

March 5, 2020
STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA

MEETING

A regular meeting of the Stellarton Police Commission was held on Thursday, March 5, 2020 at 4:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

PRESENT

Chair B. Knight, Comms. D. MacGillivray, D. Taylor, B. Atkinson and N. Terris. Also present, Town Clerk S. Higdon, Police Chief M. Hobeck and Inspector C. Pond.

AGENDA

Comm. B. Atkinson moved the approval of the Agenda, seconded by Comm. N Terris. **Motion Carried.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the February 6, 2020 meeting was approved on motion Comm. D. MacGillivray, seconded by Comm. D. Taylor. **Motion Carried.**

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

MADD Presentation

Chief M. Hobeck is going to make arrangements to have the nonprofit organization MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) make a presentation to the Board.

MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT – JANUARY 2020

Chief M. Hobeck presented the Monthly Activity Report for February 2020. A brief discussion took place on a few items in the report.

Tenders are out for a new police truck/SUV. Chief M. Hobeck told members that a couple of quotes have been received; waiting on one more quote. The Department is looking at repurposing the current truck within the town with Public Works.

The Monthly Activity Report for the month of February 2020 was accepted as presented on motion Comm. D. MacGillivray seconded by Comm. D. Taylor **Motion Carried. NO MOTION**

CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE NS (CISNS) PRESENTATION

Const. Allison Dow with the local Pictou Detachment of the RCMP made a presentation on the Criminal Intelligence Service for Nova Scotia. CISNS is a partnership of law enforcement agencies that operates: to collect and share information (on persons of interest as well as organized crime groups); to obstruct and dismantle groups participating in organized crime; and identify new crime groups and persons of interest.

CISNS is funded by the NS Dept of Justice and are an integrated agency. Focused on strategic analysis and intelligence sharing for organizers of serious crime in the province. Mandate: to support law enforcement communities in the detection, disruption and prevention of serious and organized crime in the province. They are part of a national network made of 10 provincial bureaus across the country. The districts across Nova Scotia are broken up into six areas, they have one LIO who works for the provincial corrections and six fulltime criminal analysts that work out of the headquarters in Dartmouth. Each office houses two Intelligence Officers. Each team of Local Intelligence Officers (LIOs) is a member of the RCMP and a partner with one of local municipal agencies

Const. A. Dow spoke on the End Gang Life Initiative; introduced in British Columbia – the program initiative is to save lives and deter people from getting involved in the gang lifestyle. The core of the End Gang Life Initiative is to bring awareness and educate the public about gangs.

This completed Const. A. Dow's presentation.

Chief M. Hobeck noted that our department does not have access to this system. Since joining the Stellarton force, Chief M. Hobeck has been working with AG Research trying to get access to the service; they have to go through clearance protocols with RCMP. He hopes to have access within the next few months.

YOUTH CORPS PRESENTATION

Sgt. P. Veenhuis attended tonight's meeting to talk about the Youth Corps. – a joint effort between Stellarton and Westville police services made up of five police leaders and one civilian leader. Eight youths are currently enrolled. He said the Youth Corps is the police and youth coming together in a fun and interactive way. Meetings are held every Thursday.

Goal of Youth Corps.: to encourage self-reliance, encourage confidence and promotes responsibilities and fosters long lasting relationships within the group, not only between youth and the officers but the youth themselves.

Some of the things Youth Corps does: community involvement through volunteering; parades; traffic control; etc.; the Corps has guest speakers in, i.e. Crown Attorney, Street Crime Unit, etc.; fun things: members went to the Academy for a day, camping trips, air show last year, etc. He mentioned that every summer they do a range day where they go through a firearms training course (no one has a firearm and an officer is with them at all times – very controlled). Sgt. P. Veenhuis this is all done completely free of cost – uniforms are donated; officer time is volunteered and trips are paid for through fundraising.

Four youth were present and spoke on their experience with the Youth Corps.

Comm. D Taylor asked what can we do as a person, as a citizen, a Commission or Town to support this program. Chair B. Knight suggested Sgt. Veehnuis contact Town staff member Paige Clarke in Communications to do a write up on the Town's website on the Youth Corps. H suggested that it may increase membership numbers. Sgt. Veehnuis was in agreement with this.

Comm. B. Atkinson thanked Sgt. Veehnuis for bringing the Youth Corps. members here tonight.

CACP CONFERENCE 2020 – COMM. DON TAYLOR

Comm. D. Taylor reported on the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police conference held in Vancouver, BC. The CACP is a national organization dedicated to excellence in police governance in Canada, equivalent to the NSAPG and Police Chiefs. Comm. D. Taylor was disappointed to hear that Nova Scotia was not represented at this conference. Chair B. Knight suggested he contact David Walker, President of NSAPG to get some insight on this and report back to the Board.

Comm. D. Taylor said two big things coming our way: NG9-1-1, an initiative aimed at updating the 9-1-1 service infrastructure in Canada and the United States to improve public emergency communications services in a growingly wireless mobile society and Ransomware, a type of malware that prevents users from accessing their system or personal files and demands ransom payment in order to regain access. It was reported by Town Clerk S. Higdon that the Town's server is backed up on a regular basis. Comm. D. Taylor also spoke on the digital world and where our officers who are usually head of the administrators in what you expect from your technology. He said we are not quite as far behind the eight ball as some other departments, but that is a consideration. Lastly, he said there is a public safety broadband network, a secure high speed wireless data communications network that can be used by emergency responders and public safety personnel to communicate with each other in emergency situations and during day-to-day operations, and holds the potential to improve the effectiveness and safety of first responders and the public safety community. He said, let's say there is an earthquake or some sort of gas leak down on the rail tracks, do we have a backup plan. If any of the officers respond, do they know who to call. Town Clerk S. Higdon said the Town is informed every day of what dangerous cars are in the town and the public works department and the fire department and the police department have a protocol that if something happens, they know what to do. We also

have a regional emergency response plan for the County which is also notified. Comm. D. Taylor said it is important that all new officers know the protocol.

SPEEDING ON POPLAR ST. – COMM. NANCY TERRIS

Comm. N. Terris reported residents on Poplar Street are complaining about “noisy traffic” up and down the street late in the evening. She was asked by residents to bring the concern to the Board, and to increase police presence in the area. Inspector C. Pond reported being aware of the issue. It was reported by Town Clerk S. Higdon that a Noise Bylaw will be passed on Monday which includes a clause for loud cars.

CORRESPONDENCE – STEVEN KENNEY RE: RAMBLER POLICE CAR

Chair B. Knight presented a letter from Steven Kenny. Mr. Kenny is interested in purchasing the old Rambler police car that has been stored on the premises of the Town Barns. He is interested in restoring the car to its original condition, minus: the Stellarton Police logo, sirens, lights, etc.

A discussion took place. Comm. N. Terris asked why the Town was holding onto the car for so long. Sgt. P. Veehnus said the police department was interested in keeping the Rambler at one point and restoring it to use in parades during summer events, but the cost to restore the car was too high. He also mentioned that back then, they approached the Pictou County Antique Club to see if they would be interested in restoring the car for the police department; the car was “too rough” and they were not interested. Chief M. Hobeck said the car is not worth restoring. In his opinion, it should go to tender.

It was moved by Comm. B. Atkinson that the Board put through to Council a recommendation to put the Rambler police car up for tender with conditions attached: no police identifications, sirens, lights etc.) seconded by Comm. N. Terris. **Motion Carried.**

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting date is scheduled for April 2, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Comm. D. Taylor the meeting adjourned.

CHAIRMAN

TOWN CLERK