

MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF LUNENBURG
Minutes of a Meeting of the
POLICE ADVISORY BOARD
Held in the Council Chambers, 210 Aberdeen Road, Bridgewater, NS
Wednesday, January 23, 2019 – 9:00 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

Councillor Lee Nauss, Chair
Councillor John Veinot, Vice Chair
David Rafuse, Member-at-Large
Timothy Sleigh, Member-at-Large
Ivan Christensen, Member-at-Large
Ken Zwicker, Ministerial Appointment
Sergeant Mark MacPherson, Operations NCO

Regrets: Staff Sergeant Stephen MacQueen, District Commissioner
Mayor Carolyn Bolivar-Getson
Councillor Wade Carver

Staff: Chris Kennedy, Fire Services Coordinator
Sandra Challis, Administrative Assistant

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Kennedy called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

2. NOMINATION AND ELECTION – CHAIR & VICE CHAIR

In an added agenda item and in accordance with the By-law respecting the Membership and Responsibilities of the Police Advisory Board, Section 3.3, Mr. Kennedy called for nominations, by ballot, for the position of Chair. Those nominated were: Councillor Lee Nauss.

Councillor Lee Nauss was declared Chair

Nominations, by ballot, were called for the position of Vice Chair. Those nominated were: Councillors Wade Carver and John Veinot.

On the first ballot, **Councillor John Veinot** was declared Vice Chair.

Moved by Councillor Veinot, seconded by David Rafuse that all ballots be destroyed.
Carried Unanimously

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Ivan Christensen, seconded by Timothy Sleigh that the agenda be approved as circulated.

A question was raised if requesting a deer warning sign should fall under the remit of the board. Councillor Nauss clarified that the Board makes recommendations to Council and if accepted, requests to Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal come directly from Council requesting action to be taken. **Opposed: Ken Zwicker. Carried.**

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 24, 2018

Moved by David Rafuse, seconded by Ivan Christensen that the Minutes of the October 24, 2018, Police Advisory Board meeting be approved as circulated. Carried Unanimously.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

5.1 Cost & Use of Stationary Speed Devices

Mr. Kennedy provided a verbal report on information received from the Town of Mahone Bay regarding their use of stationary speed devices. The Town had purchased two units at a cost of \$3,700 each. They are located wherever it is felt necessary and download data, via Bluetooth technology, which is then provided to RCMP. Mr. Kennedy had contacted the Town of Lunenburg regarding their use of devices but had not received a reply. He had also researched other companies offering similar devices with prices ranging from \$3,700 up to \$9,000.

Councillor Nauss asked how the Board wished to proceed with this information; recommend the purchase of stationary devices to Council and perhaps investigate selling the mobile speed trailer?

Sergeant MacPherson advised that the speed trailer was currently being stored in Chester and not normally used at this time of year due to the weather. He suggested that there may be changes in RCMP involvement with the speed trailer and requested the Board defer any further discussion or decision until June at the earliest.

Moved by David Rafuse, seconded by Timothy Sleight that the matter of Speed Devices be revisited at the summer meeting of the Police Advisory Board. Carried Unanimously.

5.2 Blockhouse Speed Study Pending Update

To date, no information on the Blockhouse Speed Study has been received from TIR, but it was agreed to keep this item on the agenda.

5.3 Indian Point Patrol Boat Log

The Board received details of the activities of the RCMP patrol boat (circulated with agenda) as information.

5.4 Update from RCMP on request for letter of support for highway median crossover between exits 8 & 9 on Highway 103

It was reported that the original request for the crossover had come from one of the Traffic Service members, not from a member of Lunenburg District. It had been suggested that this member take the matter up with his NCO with a possibility of requesting assistance firstly from the Municipality of Chester, as the requested location falls in their district, before the Police Advisory Board makes any recommendation to Council. It was agreed that the primary use of these crossovers should be to improve response times for the emergency services and not necessarily to support traffic enforcement.

6. RCMP REPORTS

6.1 Receipt of RCMP Reports

Moved by Ken Zwicker, seconded by David Rafuse that the Police Advisory Board receive the Quarterly Police Report, Monthly Statistics from October to December 2018 and Annual Statistics for 2018 (as circulated). Carried Unanimously

6.2 Board Questions pertaining to RCMP Reports

It was noted that crime appeared to be increasing in numbers, and questioned if this was due to people being more vigilant and reporting crime? Sergeant MacPherson acknowledged that there had been an increase in property crime, but the actual increase in figures may be slightly distorted due to changes in procedure. In recent years, the ticket writing system had changed and now a file is opened, and an occurrence generated for each warning or SOT. He explained that reports from the public have increased, most being motor vehicle related. He added that media attention to issues, can also increase citizen engagement with the RCMP.

Staffing levels were discussed to have improved greatly since the last meeting.

Sergeant MacPherson advised that there are some positive changes happening to community policing later this year but did not go into further details.

Statistics showed an increase in fraud crimes. Sergeant MacPherson explained that most of the cases were internet or telephone fraud with the majority concluded very quickly. It was remarked that much of the internet/phone fraud targets seniors and suggested that perhaps the detachment could write a regular piece for the local paper to educate the public on these matters including reminders about protecting your own property. Sergeant MacPherson acknowledged that in the past a member would talk directly to seniors groups in relation to crime, but it had not been a recent priority. He agreed that the educational side of crime reduction could be improved.

The detachment was complimented on the statistics for breach of court orders, as an increase in the figures suggests that members are proactively following up on arrests. Sergeant MacPherson explained that the Street Crime Enforcement Unit and General Investigation Section had implemented a new system which has improved the numbers while also getting a serious message to offenders.

7. BOARD MEMBER MATTERS**7.1 Speeding – Martin’s River Area**

Mr. Christensen advised that he had received complaints of speeding on Highway 3 on the straight in the Indian Point/Martins River area, that is before the bridge when travelling away from Mahone Bay. Sergeant MacPherson said he would pass the information on to Traffic Services. He urged the Board not to wait for the quarterly meeting to bring these items up, but to contact him as complaints are received and the detachment would endeavour to follow up in the problem areas. Often an increased RCMP presence reduces speeding for a time.

7.2 Request for Deer Crossing Signs on Northwest Road

Moved by Ivan Christensen, seconded by David Rafuse that the Police Advisory Board recommend to Council that Municipal Council write to the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal to request Deer Crossing signs to be installed on the Northwest Road (Highway 324). Carried Unanimously.

8. ADDED ITEMS – Nil

9. NEXT MEETING – April 24, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business at 10:19 a.m., it was moved by Councillor Veinot, seconded by Timothy Sleigh that the meeting adjourn. Carried Unanimously.