

January 5, 2017

STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA

MEETING

A regular meeting of the Stellarton Police Commission was held on Thursday, January 5, 2017 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. J. Langlois approved the Agenda as read, seconded by Comm. A. Pearson.

Motion Carried.

The first order of business was the nominations for a new Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson.

NOMINATIONS FOR CHAIRPERSON

Town Clerk J. Eaton took over the meeting and called for nominations for the position of Chairperson for the upcoming year – 2017.

Comm. A. Pearson moved that the incumbent Don Taylor be Chairperson, if he would accept, seconded by Comm. E. Cormier. Further nominations were called for. Hearing no further nominations, Don Taylor accepted the nomination of Chairperson. **Motion Carried.**

NOMINATIONS FOR VICE-CHAIRPERSON

At this time, Chairperson D. Taylor called for nominations for a Vice-Chairperson.

Comm. B. Knight nominated Comm. A. Pearson, seconded by Comm. E. Cormier. Further nominations were called for. Hearing no further nominations, Comm. A. Pearson accepted the nomination. **Motion Carried.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of December 8, 2016 meeting were approved as amended to reflect the following change: Under the Heading: *Comm. S. Lawand – Parking on Foord Street*: the Minutes should read: “Chief D. Hussher asked Comm. S. Lawand to notify the business owner that between now and the end of Spring, Police Officers will talk with the business owner to see what kind of parking restrictions they would like to see along Foord Street, if any, and see if all business owners are in agreement with the restrictions. Chief D. Hussher would like to conduct a survey with Police Officers to see what the needs are for parking along Foord Street.”

Comm. D. MacGillivray asked if this was a universal problem or a complaint from a couple of business owners. Chief D. Hussher said he will get a better idea where the problems are now that Police Officers are on foot patrol. Chief D. Hussher noted that in his observations the last two days, four taxis are back parking along Foord Street. This may be one of the problems. Only two parking spots are delegated to taxis.

Comm. J. Langlois made a motion to approve the December 8, 2016 Minutes as presented, seconded by Comm. E. Cormier. **Motion Carried.**

CHIEF D. HUSSHER: MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT

Chief D. Husscher presented the Month Activity Report for December 2016. A discussion took place on the report. Comm. D. MacGillivray had a few questions he addressed to the Police Chief. Comm. D. MacGillivray's first question was on the Average Percentage of Arrests outlined in the Report. Comm. D. MacGillivray felt the Report showed a number of activities but few arrests. Chief D. Husscher explained that calls may be recorded on one report and arrests not made until the next report. He continued saying that you can't compare any one crime with one arrest on any report. To do a comparison you would have to review the whole year. Comm. D. MacGillivray's next question focused on gas consumption of the patrol truck verses the patrol car. Chief D. Husscher explained how mileage taken and gas receipts were recorded on the report. A six-month comparison would be the best way to compare mileage with gas receipts.

Comm. D. MacGillivray commented that it was nice to see Police Officers engaging with citizens while on foot patrol along Foord Street. Comm. D. MacGillivray then spoke on Community Relation hours. He felt this was important and in the future would like to see the details of what those community hours are.

Comm. D. MacGillivray made a motion to accept the Monthly Activity Report for December 2016, seconded by Comm. A. Pearson. **Motion Carried**

CHIEF D. HUSSHER : UPDATE ON ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Speed Signs – Estimate on Relay Information Back to Station

Chief D. Husscher provided a cost for the update on the WIFI Modem that goes through the cell system. He reported the cost for the WIFI Modem would be \$452.00 and the antenna \$39.00; these costs do not include shipping costs. Chief D. Husscher suggested a budget figure of \$650.00 to \$700.00 would be appropriate if the Town were to consider purchasing the modem. He noted that there is also an annual subscription fee of \$452.00/year for the modem to relay the information back to the station.

Chief D. Husscher reported that the sign was up in stealth mode on Foxbrook Road over Christmas. He went over a report with the Board that he received today that showed two vehicles that could be considered at high speed out of 3,564 vehicles counted. Maximum speeds reported: 62, 63 and 66 klms. Chief D. Husscher stated that when the sign was put up on George Street and other areas of Town, they too showed the odd speeder here and there.

Comm. S. Lawand asked if it could be one or two vehicles creating the perception for the resident on George Street that would have thought there was a speeding problem. Chief D. Husscher said that is a common perception that people have. Comm. S. Lawand is going to share this report with the resident on George Street.

Chief D. Husscher said the sign will be put back up on Foxbrook Road on display mode and then put it back on George Street.

Chairperson D. Taylor asked the Board if they wanted to proceed with investigating wireless modems. Chief D. Husscher does not see an advantage of investing in the modem any further. He said the sign is giving Police Officers the information they need, so it works.

Comm. B. Knight said it is a dead issue for him. In taking advice from the Police Chief, he would prefer to see this money spent on buying another sign. Chief D. Hussler asked the Board if they wanted him to pursue splitting another sign with the Town of Westville. One sign could then be used in the Town of Stellarton and the other in the Town of Westville, or both in one Town at one time if needed. The Board agreed to this.

Estimate Cost – Overhead Crosswalk Signs & Lighting

Chief D. Hussler reported that the Public Works Department is waiting to hear back from a supplier on the estimate cost of overhead crosswalk signs and lighting. He reported that the Town of New Glasgow has three of the overhead crosswalk signs that were on display at the UNSM Conference that he spoke of at the last meeting. The signs are working well in New Glasgow. Once an estimate cost is received for the crosswalk signs, Chief D. Hussler suggested comparing the costs and trying the lower cost of the two signs first.

Foot Patrols Update

Chief D. Hussler reported Police Officers are out doing foot patrols on Foord Street. He has given the officers more tasks to do in regards to the Foord Street parking issue and amended their activity sheets. Chief D. Hussler reported that the patrols are done on dayshifts; most complaints are received by business owners during the day.

Foot patrols were conducted at the Senior Complexes over Christmas as well. These patrols will continue.

Draft Dog By-Law – Update on Responses

Chief D. Hussler reported that the Town of New Glasgow is looking at the Halifax Dog By-Law; doing a comparison. Chief D. Hussler has not received a response from the Town of Pictou. The Town of Trenton indicated to him that they were putting this item on their agenda for the New Year but the Chief has not heard anything from the Town of Trenton since then. This issue will be kept as an agenda item.

Draft Taxi By-Law

Chief D. Hussler reported that since the last meeting he sent another email to the four municipal units and the County of Pictou asking for their response to a prior email on their interest in a Uniform Taxi By-law. He reported that Town Clerk, J. Eaton received an email from the County stating that they are not interested at this time. The County indicated that they could be interested in revisiting the issue if the Town of Stellarton came up with a Joint Taxi-By-Law that would include all five municipal units and the County of Pictou. Chief D. Hussler said that he is getting the same vibe from the Town of New Glasgow. They are not interested if the County of Pictou is not on board. Chief D. Hussler said our hope was to get consistency so that Stellarton had control of County cabs coming into the Town of Stellarton. He said if the County of Pictou is not on board then there is no real need to revisit the Taxi By-law as there is nothing wrong with the current bylaw. There has been no response from the other units. It was his understanding that all units were to have the matter on the agenda for the New Year.

Chairperson D. Taylor asked if it was possible for our Council members to encourage the other councils, in particular the County Council, to revisit this matter. A general discussion took place. At the end of the discussion, Comm. D. MacGillivray said that he would bring the matter up with the County Warden the next time he talks with him.

Royal Bank Driveway Exit to Town Parking Lot

Chief D. Hussher said that he is still waiting for the Royal Bank to get back to him on this matter. The Royal Bank has to go through their Property Services first. He expects they will get back to him in due time.

Crosswalk on Acadia Avenue

Comm. S. Lawand asked for an update on the crosswalk on Acadia Avenue. Chief D. Hussher said he would put this down as an item for Spring.

Two Crosswalks on North Foord Street – by A&W

Comm. S. Lawand reported that on North Foord Street, beside the A&W, there are two crosswalks; 10 to 15 feet apart. He said up until last year there was only one crosswalk. One is half erased. He asked if the Town was going to keep both crosswalks. Chief D. Hussher responded no. Chief D. Hussher explained that TRA asked to move their driveway. In order to move the driveway, the Town had to move the crosswalk. The existing crosswalk was painted over but the paint has worn off. Chief D. Hussher said the Public Works staff will have to grind them off the streets.

NEXT MEETING DATE

It was agreed that the next meeting date will be February 2, 2017 at 5:15 p.m.

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m. on motion by Comm. E. Cormier seconded by Comm. S. Lawand. **Motion Carried.**

CHAIRMAN

TOWN CLERK