

Municipality of the District of Lunenburg

Minutes of a Police Advisory Board Meeting

Held Virtually via Microsoft Teams

Wednesday July 28, 2021 – 9:00 a.m.

Attendance:

Councillor Reid Whynot, Chair

Mayor Carolyn Bolivar-Getson

Councillor Leitha Haysom

Councillor Chasidy Veinotte

Dean Schmeisser, Member-at-Large, Vice-Chair

Michael Mason, Member-at-Large

Amanda Trethewey, Member-at-Large

Staff Sergeant Victor Whalen, RCMP

Staff

Chris Kennedy, Fire Services Coordinator

Sandra Challis, Administrative Assistant

Regrets

Alex Dumaresq, Deputy C.A.O.

Sergeant Mark MacPherson

Ken Zwicker, Ministerial Appointment

1. CALL TO ORDER

Councillor Whynot called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The new District Commander, Staff Sergeant Whalen, introduced himself to the Board.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Councillor Haysom, seconded by Mayor Bolivar-Getson that the agenda be approved as circulated.

Carried Unanimously.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 28th, 2021

Moved by Dean Schmeisser, seconded by Councillor Veinotte that the Minutes of the April 28th, 2021 Police Advisory Board meeting be approved as circulated. Carried Unanimously.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

4.1 Speed Trailer

After being in New Germany, the speed trailer had been recently relocated to the Rissers Beach area. Board members had reported the equipment had not been functioning correctly and it

was noted that the speed trailer was old technology, and the manufacturer of the equipment was no longer in business. It was highlighted that there were requested locations that had not been serviced by the equipment, namely Cornwall Road (around the 1800s civic area), Garden Lots, Keddy Bridge area and a return to Dayspring. It was suggested that a calendar be created to help with scheduling of the Speed Trailer and Mr. Kennedy was asked to coordinate this with the RCMP.

4.2 Purchase of Speed Radar Signs

Mr. Kennedy advised that three quotes for speed radar signs had been obtained, following procurement procedure, and he would seek input from the RCMP on the best purchase. S/Sgt Whalen approved of the Board's intention to purchase speed radar signs and suggested the type with blue/red flashing lights was the most effective. Quotes had not been solicited for this type of equipment, but it was not believed to be too great an increase in cost. Mr. Kennedy would order the signs. He reported that they could be sited on utility poles but need to be at a particular height. Installation of the radar signs would have to be investigated.

4.3 Be the Peace "Pathways to Justice"

Councillor Haysom agreed to liaise with Staff and Be the Peace to arrange for a showing of the film and a discussion, to take place in early Fall. She would contact the Board with perspective dates.

4.4 Bikes on Highway (Letter to Transportation & Active Transit - TAT)

The letter would be completed for the next Board meeting. It was noted that problems with cyclists could grow with the increase in the availability of eBikes. It was further noted that the shoulders throughout the Municipality were in need of being cut, as this was causing poor visibility and incidents involving wildlife. S/Sgt Whalen agreed to talk to TAT at a local level to highlight the issue and Mayor Bolivar-Getson would raise the issue also to the Deputy Minister for Transport.

5. IN CAMERA

At 9:29 a.m., it was moved by Mayor Bolivar-Getson, seconded by Dean Schmeisser that the Board would go In Camera to discuss the following item:

5.1 Public Security under Section 22(2)(h) – RCMP Reports January-March 2021. Carried.

The Police Advisory Board In Camera in session.

At 9:54 a.m., it was moved by Dean Schmeisser, seconded by Councillor Haysom that the Board come out of In Camera and return to open session. Carried.

The Police Advisory Board in session.

6. BOARD MEMBER MATTERS

6.1 Crescent Beach Speed Limit

Councillor Haysom reported that there were concerns regarding the speed of vehicles driving on the Crescent Beach and noted that there were no Speed Limits signs posted. Could the RCMP advocate for a sign? It was noted that vehicular access to Crescent Beach provided valuable opportunities for residents with limited mobility.

6.2 Spikes Hill, Petite Riviere

Councillor Haysom reported that the speed limit becomes 50km as you travel down Spikes Hill towards Petite Riviere, and it appeared that this limit was not being adhered to. She had spoken with TAT and they were reluctant to move the signs and had suggested that it was an enforcement issue. S/Sgt Whalen would try to increase presence in the area.

6.3 Parking on Point Road, Blue Rocks

Councillor Veinotte reported of on-going issues between a business, Pleasant Paddling, and residents in the area. Parking on Point Road had become a big problem and cars were parking on both sides of the road, usually for extended periods of time, causing residents to have difficulty accessing their properties and raising concerns over access for emergency vehicles. TAT had installed signs to prevent people parking on both sides, but the rule was not being followed. Councillor Veinotte had contacted TAT and was asking if they could talk to the business owner to try to find a solution, although the geography of the area did not provide space for pull-off areas, a designated parking area was really what was needed. S/Sgt Whalen agreed the area would be visited to evaluate the problem and issue tickets where appropriate.

6.4 RCMP Satellite Office New Germany

Amanda Trethewey asked why the satellite RCMP office in New Germany was closed. S/Sgt Whalen would find out and report back.

6.5 Parking at Dry Hydrants

Dean Schmeisser requested RCMP assistance with illegal parking at dry-hydrant locations, in particular Becks Lake. TAT had erected a No Parking sign which had been removed and a

replacement had been requested. S/Sgt Whalen agreed to arrange for officers to visit the location and educate/enforce as necessary.

6.6 Speed Limits on Waterways

Michael Mason reported that there was no longer a speed limit sign on the LaHave River and jet skis travelling at high speeds was an increasing problem. S/Sgt Whalen advised that the RCMP Patrol Boat would be docked and patrolling the river, which could have an impact in the short term. He added that perhaps the RCMP Communications Department could do a blitz on boating safety.

6.7 Crosswalk Education

Michael Mason asked if some public education could take place regarding the use of crosswalks, as he had witnessed people stepping onto the crosswalk without pressing the button. He noted that this problem was mostly in town limits.

6.8 Distracted Driving

Michael Mason reported of many instances of people using cellphones while driving. S/Sgt Whalen advised that Distracted Driving is a priority for the RCMP, although it was difficult to catch people in the act in a marked police car. He requested that incidents should be reported to the RCMP if a license plate was noted, the driver identifiable and the witness prepared to give a statement.

6.9 Driving over the Centreline

Dean Schmeisser reported that incidents of drivers crossing the centreline was increasing. S/Sgt Whalen reiterated that reports should be made to the RCMP with the same criteria as distracted driving above.

7. ADDED ITEMS

None.

8. NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, October 27, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business at 10:30 a.m., it was moved by Dean Schmeisser, seconded by Councillor Haysom that the meeting adjourn. Carried Unanimously.