

October 4, 2018
STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA

MEETING

A regular meeting of the Stellarton Police Commission was held on Thursday, October 4, 2018 at 5:15 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

PRESENT

Chairman D. Taylor, Comms. D. MacGillivray, S. Lawand, E. Cormier, J. Richardson, A. Pearson and Comm. B. Knight. Also present, Town Clerk S. Higdon, Police Chief D. Hussher and Inspect. C. Pond.

AGENDA

Comm. B. Knight approved the Agenda, seconded by Comm. J. Richardson with the addition of one item: Deer Sign (4A). **Motion Carried.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Comm. S. Lawand made a motion to accept the September 6, 2018 Police Commission minutes, seconded by Comm. E. Cormier. **Motion Carried.**

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

A. Case Management SOP – Dog Control

- Chief D. Hussher reviewed a proposal he presented to Commission members that came about as a result of Comm. S. Lawand's inquiry at the last Commission meeting re: all duties of the Animal Control Officer be included in the Dog Bylaw.
- Chief D. Hussher reported that the duties of the Animal Control Officer have been covered under the Case Management SOP (Standard Operational Procedures) of the Police Department for a number of years.
- Chief D. Hussher explained that the SOP was for the taking of calls in case management for the Department.
- Instead of coming up with a second SOP for dog control, Chief D. Hussher stated that he included the Animal Control Officer in the Department's Standard Operational Procedures.
- Chief D. Hussher reported that from the time a call comes in, it is not only the Animal Control Officer that is responsible for the call but also the police officer on duty. There will be times when the Animal Control Officer is not available, therefore the police officer in charge will be notified of the call. The call will either come in by walk in, telephone or email; the call would be taken as per the Department's SOP and then as a result of that, be dispatched to the Animal Control Officer; and the lead investigator on the occurrence would be the Police Officer in charge. It would then be their responsibility to see that that call was properly followed up on.
- Chief D. Hussher said rather than have two different operational procedures he took the Animal Control Officer under the umbrella of the Department, adding that the Department has been doing this for a number of years. Works quite well. Feels this is best approach.
- Chief D. Hussher said the only two changes to the SOP: 1. The Animal Control Officer is now written into the SOP; and 2. The police officer in charge would be responsible to make sure that that call doesn't get lost in the shuffle.
- Comm. S. Lawand is satisfied with this approach.

- Chair D. Taylor asked if the Commission had to implement the new SOP? Chief D. Hussher said as long as the Commission is satisfied, it's a Department operational procedure for the dog control. Members were in agreement to this approach.

Town Clerk S. Higdon asked if there was a recommendation from the Commission to move forward with the amended Dog Bylaw to Council – the amendment waives registration fees effective April 1, 2019.

Comm. S. Lawand moved that the amendment to the Dog Bylaw to waive registration fees effective April 1, 2019 be recommended to Council for First Reading, seconded by Comm. B. Knight. Town Clerk S. Higdon noted that this included the change from non rural to urban and a couple of typos that were pointed out at the last meeting. **Motion Carried.**

Second reading of the amended Dog Bylaw would be in November.

B. Lights at the Railway Crossing

Chief D. Hussher reported that this crossing is a joint shared cost between the Department of Transportation, the Cape Breton and Central Nova Scotia Railway and the Town of Stellarton. Chief D. Hussher received approval from the Commission to proceed and approach DOT and the Railway on signage at the crossing and report back with a cost. If approved by the Commission it would then go to Council for recommendation for consideration in next year's budget.

MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT: SEPTEMBER 2018

The Monthly Activity Report for September 2018 was reviewed by members. Comm. D. MacGillivray thanked the police chief and officers for attending to an issue on South Foord re: speeding vehicles in area of new crosswalk.

It was moved by Comm. B. Knight to accept the Monthly Activity Report for the month of September 2018, seconded by Comm. D. MacGillivray. **Motion Carried.**

Comm. B. Knight reported on a request from a concerned citizen re: deer on sharpe corner on Kirk Avenue (heading towards Foster Avenue). The resident would like to see a "Deer Crossing sign" put up in the area. Chief D. Hussher will look into having the sign put up.

UPDATE ON NS CHIEFS CONFERENCE

Inspect. C. Pond and Chair D. Taylor reported on the Canadian Association of Police Chiefs Annual Conference held in Halifax. Items touched on:

- new provincial Cannabis Control Act coming into effect on October 17, 2018 – legalizing cannabis;
- SFST training and roadside screening equipment (the Drager 5000 device) used for saliva screening - a lot of agencies have them in pilot projects but are shying away from the device due to the size/cost and need of optimal weather conditions to be reliant;
- presentation by Motorola on TMR radios. TMR2 radios (Trunked Mobile Radios) – a lot of agencies are switching over to the TMR2 radios (a communications network for public safety and public works services in Nova Scotia); Chair D. Taylor made contact with one of the sales reps. He will pass this information on to the Chief via email;

- presentation – Digital Disclosure and Evidence Management in the “Cloud” - equal access to information in the same format; a number of departments already use the “Cloud”.

Chief D. Hussher spoke briefly on a teleconference held with Chiefs of Police re: drager device. He reported that although a decision has not yet been made by the Chiefs, the perspective is to wait until next year before purchasing a screening device (with funding from the Federal government that is available to provinces and territories to support the purchase of the screening device) - possibility of better technology for dealing with roadside screening. A general discussion took place. Comm. D. MacGillivray agreed with waiting the year before making any investment.

MARIJUANA LEGISLATION OCTOBER 17

Chief D. Hussher reported that the Department is as ready as it can be for the new provincial Cannabis Control Act that comes into effect October 17th. The Chief stated that the Nova Scotia Chiefs of Police Association are getting together to discuss “zero tolerance” for police officers. Eight municipalities will discuss the issue to see what approach is best for their municipality and the province as a whole. Cape Breton, Halifax and the RCMP are going zero tolerance.

Chair D. Taylor asked if Stellarton was going to be looking at a bylaw related to smoking cannabis in public places (as they did in Halifax). Comm. S. Lawand said this topic was brought up at a past Commission meeting and it was left in the hands of the Town Clerk to investigate and see what Stellarton has in place already and see what Stellarton needs to do after the Act comes in effect. Comm. D. MacGillivray reported that this topic was also brought up at a Pictou County Shared Services Authority meeting (uniformity).

PATROL CAMERA UPDATE

Chief D. Hussher reported the cameras have been installed in the patrol cars and are working very well. He said the Department will have a standard operational procedure on the cameras. Right now officers are learning how to use the cameras; a lot of online training. A very sophisticated system. Asset for the department not only in operations but also in administrator and court disclosure; very advantageous for the Department.

POLICE REVIEW UPDATE

Town Clerk S. Higdon reported this update was to inform the Commission that submissions closed on September 28th - five proposals received. The review committee is meeting this evening to review the proposals.

NEW HIRE TO REPLACE SGT. CRANE

Chair D. Taylor reported that Sgt. Crane will be retiring October 11th.

Chief D. Hussher made a recommendation to the Commission that they enter into a hiring process and a promotional process to replace the officer position and the rank that is vacated by Sgt. Crane.

After some discussion, the above recommendation was moved by Comm. D. MacGillivray and seconded by Comm. B. Knight. **Motion Carried**

The hiring committee will consist of: Comm. B. Knight, Chair D. Taylor and Comm. J. Richardson.

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Chief D. Hussher then made a recommendation that the Commission not just fill Sgt. Crane's position but also fill the other Sergeant position (who currently on leave) to help with the supervising within the Department.

Comm. D. MacGillivray asked if this change would fit in with the existing budget that has been approved for fiscal 2018 2019 or would the Department go over in wages and salaries? Chief D. Hussher felt the Department would stay within budget in these areas.

It was then moved by Comm. D. MacGillivray to accept Chief D. Hussher's recommendation seconded by B. Knight. **Motion Carried** (promote second Sergeant).

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting date is schedule to November 1st, at 5:15 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Comm. B. Knight the meeting adjourned.

CHAIRMAN

TOWN CLERK