between agencies and that Joint Task Force investigations could be conducted.

Parking on Foord Street

Chairman B Knight reported having complaints of cars parking too close to the entrance/exits of parking lots on Foord Street, making it very difficult to see oncoming traffic. Discussion was held between Commission members as to possible solutions to this issue. Chairman B. Knight asked if it could be left with the Traffic Authority. After much discussion, Chief Hobeck stated that he would not like to make any changes to parking on Foord Street, but recommended mirrors on telephone polls that would assist in seeing oncoming traffic.

Dispatching Services Update

Inspector C. Pond reported that dispatch services would be taken over by Truro Police at 6am on September 18th.

Strategic Plan Update

- a. **Modern Facility-** No update
- b. **Police Volunteer Program-** Tabled to 2024
- c. **Upgrade and Improve Technology-** Inspector Pond reported that two weeks ago they had submitted the initial draft for the NCACR and that they would reply by September 15th , adding he was sure that there would be some changes to be made. Insp Pond added there is a list of security protocols that will have to be followed and that the equipment will be held in a secure location inside the department. Inspector C. Pond stated that there is no projected date that this will be completed.

Comm D. MacGillivray asked if this upgrade would come from the operations or capital budget. CAO S. Higdon stated that it is a capital item.

Next Meeting October 5, 2023, at 2:30pm

Adjourned Meeting adjourned.