

MINUTES
BRIDGEWATER BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
November 3rd , 2016

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Bridgewater Board of Police Commissioners held on Thursday, November 3rd , 2016, 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 Palma Champoux, Dave Carey, Wayne Thorburne, Virginia Oickle, Bill McInnis, Jennifer McDonald

Also present: Ex – Officio David Walker, CAO, Ken Smith, Deputy Chief Scott Feener, and Commission Recording Secretary Patty Sleep.

Regrets: Chief J.W. Collyer

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

16-040 Crime Stats – 5 year comparison
16-041 Range Approval

16-036 By-Law (Board Term). First item Under New Business

TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

K-9 Unit Training update

Cst Morgan Gibson, K-9 Handler, attended the meeting to update the group on PSD Davis' training to date.

There are five profiles of K-9 training which need to be completed before the dog can be deemed 'operational'. Currently, Davis has completed two profiles. This first in 'obedience' and the second in Tracking and Article Searching. He has the ability to track items as well as people. His success largely depends on weather conditions.

Cst Gibson explained, the methods used to teach the dogs is all positive and reward based. They are not taught to be nasty, as done years ago.

Davis is averaging a couple of calls per week. The unit is a great resource for members and just the presence of Davis on site has proven to de-escalate certain situations.

Q. What does the future hold for Davis?

A. Annual validation which takes place in the Fall. There is also winter training opportunities with Halifax Regional Police as well as monthly training sessions. Some of which includes high risk retrieval and search and rescue.

Q. When will he need his vest?

A. Cst Gibson feels it would be best to wait until Davis has reached his growth potential before being fit for his vest. BPS has a donor in place who are prepared to make the purchase when needed.

Q. Does he have a sense of danger?

A. Davis has been tested for drive, aggression, stamina and he has very high drive, which means he would most likely not give up. Morgan explained, it is up to him to assess the danger level and make decisions based on the situation.

MINUTES

16-027 Moved by Commissioner Oickle and seconded by Commissioner Carey the Minutes of the September 15th , 2016 regular meeting be approved as circulated. MOTION CARRIED.

CCORRESPONDENCE - INFORMATION

CAPG Update

No updates at this time.

NSAPG Update

There is a meeting scheduled sometime in the month of November. An update will be provided at the next Police Commission meeting.

BBUSINESS ARISING & UNFINISHED BUSINESS

WCB Rates

doc # 16-033

The WCB savings was calculated rates with savings totaling \$19.5K which is quite substantial.

Firing Range update

doc # 16-038

Firing Range documentation, including 16-038 (*update*) and 16-041 (*permit*), were circulated to Board members.

There has been a slew of emails back and forth between Sgt Jerome Richard and Provincial gun range officials over the last few weeks. The permit the approval arriving November 3rd, 2016.

The permit is certified by the Chief Firearms Officer and is valid for one year, with stipulations; signage, etc. An inspection will be done by the CFO in the next year to ensure all changes have been made.

Photos were shown to Board members to show the improvements which were made to the range. A bullet catch system was installed, height of berms increased to 6 feet and cameras are to be installed in the new year.

Crime Statistics

doc # 16-040

At the last meeting, Mayor Walker asked for a five-year comparison in Crime Stats; Deputy Chief Feener provided the comparison and the document was circulated.

NEW BUSINESS

Police Commission By-Law (Board terms)

doc # 16-036

A series of documents were circulated to Board members in an attempt to determine which is the applicable By- Law in terms of 'number of terms served'. There are inconsistencies between Council documentation and Board documentation.

Bridgewater Board of Police Commissioners
Regular Meeting
November 3rd, 2016

Document *Pol 10-002* is the last document approved by Town Council which indicates members can serve a maximum of 3, 3 year terms, however, direction was not sent to the Commission regarding this. Commission documents indicate a maximum of 2, 3 year terms.

Board members agreed, the 3, 3 year terms would be more beneficial as it takes time to become comfortable in the role.

There should be direction sent from Council regarding document 10-002; meanwhile, Police Commission documents will be updated to reflect the above terms.

- 16-028** Moved by Commissioner Thorburne and seconded by Commissioner Oickle to change Police Commission By Law to reflect Town Council's document 10-002 to reflect the appropriate number of years and terms (3-3 year terms). MOTION CARRIED.

This current By-Law will need to be uploaded to our website.

NSAPG Membership Renewal

doc # 16-037

The NSAPG Annual membership renewal documentation was received and circulated to board members. The fee for the 2016/2017 period has been increased to \$400.00.

- 16-029** Moved by Commissioner McInnis and seconded by Commissioner Thorburne to pay the annual fee of \$400.00. MOTION CARRIED

NSAPG Representative

Board Chair, Pat Cappello will attend NSAPG Board meeting held in late November, early December and is willing to continue as treasurer unless anyone else would like to step in. All were in favor of Pat remaining in this role.

There will be an opening on the CAPG Board. Chair Cappello indicated to Board members, he is interested in applying.

This position does not interfere with Bridgewater Police Board, however, there is a monetary commitment involving three annual events. (Conference, Lobby Days and Retreat). This would need to be discussed with the new board in the new year.

Bridgewater Board of Police Commissioners
Regular Meeting
November 3rd, 2016

BPS Monthly Report – September

doc # 16-034

BPS monthly report for September was circulated as part of Commission documentation.

It was noted, the K-9 Unit seems busy with lots of activity.

BPS Monthly Report – October

doc # 16-039

The BPS monthly report for October was circulated to Board members.

Members commented on the large number of training opportunities offered to members.

Annapolis Royal Letter

doc # 16-035

Received a letter from Annapolis Royal Police Department expressing interest in discussing alternative policing options with BPS. They have also reached out to Kentville PS as well as the RCMP.

Deputy Chief Feeing is seeking advice and direction from the Board. ARPD would like to meet with a Board representative and the Deputy to discuss further.

It was decided, Deputy Chief Feener and Board Chair, Pat Cappello would visit ARPD and report back in the new year.

Crosswalk Flag Program

It was asked that an update be provided regarding the crosswalk flag initiative, which has been set up through Safer Communities.

Initially, the flags were disappearing, however, it seems to have petered off since being discussed on social media. As the price of the flags will be increasing, BPS approached the ARK in hopes they may be interested in supplying at a lesser cost.

Members of the general public are using the flags on a regular basis, even when a crosswalk is present. The program has proved to be effective.

Bridgewater Board of Police Commissioners
Regular Meeting
November 3rd, 2016

Strategic Plan

The Commission members agreed to have an independent meeting to discuss. There is some miscommunication as to what is being developed. Date has not yet been determined.

BPS Annual Report

The 2015/16 Annual Report is expected to be complete in January 2017.

Patrick Hirtle has gather the majority of the info required and is not putting on final touches.

Holiday Gathering

Board Chair, Pat Cappello is asking for suggestions from the Board as to what they would like to do, if anything, for a December holiday gathering this year.

It was agreed, the Police Commission would like to proceed with a private function, separate from the Town's.

Board Secretary, Patty Sleep was directed to make a group reservation for this event at an establishment in Town. Members will be responsible for their own bill.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for January 5th , 2017 at 5:30 p.m. in the Community Room of the Police Service Building.

ADJOURNMENT

16-030 Moved by Commissioner Dave Carey, the regular portion of the meeting be adjourned. MOTION CARRIED.

Patty Sleep
Commission Recording Secretary

Pat Cappello
Chairperson