

RCMP Advisory Board – Meeting Minutes

Date: January 10, 2019

Time: 5:15 PM

Location: Antigonish County Municipal Office, Board Room

Present

Chair, Deputy Warden Hughie Stewart	Town Councillor Jack MacPherson
Municipal Councillor Vaughan Chisholm	Matt Whitehead (Provincial Appointee)
Town Councillor Diane Roberts	Fred Bell (Member at Large)
Sgt. Warren McBeath (RCMP)	Russel Nicols (Member at Large)
Glenn Horne (Municipal Clerk Treasurer)	Mayor Laurie Boucher
Carroll MacAdam (Member at Large)	Matt Whitehead (Provincial Representative)
Jeff Lawrence, Town CAO	Cst. Robert Cavanaugh
Steve Scannell, Town Director of Community Development	

Regrets

Bill Gottschall (Member at Large)

Minutes

1. Call to Order

Deputy Warden Stewart called the meeting to order at 5:15 PM

2. Approval to the Agenda

Mr. MacAdam added West Street / Highland Drive Streetlights to the Agenda. Moved by Mayor Chisholm, seconded by Mr. Bell that the agenda be approved as amended. MC.

3. Approval of Minutes

It was noted that Mr. Whitehead was not present at the September meeting and Mayor Boucher was. Those adjustments were made to the minutes. Moved by J. MacPherson, seconded by Fred Bell that the minutes be approved as amended. MC.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

Questions concerning any update on red light violations from the SCRE. No update has been provided. Questions concerning issues at Church Street Ext. No further complaints have been received.

5. Presentation on Cannabis

Cst. Cavanaugh provided commentary on the legalization of cannabis and impacts on policing in the area; committee members had a number of questions that were addressed by Cst. Cavanaugh. A summary of the conversation is as follows:

- Seconded to the Dept. of Justice to train field police officers on drug screening equipment called the Drager and drug recognition training (DRE).
- NS and Winnipeg Police Service are the only two agencies using this particular drug screening equipment. NS RCMP first agency in Canada.
- Since September the Drager has tested positive six times in the Antigonish area. One must have a min of 25 active nanograms in the body to test positive. Over two active nanograms within two hours of driving is illegal.
- Cannabis will typically metabolize out of the body in 6 hours. However it depends on a number of contextual factors.
- 44 officers are trained to use the Drager in NS. Seven in the Antigonish area.
- The DRE 12-step process was described.
- 155 days anticipated to return associated blood testing at lab in Ottawa due to significant workload.
- DRE training takes place in one of two locations in the USA. This training was described.
- Being intoxicated by alcohol or drug in a public place is illegal.
- The Drager was demonstrated for the Committee. Testing for cannabis and cocaine. It is with a trained member in a vehicle at all times. Testing takes place within the RCMP vehicle. Only tests for THC. A Drager costs \$6500. A test kit costs \$28.50.
- There are two other pieces of equipment under review by Dept. of Public Safety at the moment.

Cst. Cavanaugh also spoke to new legislation pertaining to lawful alcohol screening. Officers are now permitted to demand a breath sample and a denial carries the same sanction as an infraction. The Committee discussed that this is a new power that can be abused. Measures are in place to dissuade minority targeting and other forms of abuse, specifically by planning when and how screening will take place. RCMP is very concerned about potential abuse.

The Committee thanked Cst. Cavanaugh for his time. It was a very informative presentation.

6. RCMP Quarterly Report

Sgt. McBeath provided a quarterly report:

- Monthly report was forwarded to both municipalities.
- In 2018 there were 896 traffic related summary offense tickets issued. About double from the previous year.
- 59 check points throughout the year.
- S/Sgt. Glassford is seconded and Sgt. McBeath has been extended in Acting until March. Otherwise, all detachment positions filled.

Question related to speeding on Town streets. Added efforts can be made in chronic areas.

Deputy Warden Stewart expressed his thanks to Sgt. McBeath and stated that he is doing a very good job.

7. Additions to the Agenda – West Street / Highland Drive Streetlights

Mr. MacAdam shared a concern with traffic on West Street and the various intersections. This item has been sent to the Town Police and Licensing Committee

Jeff Lawrence introduced Steve Scannell as the new Town Director of Community Development. Mr. Scannell is excited to take on this new role.

8. Adjournment

On motion of Councillor MacPherson the meeting was adjourned at 6:30.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 7, 2019, at the Town Office, chaired by Councillor MacPherson. Sgt. McBeath has arranged to have a number of community organizations present.