

May 7, 2026, 530pm
STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA

MEETING

A regular scheduled meeting of the Stellarton Police Commission was held on Thursday, May 7, 2026, at 5:30 pm in the large committee room, Town Hall.

PRESENT

Chair D. Stroud, Comm P. Kay, Comm D. Taylor, Comm G. Pentz, Comm P. Lloyd, Comm D. Guthro, Comm S. Campbell, Insp Chris Pond, CAO Alanna Grover, Finance Director Bonnie Coulter and Chief Mark Hobeck

Regrets

None

Approval of Agenda Comm S. Campbell requested that Human Trafficking be added to the agenda. Chair D. Stroud stated that this would be Item #8. Comm D. Guthro made a motion that the amended agenda be approved. Seconded by Comm P. Lloyd. **Motion Carried.**

Approval of the Minutes

CAO Grover stated that the minutes for the April 2, 2026, Police Commission meeting did not report the regrets received from Comm D. Guthro for that meeting. Comm D. Taylor made a motion that the minutes be approved as amended. Seconded by Comm G. Pentz. **Motion Carried**

Business Arising from the Minutes

1/ Security Lighting in Allan Park- Insp Pond reported that officers have been making patrols at night and although there are 15 lights in the park, it is still quite dark near the gazebo. Insp Pond stated that there are receptacles at this location where extra lighting could be added. CAO Grover stated that she would check with the Town Engineer. Comm G. Pentz suggested that the Town Engineer and the Chief of Police attend the location and come back with a recommendation.

2/ Lighting on crosswalk Claremont Avenue- CAO Grover stated that they have ordered solar powered lighting for this location.

3/ Traffic Sign MacGregor Avenue- Insp Pond stated that this had arrived, and Public Works will have it installed soon.

4/ Insp Pond also reported that the "Blind Crest" sign has been ordered for South Foord and Weir Avenue and a speed traffic sign will be installed at this location as well.

5/ Chair D. Stroud stated that the 15 km/h sign at the bend on Weir Avenue is too slow. Chief Hobeck responded that he would expect drivers to slow down to 20-25 km/h which would be reasonable.

6/ Comm D. Guthro reported drivers are not stopping at the 3-way stop at High Street and Weir Avenue.

Monthly Activity Report- Chief Hobeck reported 224 calls for service for the month of April, which was up slightly from the previous year, adding that there was nothing that popped out as far as the type of occurrences reported. Chief Hobeck stated that the department was involved in the “Get Clean Get Green” event and that he had attended a “Chiefs of Police” provincial executive meeting. Comm D. Taylor stated that the thought assault and suspicious persons occurrence numbers were quite high. Insp Pond commented on the STEP occurrences and the high/low and average speeds recorded. Chief Hobeck reported that there were changes coming for what was required by the province to have speed limits lowered. Chair Stroud stated that he thought that 50km/h may be too high for some areas of the town. Chief Hobeck added with the new act; the town could enact the speed limit it wanted. Discussion took place amongst commission members of the many issues on Weir Avenue at the bend including an autistic child in the area, a bus stop and the lack of a sidewalk. Comm S. Campbell asked about the Fire Prevention Occurrence. Insp Pond replied that this was a resident having an outside burn outside the allowable hours and it was treated as educational. Chair D. Stroud asked about the nature of the calls involving the YMCA Youth Housing. Insp Pond stated that they involve drugs and Police had attended on occasion if a resident was being evicted from the location. Chairman D. Stroud asked for a motion to accept the report. Comm G. Pentz made a motion that the report be approved. Seconded by Comm D. Taylor. **Motion Carried.**

2026/27 Police Budget Presentation

Town Accountant Bonnie Coulter passed around a draft copy of the 2026/27 Police Budget asking if everyone was comfortable with the numbers and then asking if anyone had any questions. Bonnie then went over several line items and the reasons for increases in certain area. There was a 6% overall increase over the previous year. The capital budget request was for 6 additional police radios, adding there were funds available for retroactive pay when an approved Police Contract is reached. A motion was made to approve the budget by Comm D. Taylor which was seconded by Comm. D. Guthro. **Motion Carried.**

Homeless Encampments

CAO Grover reported receiving information from the Town of New Glasgow. This information was passed along to them from their Fire Chief who advised that there were shards of glass embedded in trees at chest level near an encampment where there was a fire call that they had responded to. It is believed that this is a security measure that inhabitants are using. Insp Pond reported that with the assistance of Alma Fire they were able to use their drone to inspect the encampments within the town. One encampment was behind Sobeys Warehouse and is Crown land and the other was behind the Museum of Industry which is owned by Nova Scotia Power. Insp Pond then stated that both locations look to be abandoned at this point, however the mess left behind is enormous and is a biohazard. There were other smaller encampments just outside the town limits, but they too appear not to be inhabited at this time. Comm G. Pentz asked who would be responsible for the cleanup. CAO Grover replied she had reached out to New Glasgow

to see what they did regarding Crown owned land and Insp Pond will be reaching out to Nova Scotia Power. CAO Grover added that it is hoped that this can be completed sooner rather than later. Comm S. Campbell stated that there is one just off Auburn Avenue. Insp Pond responded that there was a single tent, however they have been moved along, adding that encampments outside the town line would be the responsibility of the county. Chair D. Stroud wondered if a pass could be developed through these areas to do regular foot/bike patrols, adding it was good that there were no active sites currently.

Wildfire Season

This item was requested by Comm D. Taylor who stated that with the upcoming wild fire season there is currently no moisture in the ground and he worries about the residents of Valley Woods as they are covered on 3 sides with old growth, including dead fall from Hurricane Fiona with limited exits for residents, adding there are many residents with mobility issues as well as autistic persons. Comm D. Taylor added that he understands that this issue would fall under Emergency Management but wonders if a list of vulnerable persons could be completed and then forwarded to EMO. CAO Grover stated that EMO was currently working on such a project in the area on a regional basis and stated how important it is to keep such lists updated. Chair D. Stroud wondered if information could be sent out with Town Invoices. CAO Grover responded that this was done currently through the Town's social media page, website as well as the Town's newsletter.

Human Trafficking

Comm S. Campbell reported that she had recently attended a presentation in Pictou hosted by Cst Kelly Reid from New Glasgow Regional Police pertaining to Human Trafficking in Pictou County. Comm S. Campbell wondered if a presentation like this could be held in Stellarton possibly at the firehall. Comm G. Pentz stated that he thought this was a great idea. It was agreed by commission members that this should be scheduled for early June in the evening, with this allowing time to get the word out. Insp Pond stated that he would check with Cst Reid on her availability.

Next Meeting

June 4th, 2026.

Adjournment

STELLARTON POLICE COMMISSION
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