

March 7, 2024

STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA

MEETING

A regular scheduled meeting of the Stellarton Police Commission was held on Thursday, March 7, 2024, at 2:30 pm in Council Chambers.

PRESENT

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

AGENDA

Chairman Knight stated he would like to add to the agenda: Mental Health Calls. With the addition of this item, Chairman Knight asked for a motion to approve. Comm D. Taylor made a motion that the agenda be approved. Seconded by Comm K. Mason. **Motion Carried.**

Approval of the Minutes

Chairman Knight asked if there were any questions or concerns regarding the Minutes of the February 1, 2024, Police Commission meeting, hearing none, asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Comm P. Kay made a motion that the minutes be approved. Seconded by Comm S. Campbell. **Motion Carried.**

Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

Monthly Activity Report

Comm S. Campbell had a question about the 16 Municipal Bylaw calls on Coll Avenue. Chief Hobeck responded that these calls were in relation to one individual complaining about a dog defecating on her property. Comm D. MacGillivray then stated that he wished to thank Chief Hobeck and Insp Pond for attending the Special Olympics Gala in Halifax and congratulated the Chief on his team winning "Team of The Year". A Motion was made by Comm D. Taylor to accept the Report. Seconded by Comm K. Mason. **Motion Carried.**

Mental Health Calls

Chairman Knight asked Chief Hobeck if he collaborated with Nova Scotia Health Authority's Mental Health Unit. Chief Hobeck stated that he did as they have quarterly

meetings, which he attends. Chairman Knight stated that there was recently additional funding provided where mental health professionals could assist police with mental health calls. Chairman Knight asked if mental health professionals currently attend with police on calls. Chief Hobeck responded that they do not, however there were officers with mental health training. Comm D. Taylor asked if this was in relation to the two individuals who had attended the Commission meeting the previous year. Chairman Knight responded that that was in regard to assistance for mental health persons navigating the criminal justice system and involved assistance with court proceedings. Chief Hobeck added that they were attempting to get as many officers trained as possible. Comm D Taylor asked if the time of day was recorded with mental health calls. Chief Hobeck reported these calls happened at all times of the day and Chairman Knight added the hospital was prepared to deal with these cases 24/7.

2024-2025 Police Budget Presentation

Brenda MacKay presented a preliminary budget presentation for 2024-2025 to the Commission.

Summary

- The Police Budget was \$2,300,000.
- Officer Salaries \$1,776,000.
- Administration and Dispatch \$250,000.
- Supplies/IT/Admin \$74,800
- Vehicle Fuel \$40,000.
- Maintenance/Insurance \$32,000.
- Operating Lease \$39,000.
- Crossing Guards \$30,000.
- Travel/Training/Conferences \$16,500.
- Uniforms \$12,000.
- Animal Control \$10,000.
- Legal Costs \$10,000.
- Safe Communities \$15,000.
- Contract Negotiations \$7,500.

Chairman Knight and Comm D MacGillivray complimented the Chief with staying on budget. Comm D MacGillivray asked if an adjustment should be made on the fuel budget

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to accommodate the carbon tax. Brenda MacKay responded that they could as the budget was not finalized at this point. Chairman Knight complimented the Police on trying to pass along uniform items to other officers to provide savings. Comm K Mason asked if the \$74,00 in IT included the replacement of computers. Brenda MacKay responded that it did. CAO S Higdon then stated that she would be having a meeting with the Chief and Luke Young of Lucas Tech to discuss what is included in the budgeted amount. Comm D Taylor asked if the Town of Westville still pays for the use of Stellarton cells. CAO S Higdon confirmed they did. Chairman Knight asked for a motion to recommend the proposed budget to council. A motion was made by Comm K. Mason to recommend the proposed budget to council Seconded by Comm P. Kaye. **Motion Carried.**

Chairman Knight and Comm D MacGillivray expressed their appreciation to Brenda MacKay for her work on the proposed budget.

Next Meeting April 4, 2024, at 230pm

Adjourned Meeting adjourned.