

1. **Call to Order** – Chair Morton called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.
2. **Attendance** – Paul Morton, Rupert Jannasch, Jane Davis, Mark Phillips, S/Sgt Dave Ferguson, Sgt Timothy Doyle, and Rhonda Brown. It was noted that Guide Furlani would join the meeting later by ZOOM.

There were no members of the public in the gallery.

3. **Announcements**

Chair Morton announced that Citizen Member Jamie Juteau had given his resignation from the Police Advisory Board. A new member is being obtained.

As of May 2, 2025, S/Sgt Ferguson would no longer be the Staff Sergeant of the West Hants Detachment; he is being transferred to Lunenburg District. Sergeant Tim Doyle, Operation Manager, would be the Interim Detachment Commander.

4. **Approval of the Agenda**

**MOVED BY COUNCILLOR JANNASCH/JANE DAVIS THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.
MOTION CARRIED.**

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

6. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

(a) January 20, 2025, Police Advisory Board Minutes

**MOVED BY COUNCILLOR JANNASCH/JANE DAVIS THAT THE JANUARY 20, 2025, POLICE
ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES BE APPROVED.
MOTION CARRIED.**

7. **Presentations** – None.

8. **Business Arising from the Minutes / Old Business** – None.

9. **Reports**

(a) West Hants RCMP Quarterly Report July to September 2024– This report was not available for presentation.

(b) West Hants RCMP Quarterly Report January to March 2025 – S/Sgt Ferguson reviewed the report noting the following:

- There are currently six positions impacted by soft vacancies making the Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Utilization this quarter 20.19.

- Of the two vehicles to be replaced in the last year, one was replaced last June, and the other SUV should arrive within the next week or two. All replacements will be SUVs.
- Financials
 - Due to members being off and coverage needed, Extra-Duty pay is over budget \$72,000.
 - The lease aircraft had two deployments out of Moncton, both instances of missing person investigations.
 - Two vehicle collisions requiring repairs and vehicles closer to the end of life, caused the repair of vehicles cost to increase.
 - For the body-worn cameras, additional technical equipment was required where they are maintained for security, increasing the security equipment costs.
 - The partner share which is billable to the Municipality currently has a surplus of \$425,183.00.
- Calls for service have increased year by year because of the road safety initiatives. Many of the calls for service increase in rural areas are on Hwy 215 due to traffic.

Discussion Points

- The partner share surplus this year does not necessarily mean the Municipal cost next year will be less, it varies year by year and the expenses may be required next fiscal year.

10. New Business

Guide Furlani joined the meeting by Zoom at 6:37 pm.

(a) Additional Resource Request

Based on the organization and class section of the RCMP, and the current resources and structure of West Hants RCMP, S/Sgt Ferguson brought forth a request for two new positions to be created, a fourth Corporal position and a Constable as a Court Liaison. He noted the following:

- RCMP are asked often if we have the resources to keep the community safe; the Staff Sergeant believes West Hants does have the resources, but the number of positions impacted by soft vacancies does have an impact on other staff.
- One or two detachments per year are being scheduled for a full review to determine if additional resources are needed. Typically, this had identified more resources needed in each detachment.
- Since amalgamation there have been three supervisors for four shifts, this makes it hard to match supervisors with the members they manage during a shift.
- The Department of Justice has closed the cells in the Windsor Courthouse, which means a person in custody now needs to be transported to Kentville Justice Centre, which means travelling outside our area of responsibility. Also, Court now requires information for a person in custody to be sworn in person, rather than by fax and Sheriffs will not take charge of a person in custody until the information is sworn. These changes mean one or two officers would be out of the area for several hours.
- The Court Liaison Constable would be scheduled Monday to Friday to help manage various aspects of those in custody including speaking with the Court and Crown, so

- other members can focus on the road.
- Additional funds for the position would need to be budgeted; however, there has never been a full year in which all members have been working.
- RCMP are willing to provide a detailed report on the financial and justification aspects of the request for the Council and the Department of Justice to make an informed decision for the additional positions.

Discussion Points

- The estimated average cost per officer is \$169,324.00, plus there are other partner share costs which would be incurred based on the cost formula and number of members.
- When officers are off, the stress and risk of remaining officers increase which may further cause others to need to be on leave.
- An officer working overtime helps in the interim, but they typically do not carry investigation files after that shift.
- A report will need to go to Council depending on the recommendation from the Police Advisory Board and when the positions are to be established.
- The report should include comparisons to other units, case load, sharing options. The report should be presented and discussed in more detail at the Police Advisory Board before going to Council.
- Additional members would mean a change to the Municipal Police Agreement, the Agreement does allow for the Council to request an increase or decrease of members.
- Priorities during a shift also depend on the calls for service during that shift. RCMP are always looking for ways to police smarter such as where to deploy resources at what time to have the most impact.
- The Full time Equivalent (FTE) Utilization based on the twenty-two positions prior to amalgamation is hard to do as it was two separate contracts. Since amalgamation, the fiscal year FTE was as follows: 20/21 – 18.85 FTE, 21/22 – 19.59 FTE, 22/23 – 19.91 FTE, 23/24 – 18.13 FTE, 24/25 – 18.53 FTE. The FTE is difficult to predict as it is affected by the health, retirement, and replacement of members.
- Money could still be saved annually even with two additional members based on the historical yearly surplus.

11. Correspondence

(a) February 2025 – Police Service Recipient Update- There was no discussion.

(b) 2025-04-10 Dept of Justice – Adapting the Additional Officer Program – There was no discussion.

12. Public Participation – None.

13. In-Camera – None.

14. Next Meeting Date / Adjournment – Quarterly meetings on the third (3rd) Monday (Jan – Apr – Jul – Oct) – The next meeting is scheduled for July 21, 2025, at 6:00 PM.

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR JANNASCH / JANE DAVIS THAT THE MEETING ADJOURN AT 6:54 PM. MOTION CARRIED.

Chair Paul Morton