

MINUTES
BRIDGEWATER BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
September 5th , 2024

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Bridgewater Board of Police Commissioners held on Thursday, September 5th , 2024 at the Bridgewater Police Service, 45 Exhibition Drive, Bridgewater, NS, commencing at 5:30 PM with Board Chair Darren Lipsett presiding.

Those in attendance: Commissioners Andrew Tanner, Fay Patey, Cheryl Fougere, Mike Conklin and Diane Spencer.

Also present: Chief Scott Feener, Deputy CAO Mark Flint and Recording Secretary, Patty Sleep.

Regrets: Deputy Chief Danny MacPhee

ORDER

Call to order at 5:30PM

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS

DECLARATION OF Conflict of Interest

AGENDA

Moved by Commissioner Spencer and seconded by Commissioner Tanner, the September 2024 Agenda be accepted. MOTION CARRIED.

Bridgewater Board of Police Commissioners
Regular Meeting
September 5th, 2024

TRAINING

CACP Conference updates- Chief Scott Feener

Chief Feener attended the 2024 Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police annual conference this year. It was held in Halifax in August 10-14th.

The conference was well represented by the Chiefs of Atlantic Canada and agenda topics were very worthwhile.

Discussions included the impact of global events and how it effects local policing, proactive policing in terms of protests as well as the horizon of future policing.

CAPG Conference update- Commissioner Fay Patey

Commissioner Patey attended the annual Canadian Association of Police Governance conference, also held in Halifax in August of 2024.

A hard copy report was circulated at the meeting for reference.

Commissioner Patey has noted six topics of discussions, relative to our Board.

1. Policing Review
2. CAPG funded workshop - two days board training -can someone attend/participate?
3. Social Media voice - separate from BPS/shows independence/unbiased decisions
4. Mass evacuation strategies - public safety event suggested
5. By Laws & Policies - conduct, orientation package, training, etc.
6. 2025 CAPG conference in Victoria, BC

MINUTES

24-019 Moved by Commissioner Patey and seconded by Commissioner Spencer to approve the Minutes of the May 2nd , 2024 regular meeting as circulated. MOTION CARRIED.

CORRESPONDENCE & INFORMATION

BPS Calls for Service – May, June, July

doc # 24-033

These geographically tracked calls for service charts are a continuation from the previous January – March info requested from the Board.

This completes a full six months of data and only captures which area the individuals involved are from; Town of Bridgewater, Lunenburg County, etc.

UNFINISHED/OLD Business

Response Letter from Dept of Health

doc # 24-027

Letter sent earlier in the year from the Board to the Department of Health.

The purpose of the letter was to inform Health of the unnecessary, excessive number of staff hours BPS spend at SSRH, while dealing with MHA calls. The letter also stated, effective April 1, 2024, the hours would be tracked on a monthly basis and Dept of Health would be invoiced for reimbursement.

The above is a response letter, wherein, it states, the problem has been identified and they are working on finding solutions.

Chief Feener, further advised, an invoice was prepared, submitted and payment received.

It appears, this letter has served his purpose and the number of hours for members spent at SSRH have decreased considerably.

Letter to NSFM from the Town

doc # 24-029

A follow up letter was sent to the NSFM from CAO following a meeting in Truro which included the CAO's from various municipalities as well as Board Chairs, Councilors and police personnel.

The letter highlighted the concerns and issues municipalities are currently faced with.

Chief Feener will update the Board as additional information surfaces.

Parking Issues – Kinsman’s Field

Discussions and debates continue regarding the parking issues at the Kinsman’s Field during sporting events.

Chief Feener has met with the Town’s Engineering Department where it was discovered, a map, which is still in circulation, is outdated. The map indicates approved parking areas around the Kinsman’s Field which are no longer permitted. A new map has been developed and circulated.

General patrol members are providing additional enforcement, when available to do so and tickets issued.

Questions were asked as to who is responsible for the parking; the groups using the field or the Town of Bridgewater. Are MOU’s signed when the field is being used?

Deputy CAO Flint will raise this topic with Town Council and report back.

Citizen Rep

Applicants received October 2023 were reviewed by Board Chair Lipsett and Vice Chair Fougere. Based on previous board experience, Palma Champoux was selected .

- 24-020** Moved by Commissioner Conklin and seconded by Commissioner Tanner to submit a Memo to Council recommending Palma Champoux for citizen representative. MOTION CARRIED.

Board Chair Lipsett will reach out to Mr. Palma Champoux to advise the recommendation has been submitted to Council and once additional information becomes available, it will be communicated to him.

Updates – K-9, Firearms & Portables

K-9

The new police service dog has arrived. Dog handler, Morgan Gibson was sent to Quebec to meet the breeder who traveled from Alabama with the dog.

Morgan and PSD Keiji (pronounced KAY-JEE) have started their in-depth training in Halifax five days per week.

PSD Davis will remain in service until Keiji is fully trained. Davis will then retire and continue to live with Morgan as a family pet.

FIREARMS

The new firearms & holsters have arrived. The conversion training should be complete by the end of October.

PORTABLES

This item was a capital budget carry over. The portables have been purchased and installed.

NEW BUSINESS

DOJ Request for Data & Info

doc # 24-028

Letter received from Department of Justice asking all police agencies for data and information.

The data will be compared to the data collected from the RCMP.

The NS Chief conference is being held next week in Cape Breton and one of the topics up for discussion is "Models of Policing". It is hoped, the data collected will be discussed around this topic.

Chief Feener will follow up at the October meeting on this topic, as well as the status of the policing review.

Commissioner Patey has recommended Board participation in the CAPG workshop to develop policy. Board Chair Lipsett has a meeting with NSAPG on Friday, at the conference, and will raise this topic.

Response to Request for Data

doc # 24-028A

Discussion as above.

Response fr Attorney General Office - Policing Review Update

doc#24-028B

Discussion as above.

May Monthly Report

doc # 24-030

The May month end report was circulated. No further discussion.

June Monthly Report

doc # 24-031

June month end circulated. No further discussion.

July Monthly Report

doc # 24-032

The July month end report was circulated. No further discussion.

August Monthly Report

doc # 24-034

The August monthly report was circulated to the Board.

A short discussion regarding Summary Offence Tickets.

BPS has been informed, the Justice Center is running a four-year report to determine what remains outstanding as well as which fines will be forwarded to Access NS for payment. This will assist with the collection process.

Exhibition week - update

The 2024 South Shore Exhibition was a huge success once again.

The number of calls for service this year, were lower than 2023.

The security company as well as changes to liquor licensing, clearly made the difference.

Bridgewater Board of Police Commissioners
Regular Meeting
September 5th, 2024

Update on John Howard Society calls

Chief Feener has had a number of meetings with the John Howard Society, support groups as well as Town representatives. As a result of these meetings and collaborative efforts, the activity on King Street and police calls for service have decreased.

The society has put in place 24/7 staff as well as security.

The mandate of the society, is to provide individuals transitioning out of the jail system and back into the community. She society provides access to such things as laundry facilities, tv, etc.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 3rd, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

24-021 Motion to adjourn regular meeting by Commissioner Patey
Meeting adjourned.

Patty Sleep
Recording Secretary

Darren Lipsett
Board Chair