

1. **Call to Order** – Chair Morton called the meeting to order at 6pm.
2. **Attendance** – Paul Morton, Rupert Jannasch, Jane Davis, Mandy Singleton, Mark Phillips, Dave Ferguson, Shelleena Thornton, and Guide Furlani (via Zoom) Regrets: Susan Sypher
3. **Announcements** – Chair Morton acknowledged that we are in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People and that this land is governed by the treaties of Peace and Friendship signed in 1726. West Hants Regional Municipality also recognizes that we are all treaty people and have responsibilities to this land and each other.
4. **Approval of the Agenda**
MOVED BY DAVIS/JANNASCH THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED AS CIRCULATED. MOTION CARRIED
5. **Declaration(s) of Conflict of Interest** – None.
6. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes** – July 17, 2023
MOVED BY JANNASCH/DAVIS THAT THE JULY 17, 2023 MEETING MINUTES BE APPROVED AS AMENDED. MOTION CARRIED
Amend the 'attendance' section as there was one person in gallery.
7. **Presentations** – None.
8. **Business Arising from the Minutes / Old Business** - None
9. **Reports**
 - (a) West Hants Quarterly Report – S/Sgt Ferguson reviewed the report.
Discussion Points:
 - When there is an incident, it is allocated to the most serious charge so may not be reflected under the category in which may seem most obvious.
 - Payzant – CAO noted a high-speed race was reported to have taken place on Payzant. RCMP noted Payzant is a priority area. If there is a witness to the incident, it should be reported to the RCMP as soon as possible. Check stops and speed enforcement are being done in that area which slows traffic.
10. **New Business (all verbal discussion)**
 - (a) Posse Project – CAO noted they are a peer support and outreach service for people that are in crisis. Kimm Kent is one of their lead programmers. They presented to Council and requested council support them with funding for a resource individual.

CAO continued with highlights of their presentation at the July 2023 COTW. He noted that Council did not support their request.

Discussion points:

- Peer outreach
- Harm reduction
- Suicide
- Homelessness
- Provide information provision
- Crisis Intervention support of a non-armed individual
- Legal aid
- Addiction support
- Meal provision support
- Crisis intervention
- Trauma information
- Etc.

CAO Phillips noted that council can revisit that defeated motion after a period of time and/or at budget time. He added that:

- Council asked for RCMP input in moving this project forward so should be a key part of the discussion this evening.
- Councillor Jannasch showed this presentation to a social worker outside the province. The social worker had many questions/thoughts as well.

RCMP (S/Sgt) input:

- S/Sgt Ferguson is familiar with the project.
- RCMP have worked in partnership with POSSE.
- He has been involved in many workshops re. looking for best way to implement various models. The vast majority of the models seem to apply to more urbanized settings. Rural areas have more barriers to them.
- Justice Minister encouraged RCMP to find innovative ways to manage the volume of mental health calls and work with contract partners and community groups to come up with alternative service delivery models in rural areas.
- Benefits to have a resource in place in West Hants:
 - A large number of mental health calls in West Hants
 - This resource would be a support to the RCMP
 - Some mental health calls do not require an armed police officer to respond; however, there needs to be that resource in place to analyze the situation to determine the appropriate level of response to calls for service
 - City has mobile mental health crisis team that works in HRM. They are not in HRM. Perhaps an expansion to that type of model may work.

Board member discussion:

- Nature of call could be highlighted by who is calling
- Sometimes people contact RCMP; other times, directly POSSE
- How RCMP triage calls for service: health umbrella (then Provincial Health would have to be onboard with this as well). Are folks adequately trained, etc.

These discussions have been held with the POSSE group as well. Risks have to be mitigated.

- When asked if the POSSE resource wants to work independently or with RCMP, CAO said his experience says they want to collaborate with them, but maybe with policy and process, they develop some form of independence at some point.
- There are a couple facets involved: mental health and homelessness.
- RCMP can reach out to POSSE by phone and to a health professional for input.
- Mental health is typically a provincial program and the RCMP are not qualified medical professionals. Typically, the Municipality doesn't financially support health falling under the Provincial mandate.
- POSSE's ask was for \$66,000/year for a two-year pilot project. They weren't sure what would occur after two years. Would this save on the policing budget? Or would this be in addition to the policing budget? S/Sgt – doesn't believe it would save on the police budget. It may save time and resources the police currently resource to mental health calls. The RCMP would then be able to focus more on other policing responsibilities.
- Definition of youth can be very elastic. Have POSSE or RCMP defined youth? Sometimes there are different authorities involved in different age brackets. S/Sgt said for RCMP, it is important that everyone operates within their lanes. Criminal Acts have youth defined in the policing realm. In some cases, Dept. of Community Services is also engaged (as per policing mandate and enforcement).
- CAO – POSSE defines ages 15-35 on their website. It was agreed that POSSE needs to be aware of this. The triaging process would be key.
- With POSSE's financial request and Municipality come up with policies and procedures that POSSE would use to adopt and hire the outreach position.
 - Nowhere in reports does it indicate who POSSE reports to and is responsible to. (This is important because the Municipality is being asked to create a new position in which staff don't have trained and experienced staff). Also, do staff have the expertise to create these policies and procedures. Further, if Municipality creates these policies and procedures for an employee to be employed by POSSE, wouldn't there be liability to the Municipality. Who is POSSE accountable to? This is an important question to be answered.

Is the Police Advisory Board in favour of asking the council to consider writing a letter to the Provincial and Federal levels of government asking they support this pilot project.

MOVED BY JANNASCH/FURLANI THAT A LETTER BE DRAFTED AND BROUGHT TO COUNCIL BY END OF NOVEMBER/DECEMBER. MOTION CARRIED.

The letter will be drafted by staff and sent to Police Advisory Board members by e-mail.

- (b) Oct. 25 Mobile Command Post Field Test and Demonstration – Council, PAB members, Fire Chiefs, and the West Hants Ground Search and Rescue Search Director and Manager have been invited to see the RCMPs Command Post at Irishman’s Recreation Site. A great opportunity to learn about the support and resources available during an emergency. Irishman’s Recreation Site will be closed to the public for the day.

11. Correspondence – None.

12. Next Meeting Date / Adjournment (Quarterly: Jan-Apr-Jul-Oct, and typically the 4th Monday) – January 22, 2024.

**MOVED BY DAVIS/FURLANI THAT THE MEETING ADJOURN AT 7:25pm.
MOTION CARRIED.**