



## Minutes of the Police Services Review Committee

**Place:** Council Chambers

**Date:** Monday, August 12, 2019

**Committee Members in Attendance:** Deputy Mayor Rick Draper, CAO Rachel Jones, Councilor Dave Clark, Byron MacDonnell, David Hoffman, and Linda Cloney (recorder)

**Regrets:** Mark Hobeck – Department of Justice and Mayor Patricia Stewart

***A quorum was present throughout the meeting***

### 1. Call to order

Chairman Rick Draper called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. It was noted that we need representation from the Department of Justice at our next meeting.

### 2. Approval of Agenda

It was moved and seconded that the agenda of the Police Services Review Meeting for August 12, 2019 be approved.

**Motion Carried**

### 3. Approval of Previous Minutes: 16 July 2019

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of July 16, 2019 as presented.

**Motion Carried**

### 4. Information Updates

#### 4.1 Community Policing Comparisons

- Clark's Harbour pay \$158,000.00 for 1.1 members and their population is 760 people. This is about two thirds of our population.
- Stewiacke's population is close to 1400 people. Their annual policing costs are the same as Clark's Harbour. They are paying for 1.5 members. In the policing office they have someone there from 9 am – 2 pm Monday – Thursday. They do have their general school program and community liaison.
- Our policing services are being pulled to serve in other surrounding areas.
- It was commented to ask the RCMP to come in and explain to the committee the difference in coverage.

- What level of service is adequate for Oxford?
- Dave Clark handed out a comparison that was produced by CBC. The committee reviewed this report. A copy of this comparison has been filed with the Committee Package.
- The Town of Amherst police feel that they could come in and serve Oxford with their current staffing. This may reduce the costs for both Amherst and Oxford.
- Reviewing the information provided to the committee, this has identified that we have a problem with the cost of Policing Services.

#### **4.2 General PPSA (Provincial Police Service Agreement)**

- Department of Justice did a white paper back in the mid 90's on policing. This is when a lot of the municipal policing forces were switching to RCMP. This white paper set out a standard level of what is expected for Nova Scotia communities.
- It is understood that there has not been a review since the development of PPSA standards.
- The RCMP did a full-service delivery review of Cumberland including Oxford. This was developed from the efforts of the RCMP and the Department of Justice and presented to Oxford and the Municipality of the County of Cumberland. This review gave several options.
- The Municipality of the County of Cumberland are considering to reducing the number of officers by 3 overall. This may impact the store front in Pugwash and may affect the policing service here in Oxford also.

### **5. Discussion of Proposed Service Levels**

- Chairperson Rick Draper drafted a proposed service levels report for the committee to discuss various service levels. A copy of this report is filed with the Committee Package.
- We need to have police street presence; it needs to be varied and split up. High priority to Friday and Saturday late evening shifts needs to remain as it is stated in the report.
- 24 / 7 on call availability for emergency situations.
- Appropriate police coverage for Community Events.
- In school youth educational presentations.
- Senior Safety initiatives particularly for special care seniors complex. It was commented that outsourcing other professional departments to assist in safety messages may be an option, for example eastlink.
- Bicycle and skateboard safety awareness
- Parking enforcement in downtown core area
- motor vehicle traffic enforcement
- Traffic control review and recommendations.
- Complaint calls and resolution

- Visible presence at community public events and areas such as exhibition, arena, ball field, skateboard park and school zone.

## 6. Public Meeting Planning

- There will be a public meeting organized for Monday, September 9 – 6:00 pm at the Oxford Capital Theatre.
- The public meeting is one way to submit input, residents may also submit their thoughts in writing at any time.
- The format of the meeting – start off with an information piece, an opening statement describing what the committee is doing and why. Following this we would invite people to stand up and provide their input.
- The purpose of the meeting is to collect public input regarding police service level.
- The committee would like to have the review finished by the end of October 2019.
- Prior to finishing the review, we should have a second public meeting to present to the community our findings and where we are thinking we are heading with this.
- Present a slideshow to the audience a report for what the committee and council feel the key issues the community should considered when a policing proposal is presented. We are looking for the community to feedback on this report. Did we as a committee get this right, are there things that should be added or taken away from this. What are our priorities?
- Have flip charts set up and a microphone there for the public to speak into.
- Have a 2-minute time limit, per person, for comments, to ensure everyone can have a voice.
- The Police Review Committee should be up on the stage.
- Staff will help with the set up and process of the public meeting.
- How are we going to advertise this? Ideas suggested were community calendar, mayor's corner, tax bills, exhibition booth, website, facebook site, notes home to students at OREC and make up a flyer.

### General Discussion with the following points:

- It was asked to have something available to the committee to present the crime rates in other communities. This will help address the need here. How is our crime rate compared to Stewiacke or Clark's Harbour.
- Invite the RCMP and the Department of Justice to our next meeting on August 26, 2019.
- Rachel will contact Craig Learning – questions for Craig: does the RCMP have input in the number of staff level required in community? How many hours are spent on investigating on crimes in Oxford in the last six months and to compare that to the hours spent on crimes in Cumberland County? What service levels is he working towards to providing the policing here?

- Questions to be answered by Department of Justice – What is their view on policing standards? What are the policing costs and crime rates in each municipal unit?
- Oxford is paying for a sergeant and two constables.

**7. Date of Next Meeting**

The next scheduled meeting is August 26, 2019 at 6:00 pm in the Council Chambers.

**8. Adjournment**

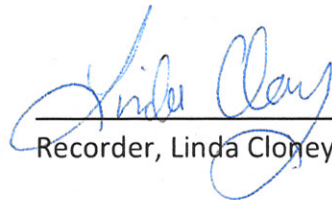
At 6:55 pm, it was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

**Motion Carried**



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Chairperson, Rick Draper



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Recorder, Linda Cloney