

May 2, 2019
STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA

MEETING

A regular meeting of the Stellarton Police Commission was held on Thursday, May 2, 2019 at 4:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

PRESENT

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

AGENDA

Comm. D. Taylor approved the Agenda, seconded by Comm. E. Cormier. **Motion Carried.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Comm. B. Atkinson made a motion to accept the April 4, 2019 Police Commission Minutes, seconded by Comm. N. Terris. **Motion Carried.**

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Wortley Report

Chief D. Hussher reported that the Nova Scotia justice minister is directing police across the province to stop using quotas for street checks after the racial profiling report came out in March of this year. This will be a topic of discussion at the next Nova Scotia Chiefs meeting this coming fall.

MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT APRIL 2019

Chief D. Hussher presented and discussed the Monthly Activity Report for the month of April 2019.

Comm. D. Taylor spoke on the high volume of domestic assaults/assaults with weapons reported monthly within the Town. Chief D. Hussher said domestic violence has been around for a long time and getting harder to prosecute. He said 80% of statements are recanted and the effect of the domestic spousal directive has lost all its weight in the courts. A lot of paperwork and time is put into domestic assault cases.

Comm. B. Atkinson said, in Ontario, once a charge is laid, the only way the charge would be dropped is by going to court.

Inspector C. Pond added that the offenders seem to get progressively worse every time; 25 % are repeat offenders. Comm. N. Terris asked if these individuals are encouraged to go to counseling. Chief D. Hussher said numerous services are available to the victims; the department faxes reports to those services who attempt to contact the victim; the perpetrator is put under an undertaking to not make contact with the victim.

Chief D. Hussher added that the Nova Scotia Chiefs, in connection with the Justice Department, have a committee looking at domestic violence: *what can and can't be done in relation to dealing with domestic violence.*

Inspector C. Pond said domestic violence has been recognized as a province-wide issue.

Comm. D. Taylor felt this would be a good topic to bring up at the next Nova Scotia Association of Police Governance meeting to see if there is a long range plan. Chair B. Knight will sit down with Chief D. Hussher to get more insight on the topic. He will attempt to talk with the justice minister at the NSAPC meeting to get some background information.

The Activity Report for the Month of April 2019 was moved by Comm. D Taylor, seconded by B. Atkinson as presented. **Motion Carried.**

At this time, Chair B. Knight stated that he has been sending emails to Committee members to keep them informed and up-to-date on meetings that he attends, etc.

Chief D. Hussher spoke on the Nova Scotia Police Long Service awards ceremony held recently in Halifax where Constable Nancy MacCulloch received an award for 15 years of service. Chief D. Hussher explained that the medal is given by the Province of Nova Scotia for 15 years of consecutive police service in Nova Scotia. Chief D. Hussher said the next medal after this is for the Federal Medal from the Governor General – twenty-five years of service.

A brief discussion took place on the Police Commission meetings being held the first Thursday of the month. Chief D. Hussher said on a few occasions the meeting date falls on the 2nd or 3rd of the month. He told members that it takes time to gather information for the report and the collection of material cannot start until after midnight on the last day of the month which makes it difficult to prepare the report for the agenda package. A few options were discussed. At this time it will remain the same.

POLICE WEEK – MAY 13-19

Chief D. Hussher reported that the Stellarton Police, along with the RCMP and other local forces will be gathering at the Pictou County Wellness Centre on May 17 for National Police Week. He said for Police Week is the time for the police officers to get out and provide information to citizens. Information booths will be set up and members of different police forces will visit with community members throughout the day.

The Stellarton Police Service is organizing an information session during this week to be held in Town Square, along with a BBQ on May 16. The event will be held in conjunction with the Westville Police. The fire departments from both Stellarton and Westville were also asked to participate in the event as well as emergency health services.

Comm. E. Cormier felt it was a good idea to hold an event like this within the town; it gives police officers a chance to meet the citizens and to show what our own police service is doing for the town. Comm. B. Atkinson felt the Stellarton police force should be promoted.

The Stellarton Police Service will continue to participate in the event at the Wellness Centre.

UPDATE ARMED ROBBERY AT MEDICAL HALL PHARMACY

Inspector C. Pond informed members that the individual that was arrested in relation to this armed robbery has pled guilty. Presented as information.

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NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting date is scheduled for June 6, 2019 at 4:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Comm. N. Terris the meeting adjourned.

CHAIRMAN

TOWN CLERK