



Minutes of the Police Services Review Committee

Place: Council Chambers

Date: Tuesday, December 11, 2019

Committee Members in Attendance: Chairperson Deputy Mayor Rick Draper, Mayor Patricia Stewart, CAO Rachel Jones, Councilor Dave Clark, Acting Chair Byron MacDonnell – Police Advisory Board, Member of the Public David Hoffman, Policing Services Consultant Donna Jewers – Department of Justice (by phone) and Deputy Clerk Linda Cloney (recorder)

A quorum was present throughout the meeting

In attendance: S/Sgt District Commander Craig Learning – RCMP, Corporal Robert Paris – RCMP and Six Rivers News Reporter – Mark Rushton

1. Call to order

Chairman Rick Draper called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

Add 3.2 – 19 November 2019 – Approval of Previous Minutes

It was moved and seconded that the agenda of the Police Services Review Meeting for Tuesday, December 11, 2019 be approved as amended.

Motion Carried

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the Police Services Review Committee Meeting for 3 December 2019 be approved, as circulated.

Motion Carried

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the Police Services Review Committee Meeting for 19 November 2019 be approved, as circulated.

Motion Carried

4. Cumberland District Model Recommendations: Discussion with RCMP

The Police Services Review Committee was advised that the Municipality of the County of Cumberland sent a letter to the Department of Justice requesting to move forward with the implementation of the option to reduce the RCMP numbers in Cumberland County by 3 members.

The Police Services Review Committee had a discussion regarding the options to be considered to recommend to Town Council. The committee decided that they have three options.

1. To remain status quo with policing services;
2. To accept the option proposed in the recommendations report from the RCMP that was presented in March 2019 to both Cumberland County and the Town of Oxford; and
3. To continue with the process to the request for proposals stage.

Q & A for the RCMP and the Department of Justice

With the proposed reduction in overall members across the County of Cumberland and Oxford what is the anticipated impact of the RCMP service levels in Oxford?

Any reduction is going to affect service delivery.

Do you see the reduction of three members as being correlated to the population decline?

When members are being staffed it is not about population.

Regarding the geographic concentration of the Town of Oxford, the committee members do not understand why the Town of Oxford has a higher cost of policing on a proportionate basis as compared to the County of Cumberland and the Town of Stewiacke?

Regarding a previous presentation and not considering other variables, the RCMP agreed that the Town of Oxford costs seem considerably higher.

It appears that the Town of Stewiacke gets a proportionate share of the overall policing costs based on its size as compared to the County of Colchester.

Currently does the RCMP manage the policing services for the County of Cumberland and the Town of Oxford as one unit?

Yes, the RCMP are policing it as if it is one geographical detachment boundary area.

The committee agrees that the per capita costs for Cumberland County should be divided equally amongst the County. Why isn't the Town of Oxford paying the same costs as Cumberland County?

It had been determined in the past that the Town of Oxford should be policed with three members. That number has not been revisited until recently.

The Town of Oxford is paying for policing calls outside of the Town of Oxford boundaries and that is not the Town of Oxford's responsibility to do that. Town Council is responsible for ensuring safety within the borders of the Town of Oxford.

There are many advantages of operating the District Policing Model. Just a note, Traffic Services (a benefit of the RCMP Services) has been in Oxford 6 – 8 times in the last month.

The committee feels that some of the smaller community-based instances are not being addressed. For example, visibility, speed, atvs on the road, and the safety of the 3 way stop intersection.

The RCMP are going to be unionized, how will this affect Oxford?

There are some mitigation strategies implemented so towns and municipalities won't be impacted greatly in the first year.

Is there a legislation to implement a no-strike clause?

It is understood that the RCMP are not able to go on strike.

Do you enforce parking?

If the Town of Oxford has a by-law, the RCMP enforces parking.

When tickets are being written in the Town of Oxford, are we sure they are being allocated to the Town of Oxford? Is there a check and balance at the Provincial Level?

The Department of Justice will review that matter.

Regarding the option for a reduction of three regular member positions and to re-profile one of those positions to be a Court Liaison Officer, does the RCMP feel this is manageable?

The RCMP will always provide a policing service and manage but having three less members will have its disadvantages.

Regarding the other services that the RCMP provide, if we wanted to access services that haven't been offered to Oxford, do those services come from other resources with the RCMP?

Yes, it can be.

Could the RCMP help Oxford by recommending what programs Oxford may want to see offered?

Yes

The Q & A discussion ended at 6:55 pm, S/Sgt Craig Learning and Corporal Robert Paris exited the meeting.

5. Next Steps

The Police Services Review Committee recommends that CAO Jones, CAO Bugley and the Department of Justice meet to discuss the proposal further.

Donna will investigate what Parrsborro and Springhill are paying for policing costs as the committee feels it should be equal across the Cumberland District.


6. Date of Next Meeting
TBA

7. Adjournment

At 7:15 pm, it was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Motion Carried



Chairperson, Rick Draper

Recorder, Linda Cloney