

November 10, 2016
STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA

MEETING

A regular meeting of the Stellarton Police Commission was held on Thursday, November 10, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Before reading the agenda, Chairman D. Taylor began with the swearing in of the newest members to the Police Commission Board, Mayor Danny MacGillivray, Simon Lawand and Bryan Knight.

Chairman D. Taylor started the meeting off with a Moments Silence to remember our veterans and lost soldiers.

PRESENT

Chairman D. Taylor, Comms. S. Lawand, B. Knight, J. Langlois, E. Cormier and Mayor D. MacGillivray. Also present, Town Clerk J. Eaton.

AGENDA

Comm. S. Lawand moved the approval of the Agenda, seconded by Comm. E. Cormier.
Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Comm. J. Langlois made a motion to approve the October 6, 2016 Minutes as presented, seconded by Comm. E. Cormier. **Motion Carried.**

CHIEF D. HUSSHER: MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT

Chief D. Husscher presented the Monthly Activity Report for October 2016.

Comm. D. MacGillivray made a motion to accept the Monthly Activity Report for October 2016 seconded by Comm. S. Lawand. **Motion Carried**

CHIEF D. HUSSHER: INTRODUCTION OF CONST. COLIN WHITE

Chief D. Husscher introduced Const. Colin White. Const. C. White is the most recent hire with the Stellarton Police Service. As a result of Const. Steve Maddison being hired by the RCMP, Const. Garnet MacPherson was hired on full time, which opened up another term position within the Stellarton Police Service. This is the position Const. C. White filled. Const. C. White is from Cape Breton; graduated from the Atlantic Police Academy in 2015 and is a combat engineer with the Canadian Armed Forces Reserve Forces in Cape Breton. Const. C. White was welcomed by the Board.

CHIEF D. HUSSHER : RESPONSE TO COMM. S. LAWAND'S THREE CONCERNS

Belmont Avenue/Cambey Avenue

A stop sign was put up last week.

George Street – Speeding Concern

Police will put the speed sign up again next week. Radar checks were conducted which are consistent with the speed sign. Police Officers are going to monitor the area further. A 50 km speed sign was put up by the bridge. There was no sign there before.

Comm. B. Knight voiced concerns with speeding on River Street and Old Foxbrook Road by the soccer complex. He is concerned about small children in the area. He asked if it was possible to have speed limit reduced to 30 km. Chief D. Husscher said reducing the speed to 30 km has been frowned upon for a large number of years due to

the fact that it is not enforceable. Chief D. Hussher will look into what avenues we can take. As for children playing signs, the only recognized children playing sign under the Motor Vehicle Act is the one that is used for playgrounds. Comm. B. Knight stated there is a playground in the area around River Street. Chief D. Hussher will check with Recreation Coordinator P. Corbin to make sure that all playgrounds/sports fields are properly signed.

Chairman. D. Taylor felt more communication at the field and at the soccer complex is needed. Comm. E. Cormier suggested the possibility of signs on lawns that read "please slow down our kids are special" that are throughout the Town of Westville and rural areas.

Crosswalk – Acadia Avenue

Chief D. Hussher is waiting to discuss this matter with the Town Engineer. Chief D. Hussher said, from what he understands, the crosswalk was moved up to the entrance of the parking lot at the Community College a number of years ago. There are two crosswalks that are within 150 feet of each other. Too many crosswalks in one area could create a problem. Chief D. Hussher will report back to the Board once he talks with the Town Engineer.

Comm. J. Langlois felt overhead signs that light up with the press of a button are a great way of warning vehicles that someone is at the crosswalk. Comm. S. Lawand felt this was an excellent suggestion. Chief D. Hussher will get current pricing on overhead signs from the Town Engineer for the next meeting.

Chief D. Hussher is looking into the crosswalks that require lighting.

COMM. SIMON LAWAND: FOOT PATROL & RANDOM CAR STOPS

Foot Patrol by Police Officers

Comm. S. Lawand would like to see Police Officers do a foot patrol at the Seniors Complex on Acadia Avenue and on Poplar Street for peace of mind for residents; kids cross through the properties regularly, and there was a recent break-in at one of the complexes.

Random Car Stops

Comm. S. Lawand has concerns about Police Officers randomly stopping vehicles in the Town without any obvious reason. Chief D. Hussher said in order for a Police Officer to perform his/her job, they have to be able to check vehicles and Police Officers have the authority to check vehicles at random. If a Police Officer is acting out beyond the bounds of his/her duties then that is a concern. Chief D. Hussher said if a resident feels they are being targeted, he would like to know so the incident can be looked into.

Comm. S. Lawand said his recommendation is for the Chief to reinforce the concept of community policing.

Chief D. Hussher said he instills community policing in our Police Officers. Random vehicle checks are done across the province with a high success rate. Chief D. Hussher said you have to realize what is out on the streets: drivers that are not licensed; drivers that are impaired etc. Chief D. Hussher wants Police Officers doing their job, he wants them doing stop checks, the random check, the radar checks, stop speeding, etc. but at the same time be polite, mannerly and do it in a proper way.

Comm. D. MacGillivray thinks it is good to be cognizant of the issue but does not want to micromanage the Chief of Police.

CHIEF D. HUSSHER: DRAFT DOG BY-LAW

A Draft copy of the new Dog By-law is complete. Chief D. Hussher reported that the By-law is a merger of Westville and Antigonish's Dog By-law. Town Clerk, J. Eaton will email a copy of the Draft By-law to Members for review and discussion. Chief D. Hussher reported sending a copy of the By-law to the Towns of Westville, Trenton and New Glasgow for their input.

Comm. B. Knight reported for Comm. G. Pentz that a resident was walking her dog on the trail (on leash) when two off-leash dogs attacked her dog. The lady said she spoke with a Police Officer who informed her there was no Dog By-law. He will report back to Comm. G. Pentz that there is a By-law in place. Chief D. Hussher will follow up on this.

CHIEF D. HUSSHER: REVIEWING TAXI BY-LAW

Chief D. Hussher said reviewing the Taxi By-law came about as a result of when he sent out the Draft Dog By-law to the other municipalities. The Town of New Glasgow suggested reviewing the Taxi By-law as a group. A number of years ago the Chiefs of Police got together to look at the Taxi By-law for the whole County. Reasons: 1. there are taxis in the County that are not required to be licensed. 2. hard to enforce the laws with town taxis when County taxis are right on the border of the town and do not have to obey laws and 3. Taxi owners who live in the town say that they are licensed from outside the town.

The CAO for the Town of New Glasgow had a copy of the Taxi By-law the Chiefs of Police were preparing back then. A copy of the By-law was sent to Chief D. Hussher. Chief D. Hussher said it is a well written document. The first stage is to try and get the County on board.

Comm. B. Knight moved that the Police Commission recommend to Council to start the ball rolling to request the County and the other five municipalities to join in on a joint taxi by-law seconded by Comm. S. Lawand. **Motion Carried.**

Chief D. Hussher said that he is prepared to complete the Taxi by-law and forward it to the Towns when complete.

OTHER BUSINESS

Fence Between Royal Bank and Town Parking Lot

Comm. B. Knight understands the reason for the fence being put up between the Royal Bank and the Town Parking Lot, but asked if it would be feasible to have an entry from Foord Street (entrance to the Royal Bank) and an exist out the Town parking lot. Chief D. Hussher said he received the same request from residents. He will discuss the matter with the Town Engineer. Chief D. Hussher will start the process and report back.

Cameras in Police Vehicles

Comm. B. Knight asked if it would be a good idea to have cameras in Police vehicles. Chief D. Hussher reported that they are looking at prices now and plan to put it in the 2017 budget. Chairman D. Taylor said we will likely do some shopping around before we make a recommendation. He will email members information on a particular unit the Police are looking at.

STELLARTON POLICE COMMISSION
November 10, 2016
STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA

NEXT MEETING DATE

It was agreed that the next meeting date will be December 8, 2016 at 5:15 p.m.

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m. on motion by Comm. J. Langlois seconded by Comm. S. Lawand. **Motion Carried.**

CHAIRMAN

TOWN CLERK