

**June 6, 2019**

**STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA**

**MEETING**

A regular meeting of the Stellarton Police Commission was held on Thursday, June 6, 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. Comm. D. MacGillivray arrived late. Also present, Town Clerk S. Higdon, and Inspector C. Pond.

**AGENDA**

Comm. B. Atkinson approved the Agenda, seconded by Comm. D. Taylor with two additional items: 3 (a) Police Equipment and 3(b) Report from NSAPG. **Motion Carried.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Comm. N. Terris made a motion to accept the May 2, 2019 Police Commission Minutes, seconded by Comm. B. Atkinson. **Motion Carried.**

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

3(a) Police Equipment

Chair B. Knight reported that it has been approved by Council that when we refit our patrol vehicles, that we refit them with the proper equipment by proper technicians. He said some of the equipment has been carried over from three or four generations of vehicles.

3 (b) Report from NSPA

Chair B. Knight reported attending the Nova Scotia Association of Police Governance meeting held in Truro on May 8. He presented a detailed verbal report of the meeting to the Board. He listed a number of speakers in attendance, including Dave Walker who spoke on the Canadian Association of Police Governance webinar training, encouraging those in attendance to sign into the webinar program as a new topic is presented weekly or monthly.

**MARK HOBECK – POLICING SERVICES CONSULTANT NS DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

Mark Hobeck made a presentation to the Board: Municipal Board of Police Commissioners "*Orientation for New Members*".

Mr. Hobeck is a retired member of the Halifax Regional Police after 31 years of service. He has a background in Administration, Patrol, Criminal Investigations, Community Relations, Media Relations, and Training. Presently a Public Safety and Policing Services Consultant with responsibilities as the Provincial Use of Force Manager, Provincial Lock-Up Inspector, Coordinator for Provincial Sexual Assault Investigator and Trauma Informed Training and Auditor.

Comm. D. MacGillivray arrived.

The goal and objectives of the presentation: to provide a general understanding of members role and responsibilities as a member of a Municipal Board of Police

Commissioners: 1. Describe governance and responsibilities as outlined in the Police Act and Police Regulations; 2. Discuss accountability relationship of Board, Chief, and Council and scope of decision-making authority; and provide overview of board role in public complaints.

Following the presentation, each member introduced themselves, then a question and answer period was held.

Comm. D. Taylor spoke on an option of disciplinary action, "*demotion*" and not seeing it in the regulations. Mark explained that "demotion" with any officer in an organization is certainly an option for discipline; it was just not listed for this presentation. Comm. D. Taylor also asked if the "*provincial appointee*" on the Board was to report to anyone. Mark said this was something he would have to research further. He explained that the provincial appointee should be the conduit between the Board and the province, whether it is a report back monthly on the meetings or meetings with representation from the Dept. of Justice or the province, to go over where the boards are and what have been going on. But at this point, he does not know if that has ever been clarified. To him the provincial appointee is a member of the board alone and doesn't have those other responsibilities yet. He told the Board that the Dept. of Justice is reviewing the role of appointed person, as well as the role of the boards and the advisory boards for the RCMP. Comm. E. Cormier, as provincial appointee for the province, stated that the only direction he was given, by both Ministers of Justice, was to be the eyes and ears on the street and only once did he report to the Minister of Justice a problem.

Comm. B. Atkinson asked if Board members were allowed to receive a copy of the police force's monthly financial statement. Mark felt this was a conversation to be held with Council and the Chief of Police on what they are prepared to share. He thinks it is important that Board members are aware if there is going to be fluctuations in the budget and the reasons for it.

Comm. E. Cormier asked if members of the Board are allowed to get information from the dispatcher eg.,: how many calls are related to the town and how many are related to outside the town, etc. Mark said in other municipalities, this information is conveyed in a monthly report that is presented to the Board at their monthly meeting. If it isn't, he would suggest making the request to the Chair, not the dispatcher, to get that information shared.

Mark was thanked for presentation.

### **PRESENTATION – ACTIVE SHOOTER – CONST. CHRIS IRVING**

Const. C. Irving gave a detailed presentation on the Active Shooter Training he received recently at SIG Sauer Academy in New Hampshire. He said that active shooter training is required every two years and after a lengthy discussion with the Chief of Police, it was decided that the best training out there was at SIG Sauer Academy. Const. C. Irving said he has been doing the same training for approximately 12 years and the training has never evolved or changed.

He told members that the training offered at SIG Sauer was totally different than anything any patrol officer was trained in before and very beneficial. He said the training gives each individual officer a better survivability going in. SIG Sauer Training Academy trains: military, police officers and civilians from all over the world.

Const. C. Irving has been a member of the emergency response team for 8 years and the tactics presented at SIG Sauer, he said, were very similar to the tactics that emergency response teams are doing but scaled down in a way that each individual officer can grasp it quickly, adding that the gentleman who designed the program was US Special Forces who saw the need for the tactics to change to help possibly save police officers lives.

Const. C. Irving is now certified to teach the Active Shooter program. He has trained all the police officers on the Stellarton force. The cost of the training was shared with the Town of Westville, so the training was delivered to those officers as well. Const. C. Irving pointed out that the one-day training is probably not enough because of the magnitude of information to take in.

Const. C. Irving said the only downside to the training is compatibility with other agencies as every agency has their own techniques. His hope is that eventually more agencies will adopt the new techniques.

Chair B. Knight thanked Const. C. Irving for taking the time to come in and explain the training to members of the Board.

Comm. D. Taylor read a statistic for multiple shootings in the US for 2019: 585 people wounded; total number of events 148; and the number of people killed 149.

Comm. D. MacGillivray thanked Const. C. Irving for taking the course on the town's behalf and training the other police officers. He said we are a small town with a limited budget, so "train the trainer" type of scenarios is what works best for us.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Chair B. Knight reported receiving positive feedback from residents Re: police officers interacting with the general public along Main Street. Inspector C. Pond reported that starting June 1, term officers will be doing foot patrols along Main Street Mondays and Fridays to address concerns that were brought up last summer: parking issues in front of the post office and on Jubilee Avenue and the issues of being too close to crosswalks, etc. This will continue throughout the summer months and be adjusted if issues arise in other areas.

#### **MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT MAY 2019**

Inspector C. Pond presented the Monthly Activity Report for the month of May 2019.

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

#### **NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting date is scheduled for September 5, 2019 at 4:30 p.m.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

**CHAIRMAN**

**TOWN CLERK**

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