

RCMP Advisory Board – Meeting Minutes

Date: March 2, 2017.

Time: 4:30 PM

Location: Town of Antigonish Council Chambers

Present

Staff Sgt. Holly Glassford (RCMP)

Sgt. Warren McBeath (RCMP)

Laurie Boucher (Mayor, Town)

Jack MacPherson (Councillor, Town) - Chair

Dianne Roberts (Councillor, Town)

Russel Boucher (Warden, County)

Huey Stewart (Councillor, County)

Vaughn Chisholm (Councillor, County)

Carl McAdam (Member at Large)

Russel Nichols (Member at Large)

Matt Whitehead (Provincial Representative)

Glenn Horne – Clerk-Treasurer (County)

Jeff Lawrence – Chief Administrative Officer
(Town)

Steve Scannell – Special Projects Coordinator
(Town)

Minutes

1. Call to Order

Councillor MacPherson, The Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM.

2. Round Table Introduction

The Chair requested that the meeting begin with roundtable introductions, as there had been some change-over on the Committee since it last met on May 27th, 2015.

3. Approval of the Agenda

“It was Moved and Seconded to approve the agenda.” Motion carried.

4. Approval of the Minutes

“It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes.” Motion carried.

5. Overview of Policing in Antigonish (RCMP)

The Chair introduced Staff Sgt. Glassford to discuss the current state of policing in Antigonish, and welcomed a new member to the detachment, Sgt. McBeath, who presented along side Staff Sgt. Glassford.

Staff Sgt. Glassford delivered a presentation which covered the policing priorities of the Antigonish detachment. The priorities identified and discussed included: Road Safety, Crime Reduction, Enhancing Relations with First Nations Peoples, and Employee Wellness.

In discussing these priorities, Staff Sgt. Glassford touched on the following:

- **Road Safety:** discussion was held noting that the RCMP is focusing on enforcement plus awareness and education, current statistics and the goals for the 3rd quarter we also discussed.

- **Crime Reduction:** discussion was held on goals for year end and the focus for 3rd quarter priorities. There was some discussion on the education and awareness activities being undertaken at the detachment.
- **Enhancing Relations with First Nations Peoples:** Discussion was held on goals to accomplish before year end. It was mentioned that the RCMP recently held a Police Familiarization Day in Paq'tnekek First Nation, which was well received.
- **Employee Wellness:** discussion was held on training held to address PTSD and mental health, as well as team building exercises and events.

Discussion was held on the monthly statistics for February 2017. It was noted that the weather may have impacted some of these statistics.

An inquiry was made with regards to whether distracted driving calls have increased or decreased.

Staff Sgt. Glassford was not aware of the statistics on that issue, but offered to look into the matter further and report back to the Board.

Discussion was held on detachment resources. It was noted that the detachment is in good shape from a resource perspective. It was noted that there are no 'soft vacancies', such as sick leaves, etc.

It was noted that a County position remains unfilled, and they are still waiting for candidates to fill a Town Constable position.

Some discussion was held on the matter of the detachment assistant. It was mentioned that is challenging to keep up with criminal record checks in addition to municipal responsibilities and suggested that the staff person may need to go part-time on municipal responsibilities. Discussion ensued on the budget process for new positions.

6. RCMP Policing Plan for 2017 (RCMP)

Staff Sgt. Glassford introduced Sgt. McBeath to discuss the priorities of the detachment moving forward.

Sgt. McBeath first discussed operational matters.

Burmac Cup was discussed. Sgt. McBeath noted that the game was back on and scheduled for March 25th, contingent on good behaviour of students. A question was raised as to whether the event would be a tax on resources, but Sgt. MacBeath noted that the RCMP will not be present at the event unless called. He further noted that the RCMP will have a visible presence after the event, but that is not out of the ordinary. McBeath stated that the RCMP will be fully staffed for that day.

A question was raised regarding the cost of security, and McBeath responded by noting that it is his understanding that aspect is well under control following his discussions with the Student Union.

Summer leave and summer scheduling was also discussed, noting that scheduling is taking place for the upcoming summer events.

Sgt. McBeath also discussed that the RCMP is setting up an appropriate response to "Code Blue"/Active Shooter drills with the University. This includes planning, running practice drills and table top exercises, and reviewing the functioning of the command structure.

Sgt. McBeath also discussed block training days. These are mandatory training days to allow staff to practice tactics and responses. The focus will be a 3-day course on immediate action/rapid deployment.

Sgt. McBeath will also be scheduling a mandatory cyber crimes course. He noted it is important to stay up to date on the matter, but noted that it is challenging to stay ahead of the issue.

Sgt. McBeath noted that the Street Crime Enforcement Unit, staffed by plain clothes officers, was suspended over the summer but was back in place in November. He noted that by March 1 all three officers will be back in position. The mandate of the Unit is drug enforcement and some special project work.

Following the discussion of operational matters, Sgt. McBeath began discussing administrative matters.

Sgt. McBeath noted that renovations will be taking place in the office to configure it to better meet work space requirements. Included in the renovations are cell block changes, and will include a pilot project of introducing an electronic system for booking prisoners which will make bookings faster and easier.

Also discussed was recruitment. Sgt. McBeath noted that recruitment is very challenging.

Sgt. McBeath also noted that officers will begin to be equipped to address issues arising from fentanyl, as it is very dangerous and the detachment must be prepared for its potential arrival in Antigonish. This includes safety equipment for officers, such as gloves, glasses, and respirators, as well as Naloxone spray in the event that they encounter an overdose case.

Sgt. McBeath also discussed community policing initiatives, such as SAFE plans.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Sgt. McBeath then opened the floor to discussion and questions.

A question was raised about staffing levels. It was noted that there is one constable position vacant that will eventually be filled.

A question was also raised with regards to speeding on certain streets in Town. Sgt. McBeath noted that he will connect with Staff Sgt. Glassford to share street names, but identified such streets as Hawthorne, Brooklyn, and Braemore and as being potential issue streets.

Also raised was the question of turning signs for Tim Hortons. Councillor Roberts noted that this issue will be raised at the Town's Police and License Committee.

7. RCMP Advisory Board Training

The Chair then raised the matter of RCMP Advisory Board Training and when the next opportunity might be coming up. It was noted that nothing has been slotted as of yet. Brief discussion ensued on the type of training the Board is interested in attending.

8. Other Business

Meeting Schedule

The date set for the next meeting was the first Thursday in June, at 4:30, at the County office. Brief discussion took place, as that date conflicts with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) conference. A new date was set for June 8.

It was noted that items to be added to the agenda can be sent to either the CAO or the Clerk-Treasurer.

Meeting Expectations

Further discussion under Other Business included a discussion on the expectations for Members at Large on the Board, and the contributions they are expected to make to the operation of the Board.

Discussion ensued on how information flows from the Board to each Council. It was also noted that the meetings provide an opportunity for the RCMP to inform each Council of the work they do and the initiatives they are working on.

Further discussion ensued on the mandate of the committee. It was noted that the Police Act will be consulted, and a draft terms of reference can be developed to provide greater direction to the Committee.

9. Adjournment

With there being no further business, it was "Moved and Seconded that the meeting be adjourned."
Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 PM.