

## **Minutes of the Police Services Review Committee**

Town Hall – Council Chambers and Zoom  
Wednesday, July 26, 2022  
6:00 PM

**Place:** Council Chambers

**Date:** Wednesday, July 27, 2022

**Committee Members in Attendance:** Chairperson Thomas Shears, Councillor Brenton Colborne, Councillor Carla Black, Member of the Public David Hoffman and Mayor Greg Henley.

**Staff in Attendance:** CAO Linda Cloney and Office Assistant Stan McDougall (recorder).

**Regrets:** Department of Justice Representative Hayley Crichton

*A quorum was present throughout the meeting*

### **1. Call to Order / Welcome and Introductions**

Mayor Henley called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Warm introductions were extended to all present.

It was noted that the representative from the Department of Justice had sent her regrets.

### **2. Selection of Committee Chair**

It was moved by Councillor Colborne and seconded by Councillor Black to appoint Thomas Shears as the Committee Chairperson.

*Motion Carried*

### **3. Approval of Agenda**

It was moved by Mayor Henley and seconded by Councillor Black to approve the agenda as presented.

*Motion Carried*

### **4. New Business**

#### **4.1 Policing Review Committee Terms of Reference – Review and Discussion – included in the package.**

- The committee reviewed the current Terms of Reference.

- Concern was expressed to hold the initial meeting without the representative of the Department of Justice in attendance. It was decided that if Ms. Crichton is unable to attend in the future, to reschedule that meeting.
- The committee's opinion is that overall, the Town of Oxford is a safe community. The committee needs to understand why the policing costs are so high for the Town of Oxford. There are other Towns, close in population, that do not pay the same level of costs.
- It was clarified that the committee is not reviewing different levels of policing services, but rather reviewing options available to maintain or enhance current levels of policing services.
- The current policing review process was initiated due to the rise in cost of the policing services agreement, which was a 6.5% increase over the previous year.
- The Municipality of the County of Cumberland is also conducting a police service review.
- The committee is not here to judge the current policing services, the committee is looking for efficiencies and best value for the Town of Oxford.
- The breakdown of the total cost of the RCMP services in Nova Scotia, divided by the members, and that is your cost per member. The Town of Oxford pays for 2.7 members. 30% is paid by the Federal Government and the other 70% is divided 1/3 to the province and 2/3 to the municipality.
- The Protocol – Review of Policing Service Options report - item #7(f) was discussed to seek Department of Justice clarification.
- The committee recommended staff to let the local RCMP know that this review is underway.

#### **4.2 Council Mandate – Discussion**

- Community engagement in this process is very important.
- The committee recommended to ask Ms. Crichton, for the next meeting, to provide a breakdown of the cost of services for the Town of Oxford and to explain why they are so high. Also, to provide a comparison of the policing services costs of other small towns in the province per capita, and in specific a comparison between the towns of Oxford and Stewiacke.
- The committee recommends sending to the Department of Justice representative the Terms of Reference of the Oxford Police Services Review Committee for her review and advisement if there is anything missing.

#### **4.3 Timeframe for review**

The committee discussed to set a goal to have this review completed by December 8, 2022.

#### **4.4 Communication process/public engagement**

- The committee acknowledged that there would need to be a community meeting at the start and the end of the process. Dates and times to be established with the first one to be set as soon as possible.
- Google surveys were discussed as one of the tools for public input.
- The committee discussed the survey from the last review and recommended at the next meeting to review the survey and make changes, to it if needed. The committee asked staff to circulate the questions and responses from the last review to the committee prior to the next meeting.

#### **4.5 Committee meeting forum**

- In-camera discussions would be topics relating to contract negotiations and public safety/security.
- Committee meetings are public meetings. Agenda packages and minutes will be posted on the Town of Oxford website.
- The official spokesperson will be Mayor Henley. In Mayor Henley's absence, the official spokesperson is to be Chairperson Thomas Shears.

### **5. Next Steps**

#### **5.1 Organize a presentation to Council of the current policing service from the RCMP**

- It was recognized that this step would need to be organized by town staff, rather than this committee.
- The committee asked for clarity for #5 (Protocol – Review of Policing Services Options)

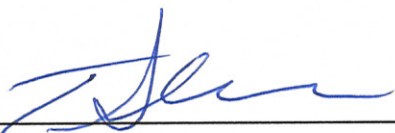
### **6. Date and time of Next Meeting**

The next scheduled meeting is August 24, 2022, at 6pm, this is pending confirmation from Ms. Crichton's availability and the requested research for the committee.

### **7. Adjournment**

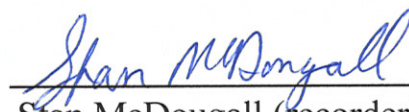
At 7:20pm, it was moved by Mayor Henley to adjourn the meeting.

*Motion Carried*



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Chairperson Thomas Shears



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Stan McDougall (recorder)