

POLICE ADVISORY MEETING
December 16, 2020
Via WebEx Virtual Meeting

Present: Chair Councillor Chris Goddard, Chair
 Councillor Rod Reeves
 Councillor Ty Walsh
 Mayor Don Clarke
 Jane Perry, Neighbourhood Watch
 Hope Mailman, Student Representative
 Sgt. Ryan Kelly, RCMP
 Cpl. Braden Stephenson, RCMP
 Michael Payne, CAO

Absent with regrets: Chantal Pineo-Atwood, Executive Coordinator

1. Call to Order

The Police Advisory Meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

2. Approval of Minutes:

The previous minutes were approved as circulated.

3. Approval of the Agenda

The Agenda was approved as circulated.

4. Introductions

Councillor Goddard recommended that since this was the first meeting since the recent municipal election, introductions would be in order. Cpl. Stephenson introduced himself as the acting Sgt in charge at Kingston RCMP since Sgt. Kelley was reassigned. Cpl. Stephenson has assumed the role until January 4 when Cpl. Tim Doyle will take over. CAO Payne stated that he is aware that Cpl. Stephenson has played a key role in traffic enforcement in the Town and he has known Cpl. Doyle for many years as a strong community police officer. The Town will continue to be well served.

5. Sgt. Kelly's departure

Sgt. Kelly has been reassigned to New Minas Detachment as the Operations Sgt. for Kings RCMP east. He has enjoyed working with the Town the past two years. He worked hard on the relationship with a community policing focus and fine-tuned reporting. He has shared the reporting format with the Town of Wolfville and more recently the Municipality of the County of Kings. He stated that he learned a lot working with the Town. Councillor Goddard, Councillor Reeves (past Chair) and Mayor Clarke all thanked Sgt. Kelley for his service to the Town and best wishes in his new role.

6. Review of Police Services Committee Bylaw

Discussion ensued around the terms of the Bylaw with strong consensus that it still meets the need of the Town. There was also a collective recognition that the Committee does not have adequate citizen representation, including representation from the business community.

7. Recruiting Citizen Members

The Committee is currently short four citizen representatives. CAO Payne advised that the Town would be publicizing vacancies for a number of committees early in 2021. That will be shared on the Town's website, social media, and the business network and in the local newspaper. It would also be appropriate for Committee members to share it broadly among their contacts. Potential appointees should have a broad interest in public safety issues. By law enforcement was raised as an important factor in quality of life and public safety; members of council concurred. CAO Payne advised that Council will consider funding a seasonal bylaw officer (May to September) in the new annual budget.

8. Police Reports:

Cpl. Stephenson reviewed the police reports for the past two months:

October

Police focused on school zone enforcement and cottage protection/security. There were no significant concerns about criminal activity. Police addressed forty-five traffic violations plus five additional violations just outside Town on Highways 1 and 101. They conducted 484 proactive patrols consisting of vehicle, ATV and foot patrols. Members of the Committee acknowledged the great work being done in the area of impaired driving across the County. Cpl. Stephenson confirmed that the public has little tolerance for this issue and continue to report suspected impaired drivers to police.

November

Cst. Wilson gave a number of virtual presentations to local schools and continued to focus on school zone enforcement. There were no significant concerns about criminal activity. Police addressed thirty-eight traffic violations plus nine additional violations just outside Town on Highways 1 and 101. They conducted 465 proactive patrols including a large number of foot patrols in response to concerns of mischief in Rainforth and Centennial Parks.

Councillor Reeves asked if the police have received any public feedback about their enforcement of pandemic related protocols. Cpl. Stephenson advised that feedback from the business community and licensed establishments has been positive; house parties, not so much. Councillor Walsh asked about contacting the RCMP and whiter an awareness campaign would be appropriate. Cpl. Stephenson advised that any crimes in progress such as impaired driving should be reported via 911. The non-emergency line for Kingston Detachment is 902 765 3317. After regular business hours that line is answered by provincial police dispatch. CAO Payne advised that information about this issue could be shared on social media, the digital road sign and the Town's website.

9. Pedestrian Safety Concerns on Main Street East

Over the spring and summer the community expressed some concerns about vehicle speeds and pedestrian safety on Main Street east, particularly in the area of the intersection with Maple Avenue. The police were briefed about the allegation; the Town relocated an electronic speed radar sign to the area and conducted a detailed review of signage. The electronic speed sign confirmed that speeding is a concern in this high volume traffic area; that view was supported by observations of the police through dedicated enforcement. The Town determined that speed control signs needed to be replaced and crosswalk signage installed and improved. They also installed new vertical reflective strips on those sign posts to make the signs more visible.

Police continue to focus on enforcement in this area and the Town will continue to gather speed and vehicle volume data through the electronic speed radar sign. Other options under consideration could involve gentle grade speed bumps and/or pedestrian activated traffic signals at the crosswalks.

While pedestrians have the right of way at crosswalks it is imperative that pedestrians ensure they are seen by motorists prior to entering the crosswalk.

10. Review of Meeting dates and times

The Committee will meet bimonthly, the third Tuesday of the month at 5:30 PM. The next meeting will be held on February 16.

11. Adjournment

7:27 PM.