

MINUTES
BRIDGEWATER BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
October 13th , 2022

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Bridgewater Board of Police Commissioners held on Thursday, October 13th, 2022 at the Bridgewater Police Service, 45 Exhibition Drive, Bridgewater, NS, commencing at 5:30PM with Board Chair David Walker presiding.

Those in attendance: Commissioners Virginia Oickle, Cheryl Fougere, Andrew Tanner, Darren Lipsett and Fay Patey

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

Regrets: Commissioner Mike Conklin
Guest: Sharon Flannagan, Department of Justice

ORDER

Call to order at 5:30PM

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS

Capital Budget – New Business

DECLARATION OF Conflict of Interest

TRAINING

Sharon Flannagan, Department of Justice – Domestic Violence

A Domestic Violence education component for board members was identified in the Police Commission Strategic Plan and slotted for fall of 2022.

Sharon Flannagan, Department of Justice, was invited to the meeting to discuss her role with Police & Public Safety.

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Sharon is the first point of contact with municipal agencies to address issues and provide support with high profile files such as domestic violence, human trafficking and intimate partner violence.

Ms. Flanagan also conducts audits for agencies to identify problem areas and recommendations noted; most often these audits result in additional training.

Conscious of budget implications with smaller agencies, the DOJ will assist with training costs if necessary and in-house training is provided, when possible.

Currently, Ms. Flanagan sits on the IPV Chiefs committee with D/C MacPhee. This committee has proved to worthwhile, with ideas to assist victims as well as front line officers implemented within the first year.

Sharon has witnessed the value of training and how it can positively affect high profile files and stresses the importance of on-going education on all levels.

AGENDA

22-020 Moved by Commissioner Tanner and seconded by Commissioner Lipsett to approve the Agenda as circulated. MOTION CARRIED.

MINUTES

22-021 Moved by Commissioner Lipsett seconded by Commissioner Oickle to approve the Minutes of the September 1st, 2022 regular meeting as circulated. MOTION CARRIED.

CORRESPONDENCE & INFORMATION

NSAPG

The 2022 Annual NSAPG/NSCPA Conference to be held in Truro, was cancelled due to hurricane Fiona.

The lack of participation from Board members across the Province was noted.

The next conference will be held in fall of 2023.

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CAPG

Board Chair, David Walker participated (virtually) in the 2022 CAPG Conference which took place in Saskatoon.

The package is now available and will be circulated to members.

The 2023 conference to be held in St. John's, NFLD.

New Hires

Cst Raeanne Pyke and Cst Adam Kosiba dropped in briefly and were introduced to the Board by Chief Feener.

UNFINISHED/OLD Business

Strategic Plan Public Survey Results

doc # 22-025

The Strategic Plan Public Survey results have been compiled and circulated.

The survey was sent out for one month seeking public feedback with the majority of those who participated were in favor of the plan

Town Council has seen the plan and is also in favor, so the Police Commission can now move forward with fulfilling goals.

The next step is to reach out to stakeholders. Chief Feener advised, the process will be one on one with open communication. Board Chair suggests a board member attend as well.

Other suggestions:

- Educate the public as to the scope of police duties
- Educate the public on the justice system
- Adopt citizen policing program for the community

22-022 Moved by Commissioner Oickle and seconded by Commissioner Tanner to approve the Strategic Plan. Motion carried.

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NEW BUSINESS

Letter -NS DOJ – Additional Officer Program *doc # 22-022*

The NS Chiefs and DOJ staff met recently to discuss the anticipated changes to the Additional Officer Program.

A review is underway currently and little is known about upcoming changes. The Provincial Government is considering refocusing officers from various location to cover shortages, as Federal Resources are set to be pulled from Nova Scotia.

The Chiefs, Board Chairs and CAO's met in Truro in September where it was agreed, the group would challenge the government about these changes. Copies of this correspondence to be sent to Tammy Crowder, CAO and circulated to Town Council; once received, it will be shared with the Board.

NS Chiefs have hired a consulting firm to review the Additional Officer Program and to provide assistance navigating through these changes.

DOJ is advising, the Service Exchange Agreement has never been signed, therefore the RCMP is not responsible to provide specialized services to municipal agencies. This has forced smaller agencies to become more self sufficient

WCB 2023 Statement *doc # 22-023*

The WCB 2023 statement is for information only.

There are current arguments over one of our claims and it is expected the numbers will be revised once investigation is complete.

September Monthly Report *doc # 22-024*

Report circulated.

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Heating System Upgrade

A new heating system has been ordered as the old system is functioning on one compressor.

The new system is on its way from Texas and will be installed with a crane where the roof will be taken off briefly.

Joint Meeting with Town Council

A meeting with Police Board and Town Council has been set for December 5th, 2022 to develop a written policy on Reserve Funds.

It will be held in Council Chambers at 6:00pm.

Capital budget

Chief Feener is looking to the board for direction in terms of new vehicles.

The 2023-24 Police Capital Budget is slotted to have two vehicles replaced. Is gas or electric the preference?

Suggestions included a truck, a hybrid or bigger electric car.

The Chief will research cost and types as well as availability and report back to the group at the December meeting.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 1st, 2022.

Tonight's meeting would mark Virginia Oickle's last meeting of her third, three-year term. Virginia was thanked for her service and wished the best!

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ADJOURNMENT

The Commission recessed at 7:45 pm to go in camera.

The Commission reconvened at 8:03 pm.

22-023 Moved by Commissioner Lipsett and seconded by Commissioner Oickle, that the Commission recommend to Town Council the appointment of Dianne Spencer to the Police Commission for a three- year term, ending November 2025. MOTION CARRIED

22-024 Moved to adjourn meeting by Commissioner Patey at approximately 8:10PM. MOTION CARRIED.

Patty Sleep
Recording Secretary

David Walker
Board Chair