

April 4, 2019
STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA

MEETING

A regular meeting of the Stellarton Police Commission was held on Thursday, April 4, 2019 at 4:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

PRESENT

Chairperson B. Knight, Comms. D. MacGillivray, E. Cormier, S. Campbell, D. Taylor and B. Atkinson. Also present, Town Clerk S. Higdon, Police Chief D. Hussher and Inspector C. Pond.

AGENDA

Comm. E. Cormier approved the Agenda, seconded by Comm. B. Atkinson. **Motion Carried.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Comm. E. Cormier made a motion to accept the March 7, 2019 Police Commission Minutes, seconded by Comm. D. MacGillivray. In approving the minutes, Comm. E. Cormier pointed out the omittance of information referring to when Chair B. Knight asked for clarity on the policy for assisting other police departments in the County on a crime scene. The minutes state that clarification was given but no details were noted in the minutes. For clarification, at the May 7th meeting, Chief D. Hussher explained that it is normal practice to assist another police department on a crime scene when needed. **Motion Carried.**

SWEARING IN – CITIZEN REPRESENTATIVE NANCY TERRIS

New citizen representative Nancy Terris was sworn-in by Mayor D. MacGillivray.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

A. Approval of February 2019 Monthly Activity Report

Town Clerk S. Higdon reported this report was presented, discussed but not accepted and approved by the Commission at the last meeting.

It was then moved by Comm. D. MacGillivray and seconded by Comm. D. Taylor to accept the February 2019 Monthly Activity Report as presented. **Motion Carried.**

MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT MARCH 2019

Chief D. Hussher presented and discussed the monthly activity report for the month of March 2019.

The Activity Report for the month of March 2019 was moved by Comm. S Campbell, seconded by N. Terris as presenteed. **Motion Carried.**

PATROL CAR MAINTENANCE

Chief D. Hussher has concerns with the maintenance of the electronic equipment in the patrol cars. He was of the opinion that a qualified technician with special credentials should be installing and maintaining the electronic equipment. Until recently this equipment was being maintained by the Town auto mechanic. Chief D. Hussher told the Board the new camera equipment calls for very close observance and concerns have been raised with the maintenance of this equipment.

Chief D. Hussher reported it has always been policy that the maintenance on the cars is done by the Town Works Department. Right now that department is without that capability as there is currently no mechanic.

Chief D. Hussher reported that when a technician from Highland Nissan fixed lights on a patrol car recently there were several red flags in regards to the setup of the electronic equipment and fuses that if shorted out could cause considerable damage to the electrical equipment in the car; which are being corrected now before expensive equipment is lost.

Chief D. Hussher recommended all electronic maintenance of the patrol cars (now and in the future) be removed from Town Works Department and done by an outside agency with credentials. He noted that there is a cost factor involved as maintenance costs will go up considerably. Chief D. Hussher also noted that he budgeted for the maintenance to be done by an outside agency but the budget for the 2019-2020 fiscal year has not yet approved.

A discussion took place. Chief D. Hussher feels Highland Nissan/Highland Ford Sales has a credible technician to do the electronic maintenance. Comm. B. Atkinson is in favor of going to an outside agency.

Chief Hussher said when it comes to the tendering process, for the amount, it will be in excess of \$4,000.00 - \$5,000.00. So when we get into the tendering process of the new car then we will have to go to tender for that to come in, once the tender is awarded we will go outside to get the best deal for the citizens based on the qualifications and based on the install. Chief D. Hussher continued. Until we get the tendering process in August, we would like to utilize the best available person and then once the tender is out and it is awarded then we will certainly deal with that individual.

Moved by Comm. D. Taylor to leave it to the Chief D. Hussher's discretion on the interim electronic maintenance of the patrol cars, seconded by Comm. S. Campbell. **Motion Carried**

UPDATE ON TRAINING

Chief D. Hussher reported training is in progress now. Police officers are concentrating on the "Active Shooter" training utilizing the old Highland Consolidated school in the Town of Westville; the building is vacant and the police officers are able to simulate a school atmosphere and train in that atmosphere. Constable C. Irving of the Stellarton Department took the specialized training in the United States to be able to train the officers in Westville and Stellarton. Chief D. Hussher said Const. C. Irving is doing an excellent job. Program on training this year: the "Other Use of Force"; supervisors' training in the fall pending promotions, more training on marijuana, domestic violence and on sexual assault investigations. Training should continue into the summer months.

WORTLEY REPORT

Chair B. Knight asked for feedback from Chief D. Hussher and Inspector C. Pond regarding The Wortley Report. A report published by Professor Scot Wortley, Doctor of Criminology at the University of Toronto on the issue of police street checks, specifically the practice of racial profiling.

Chief. D. Hussher explained to the Board that the report came out of a recommendation from a United Nations working group that raised serious concerns regarding ongoing

systemic discrimination faced by people of African descent, including the practice of racial profiling in police street checks.

Chief D. Hussher stated that in his 44 years of policing in Pictou County, he has never seen such a traffic stop being set up to do any racial profiling. He assured the Stellarton Board of Police Commissioners that racial profiling does not happen within our Communities (speaking only on Stellarton and Westville). The Chief explained our street checks are centered around the vehicle itself and operation on the street and the capabilities of the individual.

Chief D. Hussher stated that this topic will most likely be an agenda item at the NS Chiefs of Police Association – NS Association of Police Governance Spring conference.

Chair B. Knight said that he hasn't had any feedback from citizens on discrimination.

Members can contact the Town Clerk for a copy of the Wortley Report; available by email or paper copy.

At this time, Comm. E. Cormier spoke on an incident that took place earlier in the year in Halifax where a woman was pulled over at a routine roadside check point, failed the roadside test for THC, license suspended for seven days and car impounded. The woman uses cannabis to treat her multiple sclerosis symptoms. The woman later took the RCMP's more extensive sobriety test and passed. The woman's license was still suspended and car impounded. Comm. E. Cormier wondered why the woman still lost her driving and car impounded when no real crime was committed. He asked the opinion of the Stellarton's department. Chief D. Hussher stated it would be hard for him to comment on something he is not familiar with and hard to make an opinion on a case where he does not know all the facts. He told the Board that police departments across the province do have an experimental program going on right now with "Draeger" equipment and other equipment. He said Stellarton's department is dealing with DRE, the Drug recognition Expert, who is a police officer trained to recognize impairment in drivers under the influence of drugs other than, or in addition to, alcohol.

Chief D. Hussher pointed out that there is legislation that the suspension and impounding of a vehicle, it does not have to be a charge, the suspension and the actual seizing of the vehicle can be done at a certain level but it is experimental. He added that it is not something his department is doing, so it is hard for him to comment at this time but he can look further into it and give the Board more information.

Chief D. Hussher said even with alcohol, once you reach a certain limit, police officer s can take your vehicle and give you a suspension although you haven't gone over the actual charge limit.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting date is scheduled for May 4, 2019 at 4:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

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

CHAIRMAN

TOWN CLERK

STELLARTON POLICE COMMISSION
March 7, 2019
STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA