

# **Municipality of the District of Lunenburg Minutes of a Police Advisory Board Meeting**

Virtual Meeting held via Microsoft Teams

**Wednesday, September 16, 2020 – 9:00 a.m.**

## **Attendance:**

Councillor Lee Nauss, District 3, Chair (from 9:30 a.m.)

Councillor John Veinot, District 4, Vice Chair

Councillor Wade Carver, District 7

Mayor Carolyn Bolivar-Getson (left at 10:15 a.m.)

Timothy Sleigh, Member-at-Large

Wendy Oickle, Member-at-Large

David Rafuse, Member-at-Large

Ken Zwicker, Ministerial Appointment

Sergeant Mark MacPherson

## **Regrets:**

Staff Sergeant Paul Coughlin, District Commander

## **Staff:**

Tom MacEwan, C.A.O.

Chris Kennedy, Fire Services Coordinator

Sandra Challis, Administrative Assistant

## **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Councillor Veinot called the meeting to order at 9:25 a.m.

## **2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – As circulated**

**Moved by David Rafuse, seconded by Councillor Carver that the agenda be approved as circulated.**

**Carried Unanimously.**

## **3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – As circulated - January 22, 2020**

**Moved by Ken Zwicker, seconded by Wendy Oickle that the Minutes of the January 22, 2020 Police Advisory Board meeting be approved as circulated.**

**Carried Unanimously.**

## **4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

### **4.1. Blockhouse Speed Study**

As no information had been forthcoming following the Summer/Fall study carried out in 2018, it was agreed to remove this item from the agenda.

## **4.2. Speed Trailer**

### **4.2.1. Update on performance since previous meeting**

The speed trailer had been successfully deployed in Dayspring located on a resident's property. The RCMP facilitated having it moved and it was picked up by the resident. The use of Fire Department personnel to move the trailer had been ruled out and the Municipality does not have a Public Works Department for this task.

### **4.2.2. Placement suggestions**

Councillor Carver had requested the equipment be in District 7 next. Councillor Carver and Councillor Nauss would discuss relocating the trailer.

## **5. RCMP REPORTS – As circulated**

### **5.1. Receipt of RCMP Reports: April – September 2020**

Sergeant MacPherson reviewed the submitted RCMP report, highlighting the following items:

- Staffing levels were healthy and the membership robust. Absentee levels were manageable.
- Covid-19 had reduced the number of calls for service in April and May, but these had returned to near-normal in June. Reported cases of domestic violence did not rise as predicted.
- EHS requests for support on mental health calls was increasing. New training is soon to be available for Members in dealing with disturbed persons. RCMP has several courses that deal with Emotionally Disturbed Persons. One of these courses is online and mandatory for Members while the other two are in classroom and cover aspects of both workplace EDP issues as well as dealing with clients as well.
- False 911 calls and Animal calls tie up resources. It was noted that there was a lack of availability from DNR's Enforcement Officers.

- Theft related files were increasing. These cases include scams where people were duped out of money. The Community Policing role provides education on this subject, but services of this nature had been curbed due to Covid-19.

## **5.2. Committee Questions pertaining to RCMP Reports**

Tim Sleigh submitted the following question: Isolation stresses from Covid restriction seem to be manifested in domestic violence, demonstrations and defunding police rhetoric. Recognizing the added stress on our police officers who are also community citizens, how are Members bearing up in these times, are there adequate supports and strategies in place, is there any support or encouragements we, as MODL, can offer especially after the two major incidents we have had? Sergeant MacPherson replied that it has not been a good time for Members, but he felt that Lunenburg region had good systems in place. Members are accountable and respectful to each other and to their clients and support from the community is evident.

The RCMP were thanked for the work that they do.

## **6. COMMITTEE MEMBER MATTERS**

### **6.1. Speeding on Conquerall Road (Councillor Nauss)**

Due to technical difficulties, Councillor Nauss was unavailable at this time to raise this issue.

### **6.2. Alerts/Warnings for Residents (Councillor Nauss)**

Sergeant MacPherson advised that bugs were still being worked out on the automatic alerts system and it was still a work in progress.

### **6.3. RCMP handling of systemic racism**

The Mayor had been asked what Council's current goals are in improving community policing in the District. She asked if there had been any policy changes as a result of recent developments. Sergeant MacPherson noted the following:

- No policy changes have been made to date, however, Members are involved in dialogue.

- Members are very sensitive to race concerns from the public.
- Members have not identified the need for additional resources at this time to address this issue.
- The RCMP have a dedicated visible minority recruitment team which also includes Community Policing programs in North Preston and in First Nations communities as well.
- The Lunenburg detachment has a dedicated Youth Officer affiliated with the First Nations community in Gold River and is in regular dialogue with the community.
- All Members undertake mandatory training in Respectful Workplaces, LGBTQ+ Understanding, Gender-based Decision Making, Aboriginal First Nations Awareness training and African-Nova Scotian experience training. There are tough measures to deal with Members not abiding by the code of conduct.
- In reference to calls regarding Emotionally Disturbed Persons, RCMP Members are called for, and trained to *stop a behaviour*. When Members arrive at the scene, they have to deal with the threat and risk assessment, sex, race and religion do not come into play.

#### **6.4. Portapique disaster**

Sergeant MacPherson had advised that he was unable to speak specifically regarding the Portapique disaster, as the event occurred in another jurisdiction, but explained that members from the detachment had been involved. He spoke instead of the recent manhunt of an individual and explained how the RCMP and Bridgewater Police had handled the situation. Many resources were involved in the manhunt, Emergency Response Teams (ERTs), dog handling teams, a drone and a helicopter. The RCMP were in contact with the perpetrator's family and the Chief of the Reserve in Cape Breton and two indigenous Members were also involved who would be culturally sensitive to his needs. Sergeant MacPherson added that the cost of the operation would not be passed on to the Municipality.

#### **7. ADDED ITEMS**

None.

**8. NEXT MEETING DATE – To Be Determined**

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

**There being no further business at 10:51a.m., it was moved by Councillor Carver, seconded by David Rafuse that the meeting adjourn. Carried unanimously.**