

KENTVILLE POLICE COMMISSION MINUTES January 28th, 2022

PRESENT Chairman Steven Pearl, Commissioner Deborah Mahoney, Commissioner Cathy Maxwell, Commissioner Paul Walker, Commissioner Gillian Yorke, Chief James Butler, D/Chief Martin Smith, CAO Dan Troke and Recording Secretary Dawn Fitch.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL Chairman Pearl called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm

APPROVAL OF AGENDA It was moved by Commissioner Maxwell and seconded by Commissioner Walker

that the agenda be approved

MOTION CARRIED

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES
November 28th, 2021** Minutes approved

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM
THE MINUTES** (a) **Open House**
Commissioner Yorke advises the proposed dates were cancelled due to the COVID mandated restrictions. The next potential dates for the Open House would be in April or May. She will send the members possible dates to choose from. After the date is set, a decision needs to be made on what we want to achieve, i.e., end goal prior to the Open House.

NEW BUSINESS (a) **Kentville Police By-Law**
CAO Troke had prepared an outline of the By-Law for the Board updating some of the terms. He and the Chief checked with other Boards/Towns noting most of the terms were 2 or 3 years. He noted that some changes were made here in 2019 but were not formally approved by Council. There was some discussion on the number of members on the Board. It was felt that 5 members is better than 7 and

more civilians than Council members to take some of the politics out. The next opportunity to get the update to Council Committee is in 3 weeks. Protocol is the Chief or Chair make the presentation. It was decided the Chair will do so. The Department of Justice can provide some advice regarding the Police Act. It was also suggested that the Chair not be a Town Councillor as the Board would be more representative of the people than the Town. It was suggested the members explore this and send any changes wanted to the Chair who will give them to CAO Troke. He will make the changes and send it back. The board vacancy process was explained by the Chair.

(b) Guest Speakers

Chief Butler had suggested the Human Trafficking Unit and CISNS. These have been deferred until after COVID as zoom is not as effective. He advised that he and the Deputy Chief can talk about several police related things, would be happy to do a presentation. Chairman Pearl suggested David Walker of NSPGA after COVID. It was suggested we get as many guest speakers as possible down the road. There was some question as to someone who can speak to the mental health/homelessness issues. There is no one that has the answer to the issue. The current model that seems to be working in Halifax is the mobile mental health unit, however, there is no appetite for it here due to staffing. It would require 2 police officers and 2 health care workers on a full time basis. It is a complicated multilayered issue.

(c) Update on Budget

Chief Butler advised he has a draft operating and capitol budget. He has provided information and reasons for his requests. It is hoped that the Board will pass the budget in February, then go to Council in March with the budget approved in April. It was suggested a special meeting on the budget should be set. The next CAC meeting is Feb. 15th. It was decided since the next regular Commission meeting is February 25th, that the budget meeting be February 8th at 2 pm. The location will be advised later, whether Council Chambers or the Recreation Centre.

(d) Defund the Police

Chief Butler advised this is 2 tier policing, find ways to spend money to get services without cutting police officers. There is a report summarizing, identifying roles and responsibilities better done by someone else than police.

There is some good information but it is just a philosophy so far. It is a review of what police are doing versus what they should be doing. Defund is not a good term, it is more about re tasking or reallocating. It was suggested the term be changed. Some discussion ensued. This is a budgetary item.

(e) Special Funding

Commissioner Walker inquired about things to attend or training, conventions, etc. and the need for extra money for costs. Chief Butler advised that special funding is not needed as the budget covers most things. The account is currently \$2,000 and some feel this should be increased. Some discussion ensued as in order to increase this amount, something else in the budget would have to be cut. Chief Butler advised that the Board usually doesn't spend the entire amount in the account. It was suggested we leave it as is. There are lots of webinars, on line seminars, etc.

REPORTS

(a) Chief's Reports (attached)

Chief Butler briefly highlighted his reports noting that there is no significant change in anything other than mental health calls. Chief Butler asked if the Board wants any strategic information from him other than what is in the reports or keep the reports as is. It was noted that Council likes stats. There was some discussion including if the monthly stats can be provided more up to date. There was some discussion. The monthly report is a month to month comparison. There is essentially no change in the stats; some vary a little up and down monthly. Chief Butler noted that most of what is in the Other Account are in the wrong account and can go in other accounts. Some are there as they do not fit in another account.

(b) S/Cst Wood's Reports (attached)

Chief Butler noted that S/Cst Wood is very vigilant on the no smoking bylaw.

(c) Chair's Report

Chairman Pearl has been sending out information to the members as he gets it such as CAPG report and wondering if the members want him to continue to do so. It was agreed that he continue. He is also wondering how things are going with the agendas. Should we spend more time on the Chief's reports or finances or guest speakers, governance, etc. It was noted that if the reports are sent out early enough

prior to the meeting, then if there are any questions they can be asked at the meeting. Chief Butler noted some trends mostly mental health related but nothing of concern. If so, he would bring it to the Board with a plan. All is working well but housing, addictions and treatment are issues. Most people on the committees are up to the task and work well together to find solutions. Kentville is a very safe community. Commissioner Yorke is looking for past yearly statistics. Statistics Canada was suggested as a starting point.

(d) Financial Report (attached)

Chief Butler briefly went over the budget advising the budget is pretty much on track. Building maintenance is up and the new cruiser has not arrived yet.

Commissioner Yorke seconded by Commissioner Walker moved

to accept the Chief's Reports

MOTION CARRIED

IN CAMERA

Commissioner Mahoney seconded by Commissioner Yorke moved at 2:30 pm

to enter in camera session

MOTION CARRIED

Commissioner Mahoney seconded by Commissioner Yorke moved at 3:22 pm

to come out of in camera session.

MOTION CARRIED

The next regular meeting is scheduled for February 25^h, 2022 at 1 pm

Budget meeting is scheduled for February 8th at 2:00 pm

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 3:23 pm

APPROVED