

Joint Police Advisory Board Agenda

April 5, 2022 @ 5:15pm

Municipal Council Chambers, 285 Beech Hill Road, Beech Hill

Attendance

Councillor Hughie Stewart, Meeting Chair (County)

Councillor Shawn Brophy (County)

Councillor Diane Roberts, Co-Chair (Town)

Councillor Sean Cameron (Town)

Matt Whitehead (Provincial Representative)

Carl MacAdam (Member at Large)

Fred Bell (Member at Large)

Russ Nicol (Member at Large)

Vern Barnett (Member at Large)

Also Present

Warren McBeath, Sergeant, RCMP

Steve Scannell, Director of Community Development, Town of Antigonish

Regrets

Chief Tma Francis (Paqtnkek)

Councillor Juliana Julian (Paqtnkek)

Councillor Judy Bernard Julian (Paqtnkek)

Agenda

1) Call to order

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

2) Introductions

Roundtable to introduce members commenced the meeting.

3) Approval of the Agenda

Additions to the agenda include “violent and sexual offenders.”

The agenda was approved with amendments.

4) Approval of the Minutes of October 14, 2021, meeting

Minutes are currently unavailable and will be provided at the following meeting.

5) Business arising from the minutes

No business from minutes was discussed; business arising from the October 14, 2021, meeting will be reviewed at the following meeting.

6) RCMP Quarterly Report

S/Sgt MacBeath provided a summary of the quarterly report. Review of the calls for service for the previous month was discussed.

Discussion was held regarding a significant seizure of drugs for a total street value approximately \$500,000. Charges have been laid. Discussion was held on recent attempted murder cases. Parking-related traffic accidents concerns were raised. Mental health calls were discussed. Community policing officer is currently off on leave but returning soon. Traffic infractions were discussed. A new Staff Sergeant has been selected, and ought to be present for the next quarterly meeting. Staffing transfers were also discussed.

Staffing issues associated with the late-2021 Covid-19 outbreak in the community were discussed. A summary of issues currently arising from Covid-19 were discussed, including issues and impacts associated with the StFX student community.

A question was raised with regards to noisy mufflers. Discussion ensued.

A follow up question was raised with regards to the inspection station. It was confirmed that enforcement was completed at the station, and some cases of fraud were found regarding inspection stickers.

A motion passed approving the report.

7) New Business

a. RCMP Traffic Unit and District Office

A letter regarding the movement of the traffic unit to the district office, signed by Mayor and Warden and addressed to Superintendent MacDougall, was circulated. A summary of the matter was provided by the Chair. There has been no response to the letter provided to date. Discussion ensued on the composition of the detachment. Questions were raised with regards to what factors would be considered for retaining the unit and district office; discussion ensued. Disappointment was expressed regarding the process to date regarding this decision.

Discussion ensued as to whether the letter ought to be sent to the Federal MP. It was raised that questions can be directed back to the CAOs on the matter.

A motion was made to bring the letter back to the Councils to confirm whether the letter ought to be forwarded on to Federal representatives. Motion carried.

b. Police obligations to those involved in traffic collisions involving fatalities

A member summarized the issue of concern, discussing a traffic accident that involved fatalities. Details were provided of the incident, indicating that there was no support provided from the RCMP to the individuals involved in the accident, such as being offered a drive home from the incident.

A response was provided by the RCMP, indicating that a review was conducted of the file with no indication of transport but confirmed that they offered victims assistance, but they were unclear why no additional support was provided. The RCMP will check into the matter and respond back to the Committee. It was indicated that the tragedy impacted members negatively.

c. Violent and Sexual Offenders

A member raised the issue of violent and sexual offenders and summarized their concerns. A question was asked whether it is proper to notify public that such offenders have been released. RCMP responded that it is challenging to balance privacy with the public's right to know. A summary was provided by the RCMP on how these matters are addressed, such as public interest disclosures and duty to inform as well as other RCMP procedural processes.

8) Additions to the Agenda

No discussion was held on this matter.

9) Roundtable

RCMP raised the issue of parking lot collisions at locations, such as Sobeys and Shopper's Drug Mart. Issues were raised with regards to line painting of the parking spaces to provide extra spaces to maneuver. Staff can review the issue to confirm limit of municipal authority.

10) Adjournment

There was a motion for adjournment at 6:25pm.

Next Meeting