

MINUTES
BRIDGEWATER BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
February 4th, 2021

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Bridgewater Board of Police Commissioners held on Thursday, February 4th, 2021 at the BPS Community Room, 45 Exhibition Drive, Bridgewater, NS, commencing at 5:30 PM with Chair David Walker presiding.

Those in attendance: Commissioner David Mitchell, Chief Scott Feener, Deputy Chief Danny MacPhee and Commission Recording Secretary, Patty Sleep.

Attending virtually: CAO Tammy Crowder, Commissioners Virginia Oickle, Fay Patey, Cheryl Fougere, Darren Lipsett and Andrew Tanner.

Special Guests:

- Justice Minister, Mark Furey
- Dave Maclean, Department of Justice
- Hayley Crichton, Department of Justice
- Chief Julia Cecchetto, Kentville Police Service
- Sgt Matt Bennet, BPS
- Giselle LeBlanc

Minister Mark Furey presented a *Premier's Commendation* to Sgt Matt Bennett in recognition of his professionalism and bravery following the events of July 2020 which left him seriously injured.

Minister Furey explained, this is a very prestige award, which very few receive. It comes with distinction and recognition which Sgt Bennet is very deserving.

Board Chair, David Walker followed with a plaque of recognition from the Police Commission and finally, a Chief's Commendation presented by Chief Feener and D/Chief MacPhee

ORDER

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS

New Business

- Covid 19 vaccinations for Police
- Overnight winter parking/snow storms

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AGENDA

21-004 Moved by Commissioner Oickle and seconded by Commissioner Mitchell to approve the Agenda as circulated. MOTION CARRIED.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

Discussions – Dave MacLean, Hayley Creighton, Dept of Justice

Dave MacLean and Hayley Creighton from Department of Justice joined the meeting virtually.

The first topic of discussion was the Department of Justice Police Board appointee process regarding recruitment, re-appointed, etc.

Dave MacLean agreed, the process is not working and added, the Provincial training component for Boards is lacking as well.

Hayley Creighton informed Board members, DOJ is currently working on these issues as they have recognized the issues.

Next topic of discussion was the Letter received from Minister Fury's office regarding an internal review of policing. The biggest issue to be reviewed is the impact of the Mental Health crisis on police, which has been an ongoing problem for many years.

DOJ representatives advised Police Commission that a committee has been put into place, however, is in the very preliminary stages. The group will have their first meeting this month.

Hayley Creighton assured Board, DOJ Public Safety's focus is prevention and promotion and have specific groups in place to mitigate the existing challenges.

Bridgewater Commission members expressed frustration with the lack of answers on this topic and request the Terms of Reference, when available, as well as a timeline in which answers can be expected.

It was asked that DOJ elaborate on the training component for Board members.

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Board training must be completed by the end of 2021 and it will be on a Board by Board basis.

Dave and Hayley assured board members, the concerns raised are being heard and updates will be available very soon.

MINUTES

21-005 Moved by Commissioner Patey and seconded by Commissioner Tanner to approve the Minutes of the January 7th , 2021 of the regular meeting as circulated. MOTION CARRIED.

CORRESPONDENCE & INFORMATION

NSAPG/CAPG Update

CAPG

A brief update on CAPG events provided by the Board Chair.

NSAPG

The NSAPG Executive is meeting in Bridgewater at the BPS Community Room on February 9th - an update will be provided following this meeting.

Revised Org Chart

doc# 21-004

Organizational Chart, including names, has been updated and circulated as information to Board members.

SIRT Investigation

doc# 21-006

The completed SIRT Investigation report has been circulated to the Board for information.

Letter from Minister of Justice

doc# 21-008

Discussed above.

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OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

DOJ Response Letter

doc# 21-005

A letter was received from the Department of Justice advising of a policing review, which only leaves more questions.
(discussed above)

NEW BUSINESS

Covid 19 vaccines for police officers

Chief Feener informed the Board, Dr. Strang announced yesterday, police officers have been bumped to phase three of the vaccination roll out, rather than phase two.

This raises concerns, as the police are doing in-person checks on those who are self-isolating due to travel, etc.

During the teleconference scheduled for February 9th the Police Chiefs will be discussing this and encouraging Dr Strang to change to vaccinate police officers during phase two, as previously planned.

It was the consensus of the Board, pending the outcome of the teleconference, to draft a letter and submit to Dr. Strange and the Premier to voice concerns, if necessary.

BPS January Monthly Report

doc # 21-007

January monthly report circulated to members – no discussion.

Winter Parking/Snow Storms

The Chief was asked to explain what measures are in place in regards to vehicles parked on roadways during or following a snow storm in terms of snow removal,

The Motor Vehicle Act allows for ticketing and towing, however, with limited access to tow trucks, it makes it difficult to removal all vehicles at one time, therefore, to be fair to all offenders, vehicles are not towed.

If BPS are aware, Public Works are beginning snow removal early in the morning, tickets are typically issued.

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Operational Budget – 2020/21

doc 21-009

The 2020/21 Operational Budget was discussed briefly.

Board members discussed the revenue portion of the budget and agreed to place the Fees for Service revenue in reserve.

The Board asked the Chief to revisit the budget and attempt to keep it under \$4m. The Chief will make changes and submit to Finance for a final budget document to be presented in March.

Comments from members indicating good fiscal management by BPS leaders.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 4th , 2021 at 5:30 pm.

SUNDRY

ADJOURNMENT

21-006 Moved to adjourn meeting by Commissioner Tanner and seconded by Commissioner Fougere. MOTION CARRIED. Meeting adjourned.

Patty Sleep
Recording Secretary

David Walker
Board Chair