

## **Joint Police Advisory Board Minutes**

July 8, 2021 @ 5:15pm

Municipal Council Chambers, 285 Beech Hill Road, Beech Hill

### **Attendance**

Councillor Hughie Stewart, Meeting Chair (County)

Councillor Diane Roberts, Co-Chair (Town)

Councillor Sean Cameron (Town)

Matt Whitehead (Provincial Representative)

Carrol MacAdam (Member at Large)

Fred Bell (Member at Large)

Russ Nicol (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

### **Regrets**

Councillor Shawn Brophy (County)

Chief Tma Francis (Paqtnkek)

Councillor Juliana Julian (Paqtnkek)

Councillor Judy Bernard Julian (Paqtnkek)

Vern Barnett (Member at Large)

### **Agenda**

#### **1) Call to order**

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

#### **2) Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Councillor Cameron, seconded by Fred Bell. Motion carried.

#### **3) Approval of the Minutes of March 11, 2021 Meeting**

Moved by Councillor Roberts, seconded by Russ Nicols. Motion carried.

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#### 4) Business arising from the minutes

##### a. Loud Mufflers

Have there been any calls related to loud mufflers? No specific complaint associated with plate numbers, but places and times. Residents are being encouraged to get licence plate number and report to the RCMP. RCMP planning to do another blitz.

#### 5) RCMP Quarterly Report

- Last quarter has been relatively quiet; primarily COVID 19 files.
- A small number of break & enters.

#### 6) New Business

##### a. Photo Radar

Mr. Horne and Sgt. Mcbeath spoke to the concerns that have been raised and the suggestion that photo radar be considered to assist with traffic enforcement. Nova Scotia does not have the legislative framework to permit photo radar and it would require legislation. A suggestion has been made that this Board could recommend Municipal and Town Councils request that the Department of Justice and the Nova Scotia Police Advisory Board look into the photo radar in use in other jurisdictions and consider its application in Nova Scotia.

The Board discussed the various dynamics of the idea. They work to reduce speed in the areas they are located. However, they absorb resources and can be challenging. The Board raised questions related to whether this is truly needed in this community. Not really designed for low traffic areas.

New Vehicle Safety Act may have provisions enabling. Staff will look into this and report back to the Board.

##### b. Speed Sign between North Grant Bridge and Back Road Brierly Brook

In his absence, Mr. Horne shared the concerns with speeding shared with Councillor Brophy as traffic is leaving and entering Town past Sylvan Valley Road. Councillor Brophy has requested the Municipality's automatic feedback sign be posted at this location, which it will be in the coming weeks.

##### c. Street Crime Unit Presentation – Cpl. James Jessom

Cpl. Jessoms showed a slide show and spoke to some of the offenses and trends being seen in Antigonish over the past six months, primarily related to drugs and weapons. Cpl. Jessoms shared examples of other files the unit is involved with. The Board asked questions related to privacy, safety, tactics, etc. The Board shared its thanks for the work Cpl. Jessoms and his units does.

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**d. Annual Performance Plan (APP) – S/Sgt. Dave Combden**

Each year the Detachment reviews trends and sets goals, this year those goals include:

- Enhance Road Safety Traffic Enforcement
  - Reduce number of serious collisions
  - Reduce reportable collisions.
  - Catch more impaired drivers.
- Crime Reduction in Youth
  - Cyber safety presentations
  - Anti-bullying presentations
  - Kids in the Know presentations
  - Human trafficking sessions
- Meeting with Paqtnkek Chief & Council & Attend Cultural Events
- Focus on Habitual Offenders.

Stats will be collected and reported quarterly.

**e. Human Resources Update – Sgt. Warren Mcbeath**

The Antigonish Detachment has 22 members. A 6-person traffic unit is also based locally; covers six counties at the moment. 4 support positions. Police Dog soon to be posted locally and Cst. Kavanaugh on assignment to drug enforcement. Total: 34 employees at the Detachment.

Currently, two support positions being staffed. Two new members reporting in the coming months. One member on parental leave. Two members also allocated to St. Peter's Wharf half time from now until the fall.

Question related to overtime costs. It was explained that much is within the budget for overtime. COVID-19 calls were essentially a wash due to the drop in typical calls for service.

**7) Additions to the Agenda**

- a. None

**8) Roundtable**

- a. None

**9) Adjournment**

**Carrol MacAdam motioned for adjournment at 6:47.**

Meeting adjourned at 6:06pm.

**Next Meeting** The next meeting will be held September 16, 2021.