

September 3, 2019
STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA

MEETING

A regular meeting of the Stellarton Police Commission was held on Thursday, September 3, 2019 at 4:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

PRESENT

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

NOTE: provincial representative seat – vacant.

AGENDA

Comm. B. Atkinson approved the Agenda, seconded by Comm. D. Taylor with the addition of one item: Street Crime program. **Motion Carried.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Comm. N. Terris made a motion to accept the August 1, 2019 Police Commission Minutes, seconded by Comm. B. Atkinson. **Motion Carried.**

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

No business arising from the Minutes.

MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT – JULY 2019

Chief D. Hussher presented the activity report for the month of July. He reported a busy summer with domestic calls. Extra police officers were put out on the beat during the summer which was well received by the public. He also reported our annual firearms and use-of-force training is starting up.

Chief D. Hussher reported the new three-way stop went in last Friday at the intersection of Foord Street and Jubilee Avenue. He reported the area has been a bit hectic, adding that it could take months before it catches on. Over 100 warnings were issued in relation to the stop signs. The Chief did notice some traffic congestion during the lunch hour. Chair B. Knight commented that the new stop signs are slowing traffic, which he said was the purpose of the whole exercise. Comm. B. Atkinson noticed a big improvement exiting Jubilee Avenue. He also suggested the idea of putting in three-way flashing lights to help alert motorists of the new signs.

Chair B. Knight spoke on motorists parking in the “painted yellow marking” spaces along Foord Street. He would like to see: a) warnings signs put up to make motorists aware that these spaces are “no parking” spaces and, b) tickets issued to vehicles parked in these spaces. He also commented on a traffic issue that he felt might need addressing: travelling south on Foord Street to the stop lights at the intersection of Acadia Avenue and Foord Street. He said a number of motorists are going into the parking lane to make a right-hand turn instead of following the curve around.

Chief D. Hussher reported that our Street Crime officer went on to other employment. The Chief told the Board that a fulltime officer is needed in Street Crime because it is an expense having a term officer in the unit and having them leave at the end of their term. He informed the Board that he will be posting for a fulltime officer. In the meantime, he recommended retaining term officer Const. Destiny Merriam for another term (ending January 2020) to cover the fulltime officer going into Street Crime.

Moved by Comm. D. Taylor that we keep term officer Const. Destiny Merriam for another term, seconded by Comm. B. Atkinson. **Motion Carried**

Chief D. Hussher then spoke on the DARE program reporting that Const. P. Veenuis is no longer the DARE officer since being promoted to Sergeant. The DARE role is now vacant. Chief D. Hussher said the DARE program is a valuable program within the schools. He told members that he put the posting out for this role but received little interest from fulltime officers. He added that this role is a vacancy that we should be getting into the schools in the latter part of the fall or early spring.

Chief D. Hussher recommended training a term officer for the role of DARE officer. He said the officer he is recommending did an excellent job in a public relations role over the summer. He proposed sending the officer to Newfoundland for training at the end of this month.

Moved by Comm. N. Terris, that the Board give authority to the Chief D. Hussher to send a term officer for training in Newfoundland for the DARE program, seconded by Comm. D. Taylor. On the question, Comm. N. Terris asked the officer's name. Chief D. Hussher said officer's name was Const. Gabriel Vandergrift who has been with the Department since December 2018. **Motion Carried**

STREET CRIME PROGRAM

Comm. D. Taylor and Chief D. Hussher both spoke on the Street Crime program and the Additional Officer program and how valuable the programs are. Comm. D. Taylor spoke of a letter sent out from the Nova Scotia Association of Police Governances relating to several communications from various sources, including a letter from the Minister of Justice, the Honourable Mark Furey, regarding the revitalization of the Additional Officer Program (AOP). Comm. D. Taylor said the Additional Officer program is part-in-parcel of the Street Crime program that came into effect in 2007. He said the Department of Justice undertook a review of the program in 2017 and there was talk of tossing the program out all-together.

Comm. D. Taylor also presented some local Street Crime statistics from 2012-2014.

Comm. D. Taylor would like to see the Board continue to show support for the program as it is a valuable resource. He said if we don't continue to fight for the program, we could lose it. Chief D. Hussher agreed with Comm. D. Taylor. His hope is to see the Street Crime program safe for many years to come.

Comm. D. Taylor will report back to the Board after the fall conference of the NS Association of Police Governance with an update; at that time, the Board will consider sending a letter of support to the Minister of Justice.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting date is scheduled for October 3, 2019 at 4:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

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

CHAIRMAN

TOWN CLERK

STELLARTON POLICE COMMISSION
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