

December 8, 2016
STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA

MEETING

A regular meeting of the Stellarton Police Commission was held on Thursday, December 8, 2016 at 5:15 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

PRESENT

Chairman D. Taylor, Comms. S. Lawand, B. Knight, J. Langlois, E. Cormier, A. Pearson and Comm. D. MacGillivray. Also present, Chief D. Hussher, Town Clerk J. Eaton.

AGENDA

Comm. A. Pearson moved the approval of the Agenda, seconded by Comm. B. Knight with the addition of two items: 1. Letter from Pictou County Centre for Sexual Health and 2. Upcoming Audit. **Motion Carried.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Comm. E. Cormier made a motion to approve the November 10, 2016 Minutes as presented, seconded by Comm. J. Langlois. **Motion Carried.**

CHIEF D. HUSSHER: MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT

Chief D. Hussher presented the Monthly Activity Report for November 2016.

Comm. A. Pearson made a motion to accept the Monthly Activity Report for November 2016 seconded by Comm. B. Knight. **Motion Carried**

CHIEF D. HUSSHER : UPDATE ON ITEMS FROM MINUTES

Speed Monitoring

Police Officers have been given the names of all the Streets in the Town to monitor for speeding. Police Officers are seeing some increase in speeds but nothing where any charges can be laid as a result.

George Street/Old Foxbrook Road – Speeding Issues

A speed sign is going to be erected on Old Foxbrook Road in stealth mode. The sign will be attached to a pole that will be put up by the Public Works staff. This will give Police Officers an idea of what the speed is coming out on that road. Police Officers have been out monitoring the situation.

A new speed sign was installed on George Street as well.

Some discussion took place on speed signs in stealth mode. Chief D. Hussher reported that the signs give Police Officers all the information needed to make decisions in regards to addressing traffic concerns in a particular area. Police Officers can actually go to the sign and take the information off the sign wirelessly by stopping close to the sign. Comm. B. Knight reported talking with a salesperson of these signs at a recent conference; he said the signs can be set up to relay the information back to the police station. Chief D. Hussher stated that an additional component would need to be added to the sign to do this. Comm. B. Knight would like to see the Police purchase the additional component for the sign. He felt it would be an asset. Chief D. Hussher will look into it.

Crosswalk – Acadia Avenue

Once construction is complete on Acadia Avenue, Chief D. Husssher will sit down with the Town Engineer and discuss the crosswalk issue on Acadia Avenue: whether there should be a sidewalk on the Allan Park side or the addition of another crosswalk.

Pricing of Overhead Crosswalk Signs and Lighting

Chief D. Husssher has not heard back from Public Works staff on pricing for the overhead crosswalk signs. Chief D. Husssher spoke briefly on another crosswalk sign that looked very effective. The signs are new, very easily installed and have a good warranty. Chief D. Husssher said it would be a good test to put one of the signs in front of the Post Office. Chief D. Husssher will do some research and see how effective these signs are in other communities.

Before leaving the topic of crosswalks, Comm. J. Langlois reported noticing an increase in traffic along Foord Street. He thinks it might be incumbent upon those present tonight by slowing down ourselves and perhaps letting a vehicle out into traffic. He felt this may slow traffic down.

Foot Patrols – Seniors Complex - Acadia Avenue/Poplar Street

Chief D. Husssher reported having a departmental meeting two weeks ago with all officers; 100% in attendance. All operational officers for street enforcement were there. Police Officers are going to step up foot patrols, stop their car and walk through the senior complexes and surrounding area. Foot patrols will also be increased on Foord Street. The patrols will start next week.

Update – Draft Dog By-law – Response from Adjoining Units

Chief D. Husssher reported hearing back from the Town of Westville. Westville had concerns with the section on destroying dogs running at large and some wording throughout the By-law. Overall Westville felt the By-law was well written.

Concerns with the By-law that members felt need to be addressed:

- “registering a dog within 10 days” – not reasonable. It was felt some adoption centers are going to be set up similar to Antigonish and other areas. Volunteers at these centers look after the animals in their home but only temporarily.
- naming a vet should not be mandatory as people don’t always go to the same vet.
- #10, “a hunting dog is allowed to be off leash”. In town limits a person is not allowed to discharge a firearm.
- #23, a restricted dog that is not registered or which is kept contrary to #20 and #21 shall be seized and impounded with three days notice. It was felt that three days notice is not much time. It was also felt more than one effort needs to be made to contact the owner. Possibly three days.
- #29, “staff can without notice or complaint against the owner, impound any dog”. Who is considered “staff”?
- #33, “72 hours notice and you can have the dog killed or put down because nobody has found the owner or an adoption”. He felt there are adoption centers that can be contacted and may keep the dogs longer.
- Page 11, 1D, “destroy the dog without permitting the owner to claim it and issue the owner a notice informing them that the dog has been destroyed”. It was felt this should be taken out of the By-law altogether.
- #39 “staff may kill on site any dog that is running at large at which he or she believes on reasonable and probable grounds to pose a danger to a person”. It

was felt a dog running at large could be afraid and if the dog barks at someone, anyone can say it is dangerous or perceives in their mind it is dangerous when it is only frightened.

- Currently there is a dog registration fee of \$10/per year. It was felt that a one-time fee of \$10-\$25 for the duration of the life of the dog would entice more owners to register their dogs.
- Section on breeding where the fee is \$10 for the first dog and \$100 for the second dog. It was felt this was becoming a little bit expensive for some of the breeders.

Comm. A. Pearson found the draft to be very wordy compared to the 3 ½ page By-law the Town had and never really had any continuous problem with administration of that By-law through the years.

Once feedback is received from other municipalities, the Board will set aside an hours meeting to go through the By-law page by page to address all of the concerns raised.

Update – Draft Taxi By-law

A request was sent out to all towns and the County to see if they would be interested in accepting a uniform Taxi By-law. Chief D. Hussher reported that he has not heard back from any municipality on the Taxi By-law. Chief D. Hussher stated that if the Municipality of the County of Pictou does not agree to the Draft Taxi By-law, there is no need to change our existing By-law. Comm. J. Langlois felt a friendly reminder should be sent to the municipalities asking for a reply on both the Draft Taxi By-law and the Draft Dog By-law.

Exit to Parking Lot from Royal Bank Driveway

Chief D. Hussher reported speaking with the Manager of Client Services with the Royal Bank. The proposal would be to move the exit out the back of the Royal Bank parking lot, into the Town parking lot and down towards Stellar Street. Chief D. Hussher reported that the Manager of Client Services is to pass the information on to the Bank Manager who will then check with their Property Services Department and report back to Chief D. Hussher.

Chief D. Hussher will discuss with Public Works staff the matter of using concrete blocks between the Royal Banking Parking Lot and the Town parking lot verses the metal fencing that is there now.

Audit

Chief D. Hussher reported that the Department of Justice will be doing audits again for Police Departments starting in 2017. Stellarton is going to be the first department to be audited. The audit date is set for January 7, 2017.

COMM. S. LAWAND – PARKING ON FOORD STREET

Comm. S. Lawand reported a business owner expressed their concern about employees and other business owners parking for long periods of time along Foord Street preventing the parking of customers. He would like to see the Town put up “2 hrs. Maximum parking” signs along Foord Street. He felt spontaneous checks from time to time from Police Officers (while on foot patrol) would be more than sufficient to make sure people are not abusing those signs.

Chief D. Hussher felt this was a proactive approach to take on this matter and would be effective.

Comm. J. Langlois would like to make sure there is an awareness campaign that this is our new standard.

Chief D. Hussher does not see this being implemented until Spring. He also felt it would be a good idea to check with the business owners along Foord Street to survey how many people want the signs.

Chief D. Hussher asked Comm. S. Lawand to notify the business owner that between now and Spring we will be putting up the "2 hrs. Minimum Parking" signs and that a survey will be conducted to see what the needs are for parking along Foord Street. Chief D. Hussher will report back with a recommendation.

Comm. D. MacGillivray felt talking to some of the business owners might help alleviate some of the problem as well.

Pictou County Centre for Sexual Health

Correspondence, addressed to the Mayor and Council, was received from the Pictou County Centre for Sexual Health requesting that the Town of Stellarton show their commitment to inclusivity and diversity by: *1. painting a new rainbow crosswalk in front of 279 Foord Street (their Centre) or the HCRS building. 2. Painting a portion of sidewalk in front of the newly constructed Sobey's Park. 3. Painting an existing or a new sidewalk at Allan Park. 4. Painting the road entrance to the Museum of Industry. 5. Painting a fire hydrant. 6. Painting a portion of the sidewalk in front of the cenotaph.* Creating a permanent, visual symbol of that commitment.

Chief D. Hussher stated that the province and municipalities follow national safety standards for crosswalks. The Town's traffic authority is responsible for ensuring pavement markings meet the national standards.

A discussion took place. Some members expressed liking the idea of painting a fire hydrant to show their commitment to making Stellarton a town free of discrimination.

Comm. J. Langlois felt it would be a good idea to meet with Vania MacMillan, Executive Director of Pictou County Centre for Sexual Health to discuss some ideas. After a brief discussion it was agreed to have this item put on the Agenda for Monday night's Council meeting to get approval from Council to have the Mayor personally meet with the Executive Director to discuss this matter further.

CHAIRMAN D. TAYLOR: UPDATE: NS ASSOCIATION OF POLICE GOVERNANCE

Chairman D. Taylor reported that the Town of New Glasgow is going to host the next Police Chiefs and Police Commission Members annual meeting in September 2017. The conference is to be held at the Pictou Lodge.

NEXT MEETING DATE

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

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m. on motion by Comm. S. Lawand seconded by Comm. J. Langlois. **Motion Carried.**

CHAIRMAN

TOWN CLERK

STELLARTON POLICE COMMISSION
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