

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, April 24, 2019 – 9:00 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

Councillor Lee Nauss, Chair
Councillor John Veinot, Vice Chair
Mayor Carolyn Bolivar-Getson
Councillor Wade Carver
David Rafuse, Member-at-Large
Timothy Sleigh, Member-at-Large
Ivan Christensen, Member-at-Large
Ken Zwicker, Ministerial Appointment
Sergeant Mark MacPherson, Acting District Commissioner

Regrets: Staff Sergeant Stephen MacQueen, District Commissioner

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

Councillor Nauss called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Ivan Christensen, seconded by David Rafuse that the agenda be approved as circulated. Carried Unanimously.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 23, 2019

Moved by Councillor Veinot, seconded by Councillor Carver that the Minutes of the January 23, 2019, Police Advisory Board meeting be approved as circulated. Carried Unanimously.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

4.1 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.

4.2 Request for Deer Crossing Signs, Northwest Rd

A motion made by Council to write to the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal requesting Deer Crossing signs to be installed on the Northwest Road was circulated with agenda. Information is pending on specific locations from Wanda Baxter, Watch for Wildlife, before the letter can be sent. It was suggested that the wooded area between the Fauxburg Road and Civic #800 would be the ideal location. This is to be verified with Ms. Baxter and the letter sent.

5. RCMP REPORTS

5.1 Receipt of RCMP Reports

Moved by Ken Zwicker, seconded by Councillor Carver that the Police Advisory Board receive the Quarterly Police Report (as circulated). Carried Unanimously

Acting District Commissioner MacPherson highlighted the following items from the report:

- Ford Taurus' are being phased out and replaced by Ford Explorers in the fleet.
- A new police boat is under construction and expected late summer.
- Coastal Watch will be providing shared services on boat patrols, as in 2018, and they should be in the water soon.
- The new District Commissioner will be in place at the beginning of May. Paul Coughlin has over 30-years experience in the RCMP and is a well-respected member.
- Benefits are being seen with community-policing initiatives. Speaking directly to schools and seniors, for example, means the RCMP are in dialogue early, rather than being called in to a crisis situation.
- Early in the year saw the culmination of a number of property crime cases. Reports of property crime since the arrests has reduced significantly.

5.2 Board Questions pertaining to RCMP Reports

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

It was noted that although cases related to Mental Health appeared to be down, that seemed contrary to what was being heard elsewhere. Acting District Commissioner MacPherson replied that the RCMP work with many different agencies in relation to mental health incidents, trying to target Youth and Seniors who are at most risk. He added that increased awareness and less stigma around mental health could be adding to reduction in numbers.

A comment was made regarding the recent changes in the law regarding distracted driving – specifically relating to using a cell phone when driving. Acting District Commissioner MacPherson replied that Traffic Services were writing the tickets for this contravention as the current focus for RCMP resources was elsewhere and the unmarked fleet car is generally used for surveillance.

A discussion was held that the RCMP do a very difficult job dealing mostly with the unpleasant side of society and receive little external recognition for their work. It was asked if there was

someway for the Municipality to publicly recognize members and requested that Acting District Commissioner MacPherson consider options for the next meeting.

The effectiveness and appropriateness of the new fleet vehicle was discussed, Acting District Commissioner MacPherson confirmed that the Explorer had passed all the required tests and had received a pursuit rating before being selected.

6. BOARD MEMBER MATTERS

6.1 Speed Trailer

It was suggested that the Speed Trailer be located in the Conquerall Bank area. Acting District Commissioner MacPherson explained he would inform the new Commissioner of the request and get the process started.

6.2 Pilot Area for Off-Highway Vehicles

It was agreed that the Pilot allowing off-highway vehicles to use the shoulder of the highways in specific locations is working well, especially in the New Germany area. It was hoped that signage would be in place soon and more areas would be opened up for this use.

6.3 Request for Speed Reduction in Mahone Bay

A request to discuss speed reduction options in Mahone Bay (from the 3-way intersection to the Boat Yard on Main Street) had been submitted. However, although this is a Provincial road, it falls under the jurisdiction of the Town of Mahone Bay, and *their* Police Advisory Board. It was advised that the submission had been forwarded to the Town's Clerk.

7. ADDED ITEMS – Nil

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

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business at 10:38 a.m., it was moved by Ken Zwicker, that the meeting adjourn. Carried Unanimously.