



**MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF WEST HANTS
Police Advisory Board - Minutes
April 9, 2018, 3:30 p.m.
Sanford Council Chambers**

Attendance:

P. Morton	Chair
J. Daniels	Vice Chair
M. Laycock	Acting CAO
G. Pineo	Citizen Representative
R. Meehan	Citizen Representative
D. Stairs	RCMP
S. Powers	RCMP
J. Woodman	Administrative Assistant

1. Call to Order

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

2. Swearing in of Committee Members

The Municipal Clerk swore in George Pineo as a citizen member on the Police Advisory Board.

3. Announcements

Chair Morton gave the standard fire evacuation announcements.

4. Approval of Agenda, including addition or deletions

**MOVED and SECONDED that the agenda be approved as circulated.
Motion Carried.**

5. Approval of Minutes of January 15 & February 5, 2018.

**MOVED and SECONDED that the minutes of January 15 & February 5, 2018 be approved as circulated noting any errors or omissions.
Motion Carried.**

6. RCMP Update

Staff Sergeant Stairs presented a report for the RCMP update. CAO Laycock asked if the Town of Windsor contributed anything towards the top staff positions in the organization chart. Staff Sergeant Stairs confirmed the positions are 100% funded by the Municipality of West Hants in the 70/30 split. CAO Laycock inquired if the General Investigations Constable was a specific West Hants resource or whether it was split between the two units. Staff Sergeant Stairs confirmed it was paid by West Hants however she clarified the position could assist the Town of Windsor if there is a lengthy investigation. CAO Laycock suggested this would mean West Hants funds the oversight for the Windsor Detachment, which Staff Sergeant Stairs confirmed.

Staff Sergeant Stairs reported in 2017 there was an increase in a few areas such as 911, mental health act calls for service, wellbeing checks, and sudden deaths. Councillor Daniels asked what the general age demographic is for harassment issues. Staff Sergeant Stairs suggested it ranges in all ages, however normally seniors are not an issue.

CAO Laycock asked what items would fall under the other category listed in the statistics. Staff Sergeant Stairs clarified the data analysts are now tracking all the complaints in the area and suggested there are calls that don't require an immediate police presence or police contact within a certain period.

7. Miscellaneous/New Business

a. Legalization of Cannabis

Chair Morton asked for an update on this matter. Sergeant Powers indicated that it is supposed to be launched as originally anticipated as per the fact sheet put together by the province. He added noticeably absent from the sheet is the impact it will have on policing as well as the financial impact. CAO Laycock asked whether it is reasonable to assume there is going to be an increase in users once legalized. Sergeant Powers suggested at this time they really don't know what the impact will be. He offered it would depend on how successful the marketing is for cannabis. Staff Sergeant Stairs agreed it would depend on the marketing and price point.

Councillor Daniels indicated the media has suggested that people who are using harder drugs may replace it with cannabis when legalized as a substitute and suggested the impact to the RCMP would be hard to determine at this point.

Chair Morton asked what the RCMP's opinion is of the legalization. Sergeant Powers suggested he was very clinical about it and felt there is opportunities and risks. G. Pineo felt that at the beginning of legalization there will be an increase in users but suggested it will decrease once some of the thrill is gone.

Councillor Daniels asked if there are statistics for impaired driving for alcohol versus drugs. Staff Sergeant Stairs referred to stats that showed that 12% of Canadians reported the use of cannabis in a 12-month period and was it more prevalent among males. She noted in 2016 96% of police reported impaired driving incidents involved alcohol while 4% involved drugs. She suggested the road side screening will assist in the detection of drugs, specifically cannabis.

R. Meehan commented that he didn't foresee a significant change with the legalization of cannabis regarding enforcement and offered that now there will more ways to test for it, so people may be more cautious. Staff Sergeant Stairs added that the screening has been in effect for years for alcohol and it has a good case law, however now with drugs she questioned how the limit would be determined especially if other drugs are mixed when testing is completed.

Staff Sergeant Stairs added that some officers are trained in sobriety field testing, and if a person fails this they are taken to another location where members are trained in drug recognition and further testing is done. She offered this training is significantly more complicated and time consuming. She suggested there is going to be difficulty in having adequate resources to call upon when needed and she felt this would be a challenge for a period. She added currently in the area there is not a member who is qualified as a drug recognition expert, however they are looking to have someone trained and offered they need to find the right member.

Chair Morton announced that this is Staff Sergeant Stairs last meeting as she is retiring July 1st, 2018. He extended his gratitude on behalf of Council for her years of service. Councillor Daniels offered her own words of appreciation and for the tour of the RCMP headquarters.

8. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

9. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for July 9, 2018 at 3:30 p.m.

10. Adjournment

MOVED and SECONDED that the meeting adjourn at 4:25 p.m.

Motion Carried.