

**1TOWN OF ANNAPOLIS ROYAL  
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING  
MINUTES  
May 12, 2010  
9:00 a.m.**

A meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners was held on Wednesday, May 12, 2010 in Council Chambers at Town Hall. In attendance were Chair Jim McGinis, Deputy Mayor Doug Shaffner, Councillor Kathie Fearon, Mayor Phil Roberts, Chief Burt McNeil, Member at large Jim MacIntosh, Business Representative Brian Keevill and Administrative Assistant Jackie Longmire as recording secretary.

Regrets: Department of Justice Appointee Jane DeWolfe

**CALL TO ORDER**

Jim McGinis called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA** May 12, 2010

*It was moved by Jim MacIntosh, seconded by Doug Shaffner, that the agenda dated May 12, 2010 be approved as presented. Motion carried*

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** April 14, 2010

*It was moved by Kathie Fearon, seconded by Jim MacIntosh, that the Board of Police Commissioners minutes dated April 14, 2010 be approved, as presented. Motion carried.*

**BUSINESS ARISING**

- {a} Training and Conference – Constables Joel Foster and Nicole Campbell have completed the Coaching Course. The officers will now be able to train cadets. Chief McNeil is negotiating with HRM for a seat in the SOCO Course offered in Halifax. The total expense will be cheaper if the course is taken in Halifax rather than PEI.

Chief McNeil attended the Chief's Conference in Truro. He said that comments were made by the Attorney General regarding the Boots to the Street Program. The 180 positions that are already in place through the program will continue but officers may be strategically placed. The program extension to have another 250 officers supported is currently on hold.

- {b} False Alarm Report – There were no false alarms reported in the month of April.

- {c} Food bank space – Chief McNeil has requested quotes from 3 contractors but to date

has only received 2. The quotes received were in the \$20,000.00 - \$24,000.00 range. It was noted that the proposed renovations were discussed at a recent Committee of the Whole meeting and Council is firm on the renovations not exceeding the \$20,000.00 that is currently in the budget. It was noted that the Department of Justice was contacted to determine the requirements for police office space and no requirements other than occupation Health and Safety are currently in place. Chief McNeil received a letter from the Crown Prosecutor regarding poor video quality and the need for a proper interview room. Councillor Fearon asked about the built-in furniture that is included in the proposed renovations. Chief McNeil said the desks and chairs in the current office are not suitable for the new space. The estimated amount does include the built-in desks.

It was noted that many residents and business owners have expressed concerns about the budget and particular items including the proposed police office renovations and other policing related expenses. Jim McGinis said that the current budget is probably equal to what it would cost the Town for one RCMP officer.

- {d} Meetings with Officers – All of the officers are generally happy but have expressed frustrations over the existing office space. One or two of the officers may be looking at other opportunities.
- {e} Possible increase in the size of the Board – Council has rescinded the motion of approval for an increase in the size of the Board. It was agreed that Membership will be reviewed in November as per the Board of Police Commissioners By-law. It was also noted that a Vice Chair was not appointed after the previous Department of Justice Appointee stepped down. This item will be added to the agenda of the next meeting.
- {f} Speed limits in Town – Chief McNeil spoke to Laurie Emms regarding a three-way stop sign at the 201 intersection and he has no issues with the proposal. The Provincial Traffic Authority must be contacted for final approval. The appropriate studies were completed several years ago and the final reports should be enough to prompt a three-way stop at the location.

The possibility of a pedestrian crossing at Babineau Heights was also discussed. The issue was reviewed a few years ago but was abandoned as cost prohibitive.

***It was moved by Kathie Fearon, seconded by Jim MacIntosh to recommend to Council that the issue of a pedestrian crossing at Babineau Heights be revisited and the existing engineers report be further reviewed.***

- {g} Legal aid and protection for officers – Chief McNeil has discussed the issue with the Manager of the Insurance Company and there is no final commitment by the Company on coverage for officers. There is protection to a certain point but there are questions about total coverage. The Manager has agreed to look into the issue further. Regardless of the insurance coverage there needs to be a clause in the employment contracts of all officers that ensures coverage in the event that it is needed. If the officers were to approach the local police union they would be guaranteed this type of coverage.

- {h} Review of POGS (Policies Objectives & Goals) – At the start of every year, the Board should suggest what it would like to see the Department accomplish throughout the years. Objectives and goals have not been established on a regular basis for the Department largely due to the staff turn-over in the past few years. Jim McGinis, Brian Keevill and Chief McNeil met to review the POGS and discussed items such as community relations, school and senior programs and foot and bike patrols. All of the issues will be reviewed again in September for a progress update.

Brian Keevill said that he has visited some members of the business community and suggested that an informal meeting be held with the Chief for a question, answer and information session. A date of June 2 at 10:00 am was set. The meeting will take place on the second floor of the Pub and will be open to all concerned citizens.

- {i} Surveillance Cameras – A technician will be on site before the end of the month to determine the actual problem with the cameras.

## DEPARTMENTAL REPORT

- {a} March Occurrence Report - The report for March was reviewed with no issues noted.
- {b} Chief's overtime for approval – There was no overtime to approve.

## NEW BUSINESS

- {a} Chief's Report – Two officers will be attending a sexual assault assessment course for interviewing victims of sexual assault under the age of 14. This is a five day course in Halifax; Chief McNeil and Corporal Chase will cover shifts.

- {b} Other

well ways. A Traffic on Champlain Drive – Doug Shaffner said that vehicles are still travelling in the wrong direction on the one-way section of Champlain Drive. The area is signed to alert the change in traffic flow but vehicles continue to travel both message will be added to the next Town Crier.

in the Crosswalk on Babineau Heights – This issue was discussed and it was agreed that a crosswalk in the area was necessary. It was noted that this item was reviewed past and all of the information will be pulled for further review.

*It was moved by Kathie Fearon, seconded by Jim McIntosh to recommend to Council that the matter of a crosswalk at Babineau Heights be revisited. Motion carried.*

**NEXT MEETING** - June 16, 2010 at 9:00 am. Meetings during the summer months will be left to the discretion of the Chair.

*It was moved by Jim MacIntosh that the meeting adjourn.*

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Jim McGinis, Chair

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Lynn Moar, Editing Secretary