

TOWN OF ANNAPOLIS ROYAL
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
Approved Minutes, Wednesday, 15 March 2017 @ 9:00 a.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Councillor Elliot called the meeting to order at 8:59 am.

2. PRESENT: Chair Councillor Owen Elliot, Mayor MacDonald as Ex-Officio, Deputy Mayor Pat Power, Chief Burt McNeil, CAO Gregory Barr, Jane DeWolfe (left at 10:20), and Recording Secretary Courtney Campbell

3. REGRETS: Jim McGinis, Danny McClair

4. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA: N/A

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

MOTION BOPC#2017-03-15-01

It was moved By Jane DeWolfe, seconded by Deputy Mayor Power to approve the March 15, 2017 agenda as presented. **Motion carried.**

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

a.) February 15th, 2017

MOTION BOPC#2017-03-15-02

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Power, seconded by Jane DeWolfe to approve the February 15, 2017 minutes as presented. **Motion carried.**

7. PRESENTATIONS: N/A

8. BUSINESS ARISING:

a.) Update from Council

- Chair Councillor Elliot informed the committee that the traffic flow changes were recommended to go back to the Traffic Flow Advisory Committee. The Traffic Flow Advisory Committee had decided to get the opinion of the town engineers on the one-way on St. Anthony and the four-way stop by the post office. Council also approved a yield sign on St. Patrick's Lane coming out from the soccer fields.

b.) Electronic Speed Signs

- Chief McNeil has been working towards getting the problem with the speed signs fixed, as they currently flash at 48 km/hour. He informed the committee that he has spent approximately five hours on the phone with support and could not solve the issue. Chief McNeil will talk to Jeff

Hanshaw (IT) about the problem that the company is having with coming in remotely, and should have the sign fixed in the next few days.

c.) Tasers (Occupational Health and Safety)

- There had previously been an Occupational Health and Safety complaint that the Police Officers were not able to have tasers. The complaint went from the Board, to Council, and then back to the Board. No final decision was ever made. Chief McNeil informed the committee that Constable Campbell still has a copy of the complaint and he will get it from her for the next meeting. Chief McNeil also stated that he does not know of any police forces in Nova Scotia that do not have access to tasers. Chair Councillor Elliot stated that he would like to have more information on how officers are trained to use a taser, Chief McNeil agreed to look into it. Deputy Mayor Power also stated that costing information would be important as well. CAO Barr suggested that Chief McNeil submit a report for decision that contained all the necessary information, and Chief McNeil thought he had one from last time that he would try to find. Chair Councillor Elliot will let Constable Campbell know that the committee is looking into the situation after he receives the original complaint. Discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

d.) Public Information Session

- The committee provided suggestions on the PowerPoint provided for the Public Information Session. Recording Secretary Campbell will adjust the presentation according to suggestions and post the meeting on the website, Facebook and Mailchimp.

e.) Police Chief Hiring

- A draft of the posting was presented to the committee for their review.

MOTION BOPC#2017-03-15-03

It was moved by Mayor MacDonald, seconded by Jane DeWolfe to recommend that Council approve the document titled Employment Opportunity Chief of Police advertisement that has been presented to the Board of Police Commissioners; specifying in particular that the regular hours of work are 9am-5pm, but since the Police Chief may at times be required to replace a Patrol Officer on the shift schedule, it is understood that hours of work may vary. **Motion carried. 1 nay vote Deputy Mayor Power**

Deputy Mayor Power stated that she was not comfortable making the decision today, as there were two members of the committee that were unable to make it. Chair Councillor Elliot disagreed, stating that there was quorum which enables the committee to make a decision.

9. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

a.) Chief's Reports – February 2017

- There was some concern that there were a lot of false alarms this month and this was due to an issue with the alarm system in one building, but it appears to have been fixed. The mileage on the unmarked car was up this month, as the marked car was in the garage for three days to replace the piece that holds the oil filter (under warranty). Clarification on assistance

to the public was requested by Deputy Mayor Power, Chief McNeil explained that it is often over the phone answering questions for callers who are not quite sure about a situation. Warnings were higher this month due to more enforcement and a checkpoint.

b.) Departmental Financials – February 2017

- The new vest has not arrived yet, but should be here before the end of the budget year and may put the clothing budget over. It was suggested that that overall the Police Department will be under budget for the year. Police Training and Courses has a three hundred dollar charge for the Kentville range for requalification. It is technically prepaid as it was cancelled due to weather and has not been rescheduled. At the end of April they should have a trained instructor and a private range so in future years they may not have to pay this fee.

10. NEW BUSINESS:

a.) By-law Enforcement Officer

- There was discussion that by-law enforcement is an issue in town, and that it is talked about a lot but never resolved. The system is currently complaint driven and should be more proactive. Mayor McDonald mentioned that we should try to level the playing field and ensure that there is a constant. The new casual officer is also a bylaw enforcement officer but Chief McNeil does not believe that he would be interested, as he currently works for King's county during the weekdays and would be unavailable. Chair Councillor Elliot mentioned that he would like to have more information on the volume of complaints and also mentioned that he would like to see it on the Committee of the Whole Agenda. Chief McNeil agreed to talk to the by-law officer in Digby to get a list of his responsibilities.

11. IN CAMERA: N/A

12. NEXT MEETING: April 12, 2017

13. ADJOURNMENT:

Deputy Mayor Power moved to adjourn at 10:31 am.

Chair Owen Elliott

Recording Secretary Courtney Campbell