

October 2, 2025, 530pm
STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA

MEETING

A regular scheduled meeting of the Stellarton Police Commission was held on Thursday, October 2, 2025, at 5:30 pm in the large committee room, Town Hall.

PRESENT

Chairman D. Stroud, Comm P. Kay, Comm S. Campbell, Comm D. Taylor, CAO Alanna Grover, Insp Chris Pond and Chief Mark Hobeck.

Regrets

Comm P. Lloyd, Comm D. Guthro and Comm G. Pentz.

Approval of Agenda

With the addition of an update from IT (Luke Young), Comm D. Taylor made a motion that the agenda be approved. Seconded by Comm S. Campbell. **Motion Carried.**

Approval of the Minutes

Chairman D. Stroud asked if everyone had a chance to read over the minutes and if any changes were needed. CAO Grover stated that Comm G. Pentz was missed as being present at the last meeting. With this amendment, Comm S. Campbell made a motion that the minutes be approved. Seconded by Comm D. Taylor. **Motion Carried.**

Update from IT (Lucas Tech)

Luke Young from Lucas Tech reported to the Commission that he had been working with Chief Hobeck and Insp Pond on a project for the past number of years that will upgrade the internal security of the town server that will allow him access to maintain software that has been taken care of previously by the RCMP. This project has taken a considerable amount of time to bring it up to the standards of the RCMP. This is commonly referred to as NCACR. There will no longer be a need for two computes at each workstation as the RCMP reporting system (PROS) will now be installed on current inhouse computers. This project has not yet been completed but hopes to have it all up and going shortly. Comm D. Taylor asked about the in-car computers and if they would be a different protocol. Young responded that they would be, and this is not currently being worked on, however proposals to the RCMP have been submitted. Young added that at this point, with the current project, he is just waiting for his counterpart in Ottawa to “turn the switch”. Comm D. Taylor asked if all other agencies are going through the same thing. Young responded that they were and that there is a group coordinated by the Truro IT department where he can converse about issues he is experiencing with It departments in other agencies. Comm D. Taylor asked if the fingerprinting system was still working. Insp Pond responded that it is, however, the computer will need to be replaced once the NCACR process has been completed. Chief Hobeck also stated that the audio/video system will need to be upgraded.

Business Arising from the Minutes.

Comm D. Taylor asked for an update regarding “Roots for Youth” stating that they are currently gathering to do drugs and other “activities” on the steps of the Church on Stellar Street. (Sharon St John) Comm P. Kay added that the railing on the steps to the Church is now loose and that there is a lot of garbage that needs to be picked up regularly. Insp Pond stated that he will get officers to do more foot patrol in the area. Comm S. Campbell

asked with the YMCA taking over this agency, what exactly are they doing. Comm D. Taylor responded with them taking over this would increase their funding. Comm S. Campbell expressed her concern on where these individuals would be going once the weather turns cold. Comm D. Taylor asked if there were currently any “drug houses” within the town. Insp Pond responded that there were none that he was aware of.

Monthly Activity Report- September 2025

Chief Hobeck reported 239 calls for service for the month of September which was down slightly from the previous year. Chief Hobeck reported that both he and Insp Pond had attended the “Battle of Britain” ceremony. Comm D. Taylor asked about occurrences that involve “Non-Pursuit-Flight from Police”. Insp Pond that there have been several, however offenders know Police cannot chase. Comm S. Campbell asked about the “Luring a Child” occurrence. Chief Hobeck responded that this was the occurrence that was previously reported as unfounded. Chairman Stroud asked for a motion to approve the report. Comm D. Taylor made a motion that the report be approved. Seconded by Comm P. Kay. **Motion Carried.**

Power Point- Town of Truro Police Review Presentation

Chief Hobeck reported that this was a presentation that was shared with provincial MLAs and speaks to the issue of the Policing Review which suggested an increased role of the RCMP within the Province. This presentation involved a clip from CTV News reporter Steve Murphy who questioned why there is a recommendation for increased responsibility for the RCMP even though the review highlighted their shortcomings. Chief Hobeck read from the presentation three options for policing going forward. 1/ Municipal Agencies (if standards are met) 2/ Contracting of Policing (RCMP) and 3/ the Creation of a Provincial Policing Force. Chief Hobeck then stated examples from across the country of municipalities moving away from the RCMP and moving toward the creation of their own policing agencies. Chief Hobeck then stated that the RCMP are experiencing a 184% increase in long term sick leave by members in the last 14 years and 30% of their current members are currently on sick or long-term leave. Chief Hobeck then stated that the provincial government seems to be opposed to what the people have stated they want. Comm D. Taylor then stated he cannot understand why the government is moving in this direction.

Strategic Traffic Enforcement Plan- traffic/speed complaints

CAO Grover told the Commission that she did not feel that everyone understands the STEP program and the fact there is a non-emergency number available to report traffic infractions and complainants. CAO Grover added that it is important to report these complaints directly to dispatch instead of passing the information along to someone else other than dispatch, in doing so the numbers would be better reflected in the report presented to Commission members and would be addressed by police sooner. Insp Pond stated that in the past Town Councilors would receive traffic complaints and by the time it was passed on to him the information was overwhelming. Comm D. Taylor stated the

importance of getting the message out to the public to call police with their complaints. Insp Pond stated that if there are complaints in a particular area, a STEP occurrence can be created and officers tasked for patrols of that area. Chief Hobeck asked Commission members if there was something they would like to see in his report going forward. Chairman Stroud responded that if the Chief could report specifics of involvement in the STEP program and other areas of concern this would be helpful especially with “hot items” (ie. Roots for Youth) CAO Grover stated that she will get Paige Draper in Communications to release information to the public regarding the non-emergency police number and its importance.

Update on the Nova Scotia Chiefs of Police Association (NSCPA) & Nova Scotia Association of Police Governance (NSAPG) 2025 conferences.

Comm D. Taylor asked if this had taken place yet. Chief Hobeck responded that it was coming up in a few weeks. Chairman Stroud stated that he was not able to attend and asked if anyone would be willing to go. Chief Hobeck stated that if no one from the governance side could attend, he would come back with a report of what took place to provide to the Commission.

Next Meeting

November 6th, 2025.

Adjournment

STELLARTON POLICE COMMISSION
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