

**Joint Police Advisory Board
MINUTES**

March 5, 2020 @ 5:15pm
Town Council Chambers, 274 Main Street, Antigonish

Attendance

Chair, Councillor Jack MacPherson (Town)
Councillor Hughie Stewart (County)
Councillor Vaughan Chisholm (County)
Councillor Judy Julian (Paqtnkek)
Mr. Vern Barnett (Member at Large)
Mr. Russel Nicol (Member at Large)
Mr. Matt Whitehead (Provincial Representative)
S/Sgt. Bill Mooney, RCMP
Sgt. Warren MacBeath, RCMP

Also Present

Allison Duggan, Acting Clerk-Treasurer, County of Antigonish
Steve Scannell, Director of Community Development
Invited Guest

Call to Order

Called to order in 5:17pm

Approval of the agenda

It was moved and seconded that the agenda be approved as presented. Motion carried

Approval of the Minutes

It was moved and seconded that the agenda be approved as presented. Motion carried

Business Arising

There was no business arising from the minutes

There was a round-table introduction of the members of the committee.

Presentations

• **Supt. Archie Thompson, RCMP**

Supt. Thompson shared his background and work history. He clarified that he has responsibility over the Northeast Region, stretching from East Hants through to Cape Breton. He expressed an interest in meeting with the group, hearing the issues discussed, and getting to know the group better.

Judy Julian arrived at the meeting at 5:26pm

- **Church Street Extension - Issues**

The guest expressed issues with speeding, graffiti, “stunting,” among other issues on the Church Street Ext.

Chair raised the question of what the Committee could be done to address the matters, as they expressed that the RCMP has a presence in the area. There is no pattern to the behaviour, which makes it challenging to address.

S./Sgt. Mooney addressed the concern, noting that they respond when they get calls, but they cannot post to that area as there are other issues to address in the community.

The Chair thanked the guest for the presentation.

RCMP noted that they do presentations to high schools and speak to the concerns raised by the presenter.

RCMP noted that the traffic unit is not the primary response unit to these matters but will assist if requested.

RCMP Update

S./Sgt. Mooney presented his report, as included in the package.

S./Sgt. Mooney indicated that calls are up, with an increase of nearly 100 calls for service more since the previous year at this time.

Question was raised regarding the number of impaired drivers indicated.

Sgt. MacBeath indicated that the report indicates reports of impaired driving, not those charged. It may also include cell phone offences but it may get registered as such because drivers on cell phones may show outward signs of impairment.

Chair raised the question of crimes against property in the Town

S./Sgt. Mooney notes that this involves mischief, such as property damage, general vandalism, etc. The numbers are consistent based on previous months, although minor thefts are up attributable to a single case; it is not indicative of a larger problem of issues.

Traffic offences was raised.

Sgt. MacBeath noted that those are largely speeding and complaints and that those occur on the highway. He noted that we will see that increase in the summer months.

S./Sgt. Mooney indicated that office and building renovations are moving ahead, and so far it has caused minimum disturbances to the staff. Discussed the progress of the project and work to date. Expected to be completed in the spring.

It was noted that cabs do run stop signs, and requested RCMP to review the issue at MacLellan, Arbor, and Delarosa. Consideration would be given to the speed reader board being placed in the area.

Roundtable

S./Sgt. Mooney shared that Annual Performance Planning was in the works, and issues could be provided to the RCMP to help shape that planning. Sgt. MacBeath shared matters that are considered as part of that plan review, including community engagement, etc.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for June 4, 2020, at the County Council Chambers.

Motion to adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 6:00pm