

**West Hants Police Advisory Board
Meeting – March 17 , 2015 4:00 pm
(Special Budget)**

In attendance:	J. Daniels	Chair
	M. Laycock	Director of Finance
	D. Austin	RCMP
	D. Chubbs	RCMP
	G. Pineo	Citizen Member
	J. Woodman	Administrative Assistant

Regrets:	C. Osborne
	M. Campbell
	D. Zinck

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm.

D. Austin introduced Dave Chubbs who has been with the department for two months. He reported on the year end stats and advised that he would be showing the board what he will be presenting to Council on enhanced policing for their consideration. He reported there were 2478 calls for the year which has increased from the previous year. He explained property crimes continue to be the highest area of investigation. He confirmed drug charges have increased from the previous year and gave credit to the members of SKU and the frontline members.

He noted within the calls for 2014 there is no area that has raised significant concern. He compared 2013 to 2014 stats noting that they were close in comparison, adding it is the minor low level crime that is driving things forward in the county.

He confirmed the traffic violations have increased and more people were charged noting this was an achievement as they have not had a full complement in membership. He pointed out attention to 2014 stats the Total Criminal Code Traffic is at 78 and explained this is impaired drivers, dangerous drivers and are the criminal code charges that they investigate and successfully prosecute, adding these stats have had a significant increase. He felt the investment the Municipality is making in the policing for the county is paying off.

He explained there are twelve different areas that they do to provide policing to the county from everything from community base right down to technology that their members use daily to solve crimes.

He advised their 2015/2016 performance plan is currently being established and they have a vision of where they are heading. He explained they intend concentrate on the 101 series highway on the single lane section. They have had discussions with REMO and plan to reach out to TRI to investigate ways on enhancing awareness.

He reported the second goal is cybercrime which they started in 2013 adding they will continue to provide a safe environment for youth, adding they have been partnering with school resource staff.

D. Chubbs reported the third goal is crime reduction which he felt is a key component of policing and expressed the importance of being proactive and encourages the community to become involved. He noted looking at assisting Citizens on Patrol group that is fragmented to make a coordinated effort in order to have the assistance in the community looking for crime which can be reported to the police. He felt it was very productive in reducing break and enters in rural areas as these are types of crimes of opportunity when people are not home.

He explained they are establishing a Senior's Advisory Group which is continuing to grow as the population is ageing as well as crime targeted towards seniors. He suggested this includes fraud and schemes where people are taking advantage of the elderly. He noted they have also established a Mental Health Consultant Group as there is an overlap of what is a mental health issue or criminal activity. He suggested this has been a strain on resources and their objective is to partner with other resources. He confirmed they are investigating what programs are available and who is responsible. He suggested this is the area he would like to see more community involvement.

D. Austin advised they are working on engagement with the Active Nova Scotia Community. And felt it is important as the police force of the area to engage in a partnership with this group to ensure specific needs are being addressed.

He explained it is their intention to request input on areas of concern from the Municipality and its residents. He noted that they are willing to consider any issues the board or Municipality make like added to their goals for the year.

He explained they have been tasked by the government to examine ways of reducing serious and fatal motor vehicle accidents.

Martin Laycock, Director of Finance indicated that he would like to be able to leave here today with a figure for the budget.

A PowerPoint presentation was given. D. Austin confirmed that he is seeking an additional member for 2015 and 2016 and hoped Council would see that they are getting the value for the money spent. He suggested to really understand the figures the board must see it from the membership's point of view.

He confirmed on a regular day he has 10 members to call upon, and cautioned the corporals and supervisors are not frontline members as they are responsible for the day to day operations. He clarified they do attend significant calls when necessary such as motor vehicle accidents or armed robberies. He reported the calculation to police to citizens ratio is determined by the population divided by the number of Mounties you have. He confirmed Nova Scotia is 1 to 501, noting the RCMP which is non municipal forces is 1 to 538, West Hants is 1 to 1554 adding this is almost double the Nova Scotia average for all police services and are just shy of double for provincial RCMP.

He reminded that he cannot hire additional police offices as he is dependent on the county buying policing from the province and is challenged because of this. He noted that members are also mandated by law for training which leaves operational impacts and often have members missing as they are called away for specialized duties. He suggested it is challenging to provide the level of service that is expected with only 10 members.

He cautioned as of March 16th he has expended more than \$136,000 in overtime and still has April to cover. Chair Daniels asked where the access of overtime comes from and whether they have to go back to the province. D. Austin responded under the policing agreement the Municipality pays a flat rate and he would need to investigate the question further and would confirm prior to the presentation at Council.

He explained in 2013 he appeared before the board prior to Council requesting three additional members for 2014, 2015 and 2016 and one public servant to do victim services and crime prevention. He confirmed Council supported the decision for 2014 which was staffed and took almost 7 months which he felt was a very important point that is a long progress to get an additional officer.

He confirmed on February 17th he presented to the board a revised proposal requesting an officer for 2015 and 2016.

He expressed concern regarding mental health calls, adding most of the calls are approximately 6-12 hours for two members.

He noted in the last 5 years they have had 514 ongoing files which have expired because they could not respond to them in a timely manner. He clarified this is not because members are not doing their job, it is because they are flat out and they don't have time to manage anymore files coming in.

He reminded that West Hants is currently branding itself as "The Place to be" with new infrastructure happening with the wind turbines, etc. which causes an increase in population. He cautioned that Forest Lakes is coming and felt this will attract others businesses to the area and additional policing resources are going to be necessary.

Martin Laycock, Director of Finance inquired whether they are requesting additional members from the Town of Hantsport. D. Austin indicated currently with the dissolution process they have not made the request.

The board thanked the RCMP for their presentation.

Adjournment & Date of Next Meeting

MOVED by Councillor Daniels and George Pineo that the meeting adjourn.

Motion Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Michael Campbell, Chair

Cathie Osborne Interim CAO