

MINUTES
BRIDGEWATER BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
June 7th , 2017

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Bridgewater Board of Police Commissioners held on Wednesday June 7th , 2017, in the Community Room of the Police Service Building, 45 Exhibition Drive, Bridgewater, Nova Scotia commencing at 5:30 p.m. with Chairperson Pat Cappello presiding. Those in attendance: Commissioners, Virginia Oickle, Wayne Thorburne, Palma Champoux, David Mitchell, David Carey and Jennifer McDonald.

Also present: Deputy Chief Scott Feener , CAO Ken Smith and Commission Recording Secretary Patty Sleep.

Guests: Roger Merrick and Don Spicer, Department of Justice

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

School Resource Officer – Commissioner Thorburne
Naloxone Spray Report – A/C Feener

TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

Department of Justice Co-Directors, Roger Merrick and Don Spicer from attended the meeting. The purpose of the visit was to educated the Board on the various programs and functions of the Public Safety Division.

This component of the Department of Justice employs approximately 40 staff and is responsible for a various programs such as Policing Services, Public Safety Investigations, Firearms Program, Crime Prevention, Provincial Police Services and CISNS (Criminal Investigation Section of Nova Scotia).

The Public Safety Division conduct regular audits on police agencies on specific functions. Earlier in the year, an audit was conducted on major crime investigations of BPS. A second review scheduled this fall focusing on sexual assault investigations. The police agency, police board and the president of the NSCPA will receive a report on the outcome.

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There is a Steering Committee (comprised of board members) whose purpose is the development of Policing Standards. Anyone from the Bridgewater Board who may interested in joining, is welcome to contact the department.

The Commission inquired as to whether or not there may be training opportunities available for boards to conduct self-audits. Merrick and Spicer explained, this is currently being explored as they chat with boards across the province

A review of the additional officer program is currently underway and DOJ will advise on the findings, once complete.

The Board asked questions regarding security companies and asked if their regulations fall under the Province. Unfortunately, there is not a lot of regulation with security companies. DOJ further advised, the level of security, particularly in our hospitals, is a very hot topic. A team has been put in place to discuss issues and concerns regarding this ongoing problem.

The Provincial representatives touched on the 'opiod crisis' in Nova Scotia. A Leadership Committee has been put in place to develop a response plan with the safety of first responders in mind. Equipment, such as naloxone spray and masks, have been purchased for police agencies to ensure safety when members attend these type of calls. This initiative will be followed by an educational piece to be rolled out to students as well as members of the general public.

The importance of this message to get out to the public – should a link be place on our website?

MINUTES

17-022 Moved by Commissioner Thorburne and seconded by Commissioner McDonald the Minutes of the May 4th , 2017 regular meeting be approved. MOTION CARRIED.

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CORRESPONDENCE – INFORMATION

CAPG Update

Board Chair, Pat Cappello attended the CAPG meeting held on May 7th, followed by joint meetings with CACP, CPA and FNCPA on May 8th and 9th. Below are the highlights.

The Board was briefed on cannabis legislation by the Minister of Public Safety. The Federal government are promising money to local agencies to assist with training and equipment.

Discussions on police mental health with the Mental Health Commission of Canada and Dr. Carlton of the Canadian Institute for Public Safety. The MHCC state there should be a national standards developed for psychological health and safety as well as guidelines for mental health first aid.

D/Chief Jill Kinner of the Ottawa Police Service provided a presentation on unfounded sexual assaults. Majority of the information provided was the same as that provided by A/Chief Feener.

The economics of policing was discussed; topics included core functions of sworn officers, economic responsibility of activities outside of the core functions as well as harmonized police training across Canada.

NSAPG Update

A meeting of the entire NSAPG Board was held on May 17th, 2017.

Don Spicer and Roger Merrick of Department of Justice joined the meeting to discuss topics such as selection and training of Police Board members, Steering Committee to revitalize Police Standards and internal police board audits.

Karen Hudson of DOJ also joined the meeting and spoke on the issue of wait times for Mental Health issues, distracted driving as well as the Additional Officer Program.

Commissioner Judith McPhee led discussions regarding the Office of the Police Complaints Commissioner. Topics included the size and scope of the office as well as timeline for processing complaints.

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Bob Purcell, Department of Justice, spoke on the shift in crime rate and deploying resources. Mr. Purcell is also the lead on the new cannabis legislation. He is working closely with Dr. Strang, as well as finance personnel, to bring a regulated regime with safety for children at the forefront.

The Restorative Justice Program is a priority for DoJ. There are now an average of nine court appearances for one charge. Many of these appearances involve the participation of police personnel. This is economically unsustainable.

Self-audits for police boards to be an item on the September agenda for further discussion.

BBUSINESS ARISING & UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

BPS Monthly Report – May

doc # 17-024

BPS May monthly report was circulated to Board members.

Commissioner Thorburne questioned the substantial amount of parking meter revenue. A/Chief Feener When closed the meters, there was a large bag of change which was collected and added to revenue during this reporting period.

Commissioner Champoux was pleased there were no complaints from residents near shooting range during training in May. A/Chief advised the board, BPS emails Petite Riviere School as well as residents to inform of upcoming shooting dates and times. This communication seems to be working well.

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Youth Participation

Commissioner McDonald is involved with the Youth Advisory Committee and this young group have expressed interest in participating in the Police Commission. Due to age restrictions youth are unable to sit as a sworn board member, however, the group is open to suggestions as far as participation in other ways.

The public portion of the Commission meetings are open to anyone – including youth. A/Chief Feener suggested his participation, along with a board member to attend a Youth Advisory meeting, to discuss options as well as training opportunities with our specialized units.

Perhaps the youth advisory committee would be interested in participating in the role out of educating young students on the opioid crisis and potentially fatal use of fentanyl. Commissioners Mitchell and McDonald will suggest these ideas with the group at the next meeting.

DOJ Appointee term completion

Commissioner David Carey received correspondence from the Department of Justice advising his DOJ Term is complete in October. He was welcome to re-apply with a 2- day notice.

Carey has submitted his application, however, has no idea when he will hear back.

School Safety Officer

The Commission questioned the funding of the School Safety Resource Officer. Should the MODL be funding a portion, as the officer is in schools both outside of Bridgewater as well as inside Town limits.

A/Chief Feener explained, the SSRO position is funded provincially, therefore at no cost to the Town.

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Naloxone Spray Report

As indicated in earlier discussions, opioid overdose has become a problem. The province has given direction on the submission of an administration report which is now required to be filed whenever naloxone spray has been administered.

This new report and stats will be included in the Use of Force quarterly report.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday September 7th, 2017 in the Community Room of the Police Service Building.

SUNDRY

ADJOURNMENT

17-023 Moved by Commissioner Carey the June 7th, 2017 regular meeting of the Bridgewater Board of Police Commissioners be hereby adjourned. MOTION CARRIED. (Time: 6:40 p.m.)

Patty Sleep
Commission Recording Secretary

Pat Cappello
Chairperson