
Joint Police Advisory Board Minutes

March 11, 2021 @ 5:15pm
Town Council Chambers, 274 Main Street, Antigonish

Attendance

Councillor Diane Roberts, Co-Chair (Town)
Mayor Laurie Boucher (Town)
Councillor Sean Cameron (Town)
Councillor Hughie Stewart, Co-Chair (County)
Councillor Shawn Brophy (County)
Chief Tma Francis (Paqtnkek)
Councillor Juliana Julian (Paqtnkek)
Councillor Judy Bernard Julian (Paqtnkek)
Matt Whitehead (Provincial Representative)
Carrol MacAdam (Member at Large)
Fred Bell (Member at Large)
Russ Nicol (Member at Large)
Vern Barnett (Member at Large)

Also Present

Dave Combden, Staff Sergeant, RCMP
Warren McBeath, Sergeant, RCMP
Glenn Horne, Chief Administrative Officer, County of Antigonish
Steve Scannell, Director of Community Development, Town of Antigonish

Agenda

1) Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 5:15pm.

2) Approval of the Agenda

Moved by

3) Approval of the Minutes of December 3, 2020

Moved by Sean Cameron, seconded by Shawn Brophy. Motion carried.

4) Business arising from the minutes

a. COVID-19/Pandemic Response

S/Sgt. Dave C described charges and indicated 10 charges. 81 covid files opened in the 3-month period, 15 (December) 47 (January) 19 (February), a decrease in house parties in the winter so the numbers are down since the new semester. Shawn B raised the question of St. Patrick's Day, and the Sgt. McBeath indicated that it did not present an issue, and shared examples of incidences that occurred and locations of the incidences.

b. Traffic Calls – Speeding – update

S/Sgt. DC has described that it remains a priority, but it can be difficult to enforced. He indicated that the highway patrol unit does provide a high amount of ticketing to address speeding concerns. It remains an on-going issue to address. Sgt. McBeath indicated locations of calls regarding speeding, which including Martin St. and Highway 337. S/Sgt. Combden discussed the process for how complaints regarding speeding are addressed internally. Chair Roberts indicated that residents are advised to call the RCMP when these issues are brought forward to Councillors. Councillor Cameron questioned whether the speed zone could be reduced by Mt. Cameron. CAO Horne indicated that it has been an on-going discussion to address this concern with provincial representatives of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal to reduce the speed in that area. S/Sgt. Combden indicated that design of the road can have an impact on speeding. A discussion was held on various concerns regarding speeding at various locations, notably along highway 337. Concerns will be addressed at a forthcoming County Council meeting.

c. Loud Mufflers – update

Sgt. McBeath indicated that the RCMP has dedicated time to address noise concerns emanating from modified mufflers. The RMCP has purchased a decibel meter. As well, the RCMP must work with a motor vehicle inspector to identify vehicles that have unauthorized mufflers and exhaust systems. They conducted the enforcement on February 5th and set up a check point on Braemore Ave. and St. Mary's St. and issued tickets for noise infractions, required re-inspections, and not possessing proper documentation. The following week another check point was set up with various tickets issued, including for loud mufflers. Highway 245, Beech Hill, and Highway 104 in Afton for additional work on this issue. There is further planned work in April, which will include Taxi inspections, and additional loud muffler work will continue in May, in time to pair with a road safety campaign. Discussion was held regarding the inspection process.

5) New Business

a. Braemore Avenue Incident – Response Time

S/Sgt. Comben shared an issue that occurred on the 26th of January a break and enter occurred at [address removed] and injured [removed]self during a mental health matter. The RCMP arrived at the scene in 23 minutes. One of the parents of the residents

indicated concern about the response time of the RCMP. The parents reside in a jurisdiction where there is 24 hr policing so the concept of members being on call was new to them. Once it was explained to them that the members were awakened from their beds and responded within the 20-minute range they were satisfied. They were also concerned that the ambulance staged rather attended the scene prior to police. It was explained that was the normal protocol. They seemed to understand. The individual who broke in was charged.

Sgt. McBeath indicated the greater concern is how mental health issues are exacerbated by substance abuse, which presents challenges particularly for those seeking help. A discussion was held on the challenges for addressing the underlying causes of the matter.

6) RCMP update

S/Sgt. Combden shared an update of the RCMP regarding statistics. Numbers for calls have been consistent with calls per month. Seasonal issues with impaired driving are visible in the statistics. S/Sgt. Combden spoke about the community policing work and programs, such as Kids in the Know. The Community Policing Officer completed many presentations over the past few months and was able to reach out to over 2,000 students in the community. He indicated that we are a leader in the province in this area. He also conducted work on substance abuse presentations. S/Sgt. Combden indicated the positive impact this has on the youth in the community.

Mr. Barnett indicated that a certificate of appreciation issued to the officer would be appropriate. The Chair discussed that the presentation could be made a Joint Council meeting.

S/Sgt. Combden discussed personnel changes at the detachment. As well, S/Sgt. Combden has also indicated that they are monitoring the situation regarding the fisheries. They indicated that they are down six officers and therefore may have personnel pressures and places stress on workers.

A brief discussion was held on highway stunting issues and speed signage.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held June 3, 2021. It was indicated that other issues that could be addressed at the next meeting include drugs, neighborhood crime watch.

7) Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:06pm.