

October 6, 2016

STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA

MEETING

A regular meeting of the Stellarton Police Commission was held on Thursday, October 6, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

PRESENT

Chairman Don Taylor, Comms. S. Lawand, J. MacLellan, J. Langlois, E. Cormier and K. Francis. Also present Town Clerk J. Eaton.

Comm. A. Pearson sent his regrets.

AGENDA

Comm. S. Lawand moved to approve the Agenda, seconded by Comm. J. Langlois.

Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Comm. J. MacLellan made a motion to approve the September 1, 2016 Minutes as presented, seconded by Comm. K. Francis. **Motion Carried.**

CHIEF D. HUSSHER: MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT

Chief D. Husher presented the Monthly Activity Reports for August & September, 2016 with a few additions.

The new Police car has arrived. The car is being outfitted and is expected to be on the road within a week.

The drug Fentanyl is making its way across Canada. The drug is not in Nova Scotia currently. The drug is very prominent in British Columbia. Stellarton Police Officers will be trained in the handling and care of the drug. The drug is very dangerous and a small amount can kill. It is not just dangerous to the individuals taking the drug but also to first responders who handle the drug because it can be absorbed through the skin.

Comm. K. Francis reported on receiving a few calls from citizens expressing parking concerns involving students from NSCC. The College is undergoing an expansion and parking is limited. Students are parking at the Seniors Complex and on Pleasant Street, close to the intersection on Acadia Avenue and double parking. Chief D. Husher said the NSCC has made temporary parking arrangements for students but some students want to park closer to the College. Chief D. Husher noted that the NSCC is expanding their parking area to accommodate the additional students with the new addition. In the meantime, Police Officers are doing regular patrols and issuing tickets to anyone that is illegally parked. Some signage has to be replaced as well. Chief D Husher reported speaking with citizens on the end of Pleasant Street. The citizens were not too concerned about the students parking along the street as long as they did not double park and stayed away from the intersection. Police Officers are watching the area and students have been staying at least two car-lengths from the intersection and staying on one side. In relation to the Seniors Complex, Chief D. Husher was of the understanding that the Recreation Coordinator gave students permission to park at the Complex as long as they did not overflow the lot. Chief D. Husher will talk with the Recreation Coordinator on this.

Chair D. Taylor asked Chief D. Hussher if he was talking with Comm. A. Pearson about parking in front of the Bank of Nova Scotia. Chief D. Hussher said yes. He visited the location today. There needs to be a “no parking” sign erected near the corner.

Chief D. Hussher said more yellow curbing and yellow islands are needed along Foord Street. He felt this could be addressed next summer. The markings would be three meters on either side of a crosswalk, intersection and around fire hydrants.

Comm. E. Cormier reported that there are a number of crosswalks within the Town that have no lighting: three on Acadia Avenue, one by Stellar Street. An over-light is burnt out by one crosswalk on Pleasant Street. Other crosswalks within the Town have poor lighting. Chief D. Hussher will do a report for the next meeting. Chairman D. Taylor said in some cases it might be as simple as replacing a street light if close to a crosswalk.

Comm. J. Langlois reported that a number of small children/teenagers use the playgrounds at G. R. Saunders Elementary school for playing basketball or other games. Although the children are having fun, teen language is becoming a concern. He has the same concern with teens at the Allan Park. Chief D. Hussher will look into this matter.

Comm. S. Lawand made a motion to accept the Monthly Activity Reports for August & September, 2016 seconded by Comm. K. Francis. **Motion Carried**

CHIEF D: HUSSHER: INTRODUCTION OF CONST. COLIN WHITE

Chief D. Hussher reported that Const. Colin White was unable to attend tonight's meeting but will be in attendance at the November meeting.

CHIEF D. HUSSHER: DOG BY-LAW

Chief D. Hussher is still working on a draft copy of the new Dog By-law. The new By-law will be a merger of Sections from three different municipal Dog By-laws: Westville, Antigonish and Halifax. Once complete, the By-law will be forwarded to Commission members and the CAOs of participating municipal units and reviewed by their councils for feedback.

Comm. S. Lawand had a question on two terms used in the Westville Dog By-law: Pound Keeper and Animal Control Officer. Chief D. Hussher said the Pound Keeper and Animal Control Officer is one in the same. The Town of Stellarton and Westville share the same Animal Control Officer. The Animal Control Officer owns his own dog kennel which operates as the “dog pound”. The pound is utilized by the four “upper” towns.

Comm. S. Lawand also had a concern with *Section #27* in the Town of Westville's Dog By-law that states “*Town of Westville staff may, after two written warnings have been given to the owner that a dog has been running at large or eluding capture, kill such a dog on site or after capture.*” Comm. S. Lawand felt this is too severe a punishment for a dog that is just running at large. In response, Chief D. Hussher said most Dog By-laws state that the Animal Control Officer can kill a dog that is running at large. It is used in extreme circumstances only.

Some discussion took place on the number of dogs registered within the Town of Stellarton. Years ago the Animal Control Officer would go door-to-door and sell a dog

tag. That has not been implemented for a number of years. Comm. S. Lawand believes a number of citizens have forgotten about dog tags.

Chair D. Taylor said once the new Dog By-law is in place and the public is made aware of the new laws, a reminder can be given that any citizen owning a dog must have that dog licensed. Another option for the Police Commission to consider is a one-time charge per dog. If a citizen purchased a dog tag, that tag stays with that dog for life.

CHIEF D. HUSSHER: BACKGROUND CHECK SOLUTION

Chief D. Hussher was contacted by Forest Green Solutions Inc. (FGS). He reported that FGS are approved through ePIC, an electric Police Information Check online system that does computerized background checks through the RCMP coast to coast, Interpol and the United States. Through this service, a citizen can have the background check within 24 to 48 hours. Chief D. Hussher could not see anyone local using the online service when they can visit the Police Station here in Town and have the background check done, but felt it is good for university students who are away and need a background check completed for a job. FGS charges \$9.95 per background check. Stellarton Police charge \$15.00 plus HST for a background check. The two charges combined would be the total cost to anyone using the online service.

Chief D. Hussher recommended the Town of Stellarton authorize Forest Green Solutions Inc. to supply the above service for the Stellarton Police. FGS will set up/install the software, free of charge. He felt it is an advantage to the citizens of Stellarton, who are away from home, to be able to get a background check completed online. If approval is given, the information will be set up on the Stellarton Police website.

It was moved by Comm. J. MacLellan that the Town of Stellarton participate with Forest Green Solutions Inc. in providing a background check online service for citizens of the Town of Stellarton that may be living away and require a police records check, seconded by J. Langlois. **MOTION CARRIED**

CHAIRMAN D. TAYLOR: UPDATE ON POLICE CONFERENCE

Chairman D. Taylor gave an update on the recent Police Conference he attended. He touched on various topics presented. He would like to see more members of the Police Commission attend these conferences. The conferences are very informative. He would like to see additional funding allocated to allow more members to attend these conferences. Further discussion will take place on this during Police Budget discussions next year.

Due to other commitments, Comm. S. Lawand retired from the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

COMM. S. LAWLAND: CONCERNS

Chief D. Hussher addressed Comm. S. Lawand's concerns with three different areas:

a. Belmont Street/Cambey Avenue

A two-way stop right now. Chief D. Hussher said the two-way stop was generated from Belmont Avenue being pushed through to extend through to the new apartment complex. Citizens wanted a stop sign coming to and from this apartment complex. A stop sign was installed. Now, Cambey Avenue citizens are asking for a stop sign on the other side of Belmont Avenue.

b. George Street

Chief D. Hussher provided Members with the speed checks for George Street. The biggest problem for George Street is no matter what speed a vehicle is travelling it may seem fast because it is a very short street and is on a turn, which makes a vehicle going 30 to 40 klms./hr. seem like it is going 60 klms. Chief D. Hussher said the speed sign is not picking up any high numbers and neither is the radar. The street is lacking a 50 klms. speed sign. The sign must have been damaged and taken down.

c. Acadia Avenue Crosswalk

Chief D. Hussher said the crosswalk was moved up to Birch Street to the intersection for safety reasons. There is no sidewalk on the Allan Park side.

Chief D. Hussher will address these issues and report back to Comm. S. Lawand.

Comm. J. MacLellan had a concern on Lawrence Blvd., coming across Heritage. There is a curve on the street that makes it hard to see vehicles coming. The area might benefit with a street light.

Comm. J. Langlois reported fast vehicles on Jubilee Avenue.

Comm. E. Cormier asked if there is an area in the province or anywhere where they put up speed signs that are less than 50 klms. Chief D. Hussher is not aware of any.

NEXT MEETING DATE

It was agreed that the next meeting date will be November 10, 2016 at 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 6:10p.m. on motion by Comm. K. Francis seconded by Comm. E. Cormier. **Motion Carried.**

CHAIRMAN

TOWN CLERK