

May 16, 2024

STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA

MEETING

A regular scheduled meeting of the Stellarton Police Commission was held on Thursday, May 16, 2024, at 2:30 pm in the Council Chambers.

PRESENT

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

REGRETS

Comm K. Mason

AGENDA

Chairman Knight asked if there were any additions to the agenda. CAO S. Higdon asked for the addition of deer signs and speed limits. Chairman Knight responded that deer signs would be item 9 (a) and speed limits would be item 10 (a). Chairman Knight then asked for a motion to approve the agenda with the additions. Comm D. Taylor made a motion that the agenda be approved. Seconded by Comm P. Kay. **Motion Carried.**

Approval of the Minutes

Chairman Knight asked if there were any questions or concerns regarding the Minutes of the April 4, 2024, Police Commission meeting, hearing none, asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Comm P. Lloyd made a motion that the minutes be approved. Seconded by Comm S. Campbell. **Motion Carried.**

Business Arising from the Minutes

(a) Report on Recruitment

Insp Chris Pond presented an Executive Summary to Commission Members on the challenges currently facing Policing Services.

This included the following:

- 1/ Limited Resources
- 2/ Career Progression/Limited Opportunities
- 3/ Availability of New Officers

4/ Recruitment and Retention

The current strategies are as follows:

- 1/ Additional Classes at the Atlantic Police Academy
- 2/ Provincial Diversity Program
- 3/ Enhanced Benefits and Incentives

Recommendations:

- 1/ Additional Financial Support
- 2/ Providing and Increased Staffing Level of One Officer per Shift
- 3/ Continue with adding Part-Time Officer

Monthly Activity Report

Comm D. Taylor asked about the high number of thefts and suspicious persons. Insp Pond responded that there have been several reports of “gas and go’s” where the business wanted Police to be more of bill collectors as they were not seeking any charges, adding the business is not interested in being a pay at the pump location. Comm D. MacGillivray asked about the Libel occurrence in the report. Insp Pond responded that this was in relation to signage posted by a town resident regarding an allegation against a New Glasgow Police Officer.

Events:

Chief Hobeck reported the Cst Vandergrift did a presentation on cyber security to group of seniors. Insp Pond added that Cst Morrell is a “Big Sister” to a GR Saunder’s student and attends the school periodically in uniform.

Chairman Knight asked for a motion to approve the Monthly Activity Report. Comm D. Taylor made a motion that the Monthly Activity Report be accepted. Seconded by Comm S. Campbell. **Motion Carried.**

Police Commission Vacancy

CAO S. Higdon reported receiving an email from Comm K. Mason who resigned his position, which was up in June, and that he would not be reoffering. CAO S. Higdon stated that an ad would be placed for Comm K. Mason's replacement. Chairman Knight requested that a letter of thanks be sent to Comm K. Mason

Media Release

Chief Hobeck reported that a Search Warrant was executed in Three Brooks by the Pictou County Street Crime Unit that netted a good haul of drugs and firearms and that this involved a person from Stellarton. Chief Hobeck added this was now a small unit, but they were doing some good work and he expected it to continue.

Letter from NSAPG AGM

Chairman Knight reported that he had attended this event and reported that there was a consensus from those attending that there is a lack of cooperation from the Department of Justice. There were expectations that these issues could be worked out when DOJ was to attend on the Friday, however they did not show up as whenever they get a new Minister, they clean their Calander.

Report from NSFM- Meeting in Truro

CAO S. Higdon stated that she had attended this event, along with Chair Knight and Chief Hobeck and reported that a letter had been received for feedback. It was agreed that most of the issues are similar. CAO S. Higdon stated that this was a very productive meeting with many items on the agenda and that this meeting involved CAOs, Chiefs of Police and Board Chairs, which was found to be quite effective in previous meetings. CAO Higdon stated that the meeting got somewhat off the rails when it came to discussion on the RCMP and turned into a bashing of the "system", not their officers. CAO Higdon state Deloitte, who was hired by the DOJ to conduct the police study was seeking data information for review that was considered asinine, as they were asking questions that had nothing to do with policing. CAO Higdon reported that it was quite apparent the DOJ was pro RCMP. Comm D. Taylor questioned the diversity of this group. Chairman Knight stated that he believed that as far as training, everything seems to be focused on the RCMP. Chief Hobeck stated that there is a desire among Chiefs of Police to have more training administered locally within the province, rather than outside, which would have considerable savings.

Case of Kevin Martin

Comm D. Taylor stated that he knew Kevin, he believes this case to be solvable. Comm Taylor added that the anniversary was approaching and wondered if there was something that could be done to push for a tip that could make the difference. Chief Hobeck responded that typically something was put on the Town's page or the Police page around the anniversary. Chief Hobeck stated that he had sat in on an interview a while back with a witness who had a compelling story that was passed on to the RCMP as his body was discovered in their jurisdiction. Chief Hobeck added that this information was not enough for an arrest, but something that should be followed up on.

Deer Signs- Chairman Knight stated that he had received a text from a citizen stating that the deer crossing signs on MacGregor Avenue had been knocked down.

Speed Bumps

Chairman Knight reported receiving a letter from a citizen on Claremont Avenue requesting speed bumps on the street to reduce traffic speed. There was a consensus of Commission members that for various reasons, this was not recommended.

- (a) Speed Limit- CAO S. Higdon stated that a letter had been sent from the Police Commission to the DOJ in 2021 regarding the reduction of speed and what was required to accomplish this. On Monday Town Council member Bryan Knight had requested another letter be sent on their behalf on the same issue.

Next Meeting June 6, 2024, at 2:30pm

Adjourned Meeting adjourned