

**MINUTES**  
**BRIDGEWATER BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS**  
**February 1, 2024**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Bridgewater Board of Police Commissioners held on Thursday, February 1<sup>st</sup> , 2024 at the Bridgewater Police Service, 45 Exhibition Drive, Bridgewater, NS, commencing at 5:30PM with Board Chair Darren Lipsett presiding.

Those in attendance: Commissioners Fay Patey, Mike Conklin and Andrew Tanner.

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

Regrets – Commissioners Fougere and Spencer

Guest – Cst Derek Childs

## **ORDER**

Call to order at 5:30PM

## **ADDITIONS/DELETIONS**

New Business - By-law Enforcement: winter parking ban

## **DECLARATION OF Conflict of Interest**

## **AGENDA**

**24-004** Moved by Commissioner Patey and seconded by Commissioner Tanner, the February 2024 Agenda be accepted. MOTION CARRIED.

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## **TRAINING**

### **DRE – Cst Derek CHILDS**

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Chief Feener introduced Cst Derek Childs, DRE Instructor, who has been seconded by the Department of Justice to the DRE program for a five year term, which expires in June 2025.

DRE certified individuals must complete a very intense, three-week course which involves travel to both Ottawa as well as Jacksonville, Florida, all costs are covered by the Department of Justice.

DRE - what are they?

Drug Recognition Experts (DRE) are trained and certified to identify individuals impaired by a drug and subsequently lay a charge. A lengthy test is conducted on the driver and the DRE will make the determination upon completion.

In order to maintain DRE status, a minimum of four tests must be conducted every two years and a minimum of eight hours of teaching to maintain instructor certification.

As an instructor, Derek travels the Atlantic provinces teaching police personnel on a variety of instruments:

SFST-Standard Field Sobriety Test  
Alcohol Roadside  
Drug oral fluid (detects only Cannabis)  
DRE- Drug Recognition Expert

A few of the more common drugs in our area include anti-depressants, stimulants and cocaine.

Q. How bad is Bridgewater with respect to drug problems in comparison to other Towns our size?

A. Deputy –no worse. There is always a sub group in every community, which is a small group.

Q. Do you do any community awareness?

A. Yes, by request only.

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**24-005** Moved by Commissioner Patey and seconded by Commissioner Tanner to approve the Minutes of the January 4<sup>th</sup> , 2024 regular meeting as circulated.  
MOTION CARRIED.

**CORRESPONDENCE & INFORMATION**

**NSAPG**

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No updates

**CAPG**

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No updates

**Letter from Attorney General**

***doc #24-005***

Chief Feener circulated a letter received from the Attorney General's office to advise the Province has started a policing review process. Chief Feener, Chief McNeil or Chief Kane names were put forward, one will be selected to sit on the review board.

This stems from the Mass Casualty Commission report.

**CISNS 2023 ACIIS Stats**

***doc #24- 006***

CISNS Statistics shared with the Board which outlines where BPS stands in comparison to other municipal agencies in terms of intel (source debriefs).

Majority of the information gathered is drug related.

Det/Cst Deven Kennedy is currently in the seconded, CISNS position which is a two-person unit, one RCMP member (currently vacant) and one municipal member.

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**Email of Thanks – Cst Derek Childs**

**doc #24-007**

An email of thanks and recognition for Cst Derek Childs for his presentation/education session to South Shore Family Resource Center. This email has been placed on Derek's personnel file.

**Email of Thanks**

**doc # 24-008**

Email of thanks from Schools Plus for support in funding.

**UNFINISHED/OLD Business**

**Strategic Plan Update**

**doc # 24-009**

A progress update was provided in memo form by the chief regarding the 2023-26 Strategic Plan.

**Update- 100 Series Hwy Discussion**

Chief Feener met with commanding officer of the RCMP. He was unaware, highway 103 passed through the Town of Bridgewater and in BPS jurisdiction.

The letter circulated from the Attorney General's office relating to the 100 series highways and jurisdiction/enforcement, was intended for Cape Breton and Halifax areas only. This matter should be resolved soon.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**January Month End Report**

**doc # 24-010**

Q. The Provincial Act fines? Are they starting to pick up now?

A. Yes, they are trickling in. The moratorium on fines has been discontinued by the Government. Registration and license renewals were suspended for two years due to Covid and is now lifted.

**2024-2025 Operational Budget**

**doc # 24-011**

Chief Feener circulated the first draft of the 2024-2025 Operational Budget.

Items of note~

**Expenditures:**

- Additional constable/ \$94k
- SCEU vehicle \$8k
- Plain Clothes vehicle
- Salary increase-contractual
- Legal fee increase – two discoveries
- 4% Insurances
- Police Service Dog \$12k
- Prisoners Lodged – slight decrease, now based on usage
- Minimal increase of \$243,083.00

**Revenue:**

- Approximately the same, minimal change

Chief Feener is asking for direction from the Board on the proposed budget.

Members asked about potential cuts where the chief indicated yes. A second draft will be prepared for the March meeting for further discussion.

Board members also discussed private duty revenue in great length. Chief Feener advised, the formula used to recover costs when members are transporting prisoners, etc. Questions asked if this could be increased in order to increase revenue.

The chief will compare our formula to agencies of similar size and report back.

The discussion on private duty led to the ongoing dialogue on members tied up at SSRH with mental health patients as they wait to be assessed. The Board suggests writing to NS Health as well as invoicing to cost recover staff hours.

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**24-006** Moved by Commissioner Tanner and seconded by Commissioner Patey, the board to send a letter of correspondence to NS Health, advising, effective April 1, 2024, invoices will be submitted for cost recovery on staff hours after 2 hours in the emergency department. This letter to be countersigned by Mayor Mitchell and Chief Feener. MOTION CARRIED.

### **By- Law Enforcement – Winter Parking Ban**

Commissioner Conklin has asked how is this managed as there are so many cars staying on the road during storms.

Chief Feener explained, if a car is in the way of snow removal, we can tow, however, there is a shortage of tow trucks. If Public Works to not plow, the cars are not in the way.

Discussion of creating a By-law in order to ticket these cars was briefly discussed.

Another item of concern is the manner in which the public makes a by-law inquiry or complaint. It seems quite cumbersome which number to call, as it depends on the 'type' of complaint. By – Law Officer Richard handles parking, dogs taxis and fire and the Engineering Department acts as traffic authority as well as building and fire inspector. Additionally, the website offers minimal direction.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup> , 2024.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**24-007** Motion to adjourn regular meeting by Commissioner Tanner. Meeting adjourned.

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Patty Sleep  
Recording Secretary

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Darren Lipsett  
Board Chair