



**MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF WEST HANTS
Police Advisory Board Meeting
September 20, 2016, 3:30 p.m.
Sanford Council Chambers**

Present: Greg Miller Chair
Paul Morton Councillor
G. Pineo Citizen Representative
D. Stairs Staff Sergeant, RCMP
C. Osborne CAO
J. Woodman Administrative Assistant

Regrets: R. Meehan Citizen Representative

1. Call to Order

Chair Miller called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

2. Announcements

Chair Miller reviewed the fire evacuation procedures.

3. Approval of agenda, including additions or deletions

MOVED and SECONDED that the agenda be approved as circulated.

Motion Carried.

4. Approval of Minutes of May 9, 2016

MOVED and SECONDED that the minutes of May 9, 2016 be approved as circulated, noting any errors or omissions.

Motion Carried.

5. RCMP Updated

- a. Staff Sergeant Stair reported from April – August 2016 there were 1,427 calls for service in West Hants, with 853 related to traffic offences, resulting in approximately 281 charges. She confirmed there were 76, “911” calls, adding that each call has to be investigated. She noted there was 16 well-being checks, which she felt are consistent and steady as it is an aging population in a rural area. She advised there were 27 false alarms. She noted the department responded to a call on Panuke Road and

found a considerable amount about of stolen property from break and enters and thefts. She reported that they responded to two missing person cases. They also responded to a suicidal male in the Martock area which took approximately 9 hrs to locate the individual who was found safe.

CAO Osborne reported that West Hants does have a False Alarm By-law which is modeled from the HRM by-law. She noted the By-law advises that someone is to be appointed as a False Alarm Coordinator/Administrator and she has determined that no one has been assigned that function. She added that property owners with alarms are entitled to one false alarm call in any 12-month period and after that are charged. There is a significant amount of administrative support required and suggested the Municipality has never executed the By-law to the point of getting information from the police or fire on false alarms.

Staff Sergeant Stairs indicated the False Alarm By-law is fairly effective in other areas as it helps eliminate false calls.

6. Miscellaneous/New Business

a. Traffic and Road Safety

Staff Sergeant Stairs reported there has been discussion about creating a local road safety committee of key stakeholders who are invested in ensuring the roads are as safe as possible. There are a few areas that receive continuous complaints from residents regarding speeding. She felt the committee is another avenue to discuss what other alternate steps might be taken and have a global approach to it, so it's not strictly enforcement.

CAO Osborne indicated that Council wrote to the Minister of Transportation and the Premier and asked for something to be done near the causeway area due to all the accidents that have occurred and as a result electronic speed signs have been placed there. She felt there may be opportunity to ask TIR to relocate them on an appropriate basis. She stated that she liked the idea of having a working committee and the opportunity to discuss these kinds of issues.

There was a brief discussion on who would be required to give permission for any changes to the roads. CAO Osborne report the Province through TIR would need to grant permission, however on the Municipality's roads Council has appointed the Municipal Engineer as the traffic authority.

Staff Sergeant Stairs suggested that someone would need to take the lead on this and to invite certain key stakeholders to the table to see if they would like to form a committee. She suggested it should have a very straight forward mandate to look at the road safety in the Municipality of the District of West Hants. Chair Miller agreed to make initial contact and update the board on the matter.

b. Noise By-law

Chair Miller asked the Staff Sergeant on she thought Council should approach this matter. Staff Sergeant Stairs suggested that the Municipality first needs a by-law which is enforceable by the By-Law Enforcement Officer. CAO Osborne suggested this would be a challenge as the Municipality only has one By-Law Enforcement Officer who is not trained in any security situations and he currently doesn't respond after dark unless accompanied by a police officer for safety reasons. She advised it would be ideal if communities could be encouraged to work with each other to avoid these situations.

Staff Sergeant Stairs advised there is not a measuring tool that can be used to determine the level of noise for enforcement. She indicated there is a section under the Motor Vehicle Act where charges could be laid, however cautioned that there is an issue as it references regulations but not the manual that inspection stations have so charges could be disputed.

c. NSCPA & NSAPG 2016 Fall Conference

CAO Osborne reported that Councillor Miller and herself recently attended the NSCPA & NSAPG 2016 Fall Conference and one of the topics was governance of Police Advisory Boards and that there is online training which can be made available to new members of the board. She indicated that she will be obtaining information on how to access this training and will report at a later date.

7. Next Meeting

It was agreed to wait to set a meeting date until after the new council is sworn in on November 8th and the committees are appointed.

8. Adjournment

MOVED and SECONDED that the meeting adjourn.

Motion Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.