

WEST HANTS REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
Police Advisory Board Meeting Agenda **amended**
April 24, 2023 - 6:00 p.m.
Sanford Council Chambers, 76 Morison Drive, Windsor, NS
(also Facebook livestreamed)

Agenda is subject to change due to additions that may not be able to be reflected until after the meeting.



1. Call to Order
2. Attendance
3. Announcements
4. Approval of the Agenda
5. Declaration(s) of Conflict of Interest
6. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes – January 09, 2023
7. Presentations
 - (a) Barb Coleman, Division Criminal Intelligence Analysts (DCAS) (**attached**)
8. Business Arising from the Minutes / Old Business
 - (a) Noise and Community Standards By-law Update – S. Thornton (verbal)
 - (b) RCMP Retroactive Pay Update – CAO Phillips (~~verbal~~)
 - a. **2023-04-24 NSFM Correspondence – Contract Policing and Retroactive Pay Amounts for RCMP Officers**
 - (c) Ministerial Appointee role with Dept of Justice (verbal)
9. Reports
 - (a) West Hants Quarterly Report 2022-2023 Q4
10. New Business (all verbal discussion)
 - (a) Security Cameras within communities
11. Correspondence
 - (a) 2023 External Stakeholder Update re. Body-Worn Cameras Testing
12. Next Meeting Date / Adjournment (Quarterly: Jan-Apr-Jul-Oct, and typically the 3rd Monday) – July 17, 2023

1. **Call to Order** at 6pm by Chair Paul Morton

2. **Attendance**

Board Members

Deputy Mayor (Chair) Paul Morton

Guide Furlani

Jane Davis

Councillor Rupert Jannasch

Mandy Singleton

Staff/Presenters

Dave Ferguson S/Sgt RCMP

Mark Phillips, CAO

Shelleena Thornton, Municipal Operations Supervisor

Matt Povah, I.T. Specialist

Barb Coleman, RCMP Division Criminal Intelligence Analysts (DCAS), Presenter

Sherry Bezanson, RCMP Division Criminal Intelligence Analyst (DCAS), Presenter

Gallery - None

3. **Announcements** - None

4. **Approval of the Agenda**

MOVED BY JANNASCH/SINGLETON THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED AS CIRCULATED. MOTION CARRIED.

5. **Declaration(s) of Conflict of Interest** – None.

6. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes – January 09, 2023**

Amend Attendance: Change Bob Morton to Paul Morton

MOVED BY DAVIS/JANNASCH THAT THE JANUARY 9, 2023 POLICE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES BE APPROVED AS AMENDED. MOTION CARRIED.

7. **Presentations**

(a) **Barb Coleman and Sherry Bezanson, Division Criminal Intelligence Analysts (DCAS)** - Barb Coleman reviewed the presentation.

Discussion Points:

- Less time is being spent on cannabis since legalized; however, there is still a legal component.

- Human trafficking refers to exploiting males/females for sexual exploitation. Also pertains to migrant workers for work purposes. Child pornography is another division.
- Initial tip re. drugs – how does that lead to an investigation and by whom? S/Sgt Ferguson said it is documented and a file created. They look at the individuals/vehicles involved, history, and particulars. It is then assessed for corroboration and necessary resources are then allocated.
- How is WHRM’s Municipal policing budget impacted if an investigation is multi-jurisdictional (includes other geographic areas)? S/Sgt Ferguson said street crime enforcement and additional officer programs are funded by the Province. Support services brought in have their own budgets so don’t affect WHRM’s Municipal Policing budget.
- Policing and visibility – evidence base has to balance with community-based knowledge.

Presentation concluded at 6:40pm. Both presenters remained for the full meeting.

8. Business Arising from the Minutes / Old Business

(a) Noise and Community Standards By-law Update

Supervisor Thornton noted that the Board’s recommendation to Council, to adopt the proposed Noise and Community Standards By-law was not approved. At this time, no further direction was provided by Council.

(b) RCMP Retroactive Pay Update

CAO Phillips referenced the NSFM correspondence received this afternoon. (Hard copies were available for Board members to review).

CAO Phillips noted it related to the recent federal budget announcement regarding retroactive RCMP contract costs. (The correspondence would also be going before Council at their April 25th Council Meeting).

WHRM’s retroactive cost is \$ 453,316. WHRM anticipated the retroactive costs and placed it in reserves.

The correspondence is asking Municipalities if they would write a letter requesting the Federal Government assist with the costs.

Board members will review the letter and discuss toward the end of the meeting.

- ### (c) Ministerial Appointee role with Dept of Justice – Supervisor Thornton indicated that at the January Police Advisory Board meeting, the Dept. of Justice advised they were reviewing how the position of the appointee would correlate between Municipal Boards and the Dept of Justice. If Municipal Boards have any input, they could forward their suggestions to the Dept. of Justice.

9. Reports

- ### (a) West Hants Quarterly Report 2022-2023 Q4 - S/Sgt Ferguson reviewed the report.

Discussion Points:

- Calls for Service is where the DCAS help compile the reporting.
- Cell phone infractions fall under “other traffic offence/violations” – this is currently under review due to lack of ability to prosecute in court.
- Mental health issues have increased over the years. There are currently various initiatives being looked at for alternative service delivery methods. It is hopeful they will divert those that require mental health support from the police to those better suited to assist with those matters. The models are currently best equipped in more urban areas and pose challenges in more rural areas. Mental health calls are typically due to an individual being in crisis and police response may not be the most ideal.
- “Trespass at night” is during specific hours and wouldn’t apply if the event happened during the day.
- Board members enjoyed the Headquarters tour and found it very informative.

10. New Business

(a) Security Cameras within communities – Matt Povah, I.T. Specialist

WHRM council are discussing cameras at entry/exits.

Matt Povah provided background info on the current security cameras, noting the communities of Hantsport and Windsor currently have some and they have been upgraded over the years. There is a planned upgrade to the Windsor platform.

Discussion Points:

- Would like to see data on the assistance they have had related to crime.
- Cameras are not only for deterrence but effectiveness as well. That is where camera quality is important.
- Windsor’s Phase III is about to be rolled out.
- Phase IV could include network expansion from O’Brien to Wentworth, toward Chester Rd.
- West Hants expanded the fiber optic network out to Newport Rink, so there are opportunities to expand the cameras out that way as well.
- Most of the cameras are hard wired to the network. Some are wireless but not as reliable.
- RCMP review the footage as needed. It has been successfully used in court.
- Concern there are no policies related to video surveillance, more specifically, as it relates to Artificial Intelligence (AI). Once someone is online, they are online, and this field is not currently regulated; what are the implications. It also raises moral and ethical aspects. The Privacy Act should address this.
- The security cameras are visible to the public (if they look); they are not hidden (but not accessible from the ground). There is signage identifying areas under video surveillance.
- I.T. Specialist Povah and S/Sgt Ferguson said more cameras are better. More coverage enhances the ability to use it as a deterrent and as evidence.
- Policing tends to focus on the more populated (urban) areas. There are large rural areas that would never see camera coverage. Many in the rural areas don’t

contact the police. Concerned more cameras could affect the quality of policing in more rural areas.

- If anyone calls the police, the police will respond whether rural or urban. There are strategies that could be used when deploying cameras in more rural areas that would be of benefit.
- To feel safe in one's home also has to do with public confidence. Cameras have demonstrated they increase public confidence.

11. Correspondence

(a) 2023 External Stakeholder Update re. Body-Worn Cameras Testing – S/Sgt Ferguson said the correspondence is informational. Nova Scotia was selected as one of the RCMP's three locations to test body-worn cameras in an operational setting.

(b) 2023-04-23 Nova Scotia Federation of Canadian Municipalities (NSFM) Correspondence re. Retroactive Pay (related to Item #8(b) on this agenda)
The Board opted to not make a recommendation to council re. a letter be drafted to Public Safety Canada asking the costs be subsidized.

Discussion Points:

- Municipalities were aware it was coming.
- Some municipalities have prepared for it; some have not. Great that WHRM was prepared.
- RCMP is a unionized environment now.
- If a letter was drafted, it would be a letter of advocacy.
- The correspondence from NSFM will be going to the April 25th Council meeting.

12. Next Meeting Date / Adjournment (Quarterly: Jan-Apr-Jul-Oct, and typically the 3rd Monday) – July 17, 2023

**MOVED BY JANNASCH/DAVIS THAT 7:46 PM, THE MEETING ADJOURN.
MOTION CARRIED.**

Chair

Recorder