

MINUTES
BRIDGEWATER BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
October 3rd , 2024

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Bridgewater Board of Police Commissioners held on Thursday, October 3rd , 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, Cheryl Fougere, Diane Spencer and Palma Champoux.

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

Regrets: Fay Patey, Mike Conklin. Cheryl Fougere departed at 6:20pm.

ORDER

Call to order at 5:30PM

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS

DECLARATION OF Conflict of Interest

AGENDA

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

TRAINING

Policing Standards

See notes below, under Doc 24-039 – Policing Standards.

MINUTES

- 24-022** Moved by Commissioner Fougere and seconded by Commissioner Spencer to approve the Minutes of the September 5th, 2024 regular meeting as circulated. MOTION CARRIED.

CORRESPONDENCE & INFORMATION

WCB-2025 Statement ***doc # 24-035***

WCB sends a statement and assessment to the Town of Bridgewater annually.

The statement outlines usage which dictates surcharges, rates, etc. reflected on BPS Operational Budget.

SOT Update/4 years ***doc # 24-036***

The Bridgewater Justice Centre ran a four-year SOT analysis which to determine revenue owed to BPS since the pandemic.

As can be seen on the chart attached, the outstanding, four year balance is \$500,000.00.

A portion of these fines will be collected when individuals attend Access NS to renew their driver's license.

Province Modernizes Policing Standards ***doc # 24-039***

News release entitled 'Province Modernizes Policing Standard' was received from the Department of Justice.

All 11 police agencies (10 municipal and RCMP) will be mandated to operate under a certain standard in terms of polices, specialized services, sharing of information, etc.

Furthermore, a copy of the embargoed policing standards was received. The draft outlines a five part, 39 sections of policy the DOJ will focus on.

All agencies will undergo an audit in the next year. This draft policy will allow agencies to update current policies and create the areas lacking.

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The audit protocol is as follows: a letter is sent to the Board Chair to appoint a contact person within the agency. Audit Chair will present to the Board and explain how it will be rolled out, giving agencies plenty of notice to prepare.

UNFINISHED/OLD Business

Email to Police Commission

doc # 24-040

An email, which was overlooked in the September meeting, was added for discussion.

The email raised concerns about safety around the LGBTQ plus community.

Following the September meeting, Chief Feener had conversations with attending guests who were asking questions as to what has been happening with the email as well as safety in the community.

Guests were advised of ongoing staff training on various topics including front line officers dealing with hate crimes.

Board members asked the Chief's opinion on whether or not our community is a relatively safe one? He believes it is and the email stemmed from an isolated incident which involved an individual with mental health issues.

Chief Feener further stated, incidents involving physical violence is substantially lower than ever due to the lack of drinking establishments.

Commissioner Spencer stated, each individual has their own idea of 'safe' as it is their personal perspective. Further, those who feel threatened need to know how to speak out and feel safe about doing so, without concerns of fear of retaliation.

Deputy CAO advised, the Town is in the process of hiring an individual to deal with anti-race issues, which will hopefully make an impact.

Citizen Rep - Champoux

Citizen Representative Palma Champoux was sworn-in as new citizen representative at the beginning of the meeting.

Palma sat on the PC Board in the past and had an opportunity to re-join.

Welcome Palma!

NSCPA Fall Conference Update

Chief Feener, D/C MacPhee, Board Chair Darren Lipsett and Deputy CAO Mark Flint attended the NSCPA/NSAPG Fall conference in Sydney, Cape Breton.

The theme of the conference was models of policing.

Guest speakers were brought in from across the Canada which were very educational. The presentation from the Police Chief from Surry, provided the largest source of information to the police leaders in terms of provincial policing.

Also, the Ottawa Chief provided insight from both the RCMP and Municipal policing perspectives.

A presentation from a Crisis Intervention group. There is a 1-800 line in place where, in most situations, de-escalation of a situation is possible and a follow up appointment arranged with a counsellor the very next day.

This initiative has reduced the number of wait time hours by staff members accompanying patients, drastically.

NEW BUSINESS

Fay Patey - 3rd Term

- 24-023** Move by Commissioner Spencer and seconded by Commissioner Tanner, to recommend to Council to appoint Fay Patey for her third consecutive term (October 2024-October 2027) on the Bridgewater Board of Police Commissioners. MOTION CARRIED.

Orientation Draft

doc # 24-037

The Orientation draft booklet, presented by Fay Patey, will be deferred until the November meeting where Commissioner Patey can speak to it.

Board members are asked to please read the draft booklet and bring forth any suggestions at the November meeting.

September Month End

doc # 24-038

The September monthly report has been circulated to the board.

Crossing Guards

The hiring of crossing guards for Bridgewater Elementary and Junior High remains an issue.

The difficulty is the limited number of hours this position offers; one hour per day, ten hours biweekly.

Deputy CAO, Mark Flint will discuss with CAO Tammy Crowder to suggest exploring the possibility of hiring a security company for this task. Security personnel are in the general vicinity at the John Howard Society, so perhaps the extra hours could be used at the crosswalks.

Commissioner Spencer suggests installing speed bumps and flashing lights in front of the schools to slow motorists down. This had been discussed in the past, with the traffic authority not convinced it was necessary.

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NEXT MEETING

The November meeting date to be determined and announced at a later date.

ADJOURNMENT

- 24-024** Motion to adjourn regular meeting by Commissioner Tanner
Meeting adjourned.
- 24-025** Moved by Commissioner Spencer, Seconded by Commissioner Tanner –
to approve the Chief to hire one (1) full time Constable over compliment
and within budget. Motion Carried.

Patty Sleep
Recording Secretary

Darren Lipsett
Board Chair