

**MINUTES**  
**BRIDGEWATER BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS**  
**November 5<sup>th</sup> , 2020**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Bridgewater Board of Police Commissioners held on Thursday, November 5<sup>th</sup> , 2020 in the Community Room at the Bridgewater Police Service, 45 Exhibition Drive, Bridgewater, commencing at 5:30 PM with Chair David Walker presiding.

Those in attendance: Commissioners David Mitchell, Wayne Thorburne, Faye Patey, Virginia Oickle, Jennifer McDonald and Darren Lipsett.

Also present: Chief Scott Feener, Deputy Chief Danny MacPhee, CAO Tammy Crowder and Commission Recording Secretary, Patty Sleep.

Special guests: Councilor Cheryl Fougere and Councilor Andrew Tanner

**ORDER**

Board Chair David Walker explained the recent changes to the Board as a result of the election.

As we welcome new members, Cheryl Fougere and Andrew Tanner, we say good by to Commissioners Jennifer McDonald and Wayne Thorburne.

On behalf of the Board, David Walker thanked Jennifer and Wayne for the time they've been with us. *Certificates of Appreciation* were presented to each.

**ADDITIONS/DELETIONS**

Bridgewater Board of Police Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
November 5<sup>th</sup> 2020

## **TRAINING OPPORTUNITY**

### **Sotoxa & ASD Devices-Cst D. Childs**

Constable Derek Childs, Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) attended the meeting to demonstrate new roadside screening devices. The Sotoxa (cannabis detection) and Alco-Sensor Device (ASD) (alcohol detection) are new devices designed to detect warning signs of impairment.

The newly designed Abbott Sotoxa detects THC in the system by way of swab sample. Cst Derek Childs explained how the new device is quite small and very user-friendly. Each test package contains a long swab and a new cartridge. The cartridge is placed in the Sotoxa and the individual in question uses a long swab to collect saliva, cells and debris from the inside of the mouth. This takes approximately 2-4 minutes and once complete, a blue line appears. The swab is then placed in the cartridge with test results complete in 9 minutes.

If the officer determines there is drug in the body, the Demand is read and they are transported to BPS for further testing.

The Sotoxa and two boxes of test kits was purchased for BPS by the province. BPS will then be responsible for the test kits at \$900.00 for 25.

Bridgewater Police is the first agency in the province to be fully trained on the Sotoxa.

The Alco-Sensor is the new alcohol screening roadside device, which has replaced the previous draegers. Alcohol is detected by way of a breath sample, however, these new devices are very fast and much more user friendly.

Both devices are for roadside use only. These tools provide information to the members so they can determine whether or not they are placed under arrest and returned to the office for further testing.

Bridgewater Board of Police Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
November 5<sup>th</sup> 2020

### **MINUTES**

**20-027** Moved by Commissioner Oickle and seconded by Commissioner Lipsett to approve the Minutes of the October 1<sup>st</sup> , 2020 of the regular meeting as circulated. MOTION CARRIED.

### **CORRESPONDENCE & INFORMATION**

#### **NSAPG/CAPG Update**

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#### **CAPG**

Board Chair, David Walker and Commissioner Fay Patey, participated in the CAPG virtual conference in late October, early November.

Once the technology glitches were worked out on the first day, the conference was quite good.

David will circulate a report, once complete.

#### **NSAPG**

The NSAPG/NSCPA fall 2021 conference will be held in Truro in September.

There is a meeting scheduled for November 18<sup>th</sup> with Department of Justice, so an update will be provided at the next meeting.

### **OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **Human Trafficking Unit- update**

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Chief Feener provided an update to Board members on the Human Trafficking Unit.

The Department of Justice have been made aware, BPS is not interested in a position with this unit as we would like to remain status quo with our School Safety Resource position.

He explained, the position is an added cost to BPS with no additional advantage. The SSRO is more valuable and suits our needs.

Bridgewater Board of Police Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
November 5<sup>th</sup> 2020

### **Mental Health – draft letter**

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A letter, addressed to the Minister of Health and the Minister of Justice, was circulated to Board members.

Board Chair, David Walker has asked for members to review the letter and provide feedback to either himself or the Chief by way of email.

It was suggested the 2017 letter to the Health Minister be included for reference and also, the fact that a reply was not received. It was further suggested, additional details on the health portion of the letter would also be helpful.

### **TMR Radio – Update**

The TMR Radio equipment has been received.

The fleet map is currently being programmed at Bell and once complete, the switch will take place. Radio channels will now be encrypted among police agencies.

By securing these surplus radios from the RCMP, the cost to BPS has been very minimal. These radios cannot be replaced as they have become obsolete. This is a temporary solution. A new radio system will be slotted as a Capital Budget project in the future as required, at a cost of approximately \$90k.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **BPS October Monthly Report**

***doc # 20-034***

October monthly report circulated to members.

It was noted, unfortunately, the seniors in our community continue to be targets of fraud.

Bridgewater Board of Police Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
November 5<sup>th</sup> 2020

### **Capital Budget Projects 2021**

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Chief Feener is asking to Board of any items of interest on Capital Budget Projects in 2021/22.

A patrol car had been earmarked for 2019/2020 with an RFP completed last month, with only one response. The proposal has not yet been evaluated as the cost was more than anticipated.

The RFP process and policy needs improvements. The item cost, should capture not only the purchase price, but also a five-year total cost to operate and maintain the vehicle.

It was further suggested, perhaps it's time to consider electric cars for policing. The *Tesla* make of vehicle was used and an example and possibility.

### **Noise Complaints**

Town Hall continues to receive complaints from the public regarding loud vehicles from the eastside plaza area of town. These callers have also called the Bridgewater Police and are told as there is not a noise By-Law in place, therefore, nothing that can be done.

A noise By-Law has been discussed in previous years, however, noise is a very difficult thing to enforce and would require the purchase of a decibel meter.

Chief advised, the only way to combat this problem is by way of a vehicle check point done by police and vehicle compliance. If vehicles are loud, vehicles can be checked on the spot for modifications. Tickets can be issued in this situation.

Chief will have further discussions with patrol so extra patrols are made around the plaza areas.

Bridgewater Board of Police Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
November 5<sup>th</sup> 2020

## **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 at 5:30pm.

## **SUNDRY**

Commissioner Patey suggests a training session with Paul Pickering with ISANS (Immigrant Services Association of Nova Scotia) to discuss Board policies and procedures relating to diversity and inclusion.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**20-028** Moved to adjourn meeting by Commissioner Patey and seconded by Commissioner Mitchell. MOTION CARRIED. Meeting adjourned at 7:14 PM.

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Patty Sleep  
Recording Secretary

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David Walker  
Board Chair