
ATTENDING

- Chair, Deputy Mayor Isabel Madeira-Voss
- Councillor Mike Butler
- Mayor Wendy Donovan
- David MacKinnon
- Shelley Fleckenstein
- Cpl. Travis Collins
- Chief Administrative Officer Erin Beaudin
- Special Project & Communications Specialist Barb Shaw
- Recorder, Laura Morrison

REGRETS

- Emily Kathan

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Deputy Mayor Madeira-Voss at 10am and introductions made.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED AS CIRCULATED.

CARRIED

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE RCMP ADVISORY BOARD MEETING OF APRIL 11,2023, BE APPROVED AS CIRCULATED.

CARRIED

3. PUBLIC INPUT:

- No-one for public input.

4. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Community Safety Office Pilot Project Update

Special Project and Communications Specialist Barb Shaw presented an update on the status of the Community Safety Office Pilot Project.

The Town has hired Dr Stephen Schneider who is tasked with delivering a feasibility and planning report around the creation of a Community Safety Office (CSO). Dr. Schneider, connected with the Town through the Policing Services Review group and backed by his

professional, personal, and academic experience, has been providing insight and guidance around what a CSO could look like in Wolfville.

The purpose of the CSO is to supplement and complement the primary form of policing and crime control in the Town and would work in partnership with the policing service to provide more ways to support the community. This model received support and acknowledgement through the Mass Casualty Commission's final report.

From engagement already carried out with community stakeholders, during the Good Neighbours Make Good Neighbourhoods pilot project as part of the Community Alcohol Strategy and the Policing Services Review Committee as well as information received by Council and staff from residents; local crimes in Wolfville are for the most part nuisance based. Oftentimes these are fueled by the misuse of drugs and alcohol and can result in property damage, theft and road safety concerns. The CSO takes the approach of community partners and stakeholders working together.

The final report from Dr Schneider is expected in Feb 2024 with a vision of what a CSO would look like in Wolfville including its role and responsibilities through a CSO Coordinator position. With Council and budget support, it could be launched in April 2024. There is a grant available through the Civil Forfeiture Grant program of up to \$50k for the first year which will be submitted through Dept of Justice. Support in the form of letter writing has been sought from Acadia, RCMP and WBDC.

In response to a question, it was advised Dr. Schneider will be providing information on the credentials required for the CSO Coordinator position.

There has been a similar position created in Annapolis Valley where a civilian is working in this role with RCMP. The Town will be meeting with that person to gather more information. Dr. Schneider in his research has looked at international models as well as other university towns in Canada.

Mayor Donovan advised she has access to a presentation she can share from the International Town and Gown conference showcasing some of the similar models used in the States.

5. RCMP REPORT:

Corporal Travis Collins presented on the pre-circulated quarterly RCMP report.

As requested by the committee Cpl. Collins explained some of the different categories of crimes covered.

Extortion category could be where someone is blackmailed into handing over money by not wishing something personal about them to be circulated in public. Fraud would cover scams where someone is tricked into handing over bank details.

Cpl. Collins confirmed if a person is charged with multiple crimes, the highest crime is reported in the data, e.g., if someone was charged with assault and uttering threats, only the assault charge would show in these reports.

Mischief category covers noise complaint, property damage, something that stops someone from enjoying their property. In Wolfville there have been one or two instances where someone is blocking access to a place of business, hanging around asking for money, but the majority are noise complaint issues.

Drug enforcement (other) category could be a drug information file, where someone has called to give information specific to a person or vehicle that is suspected of carrying drugs or where someone is suspected of taking drugs.

Other Traffic category could be speeding or running red lights.

Out of 273 calls 56 incurred charges. Nine were criminal code charges. Two were charges of assault on police officers, one with a weapon; and 8 were for impaired driving.

In response to a question Cpl. Collins described the procedure for a driver suspected of drug use and the two specific drug related testing methods carried out by experts using Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST) and testing carried out by a Drug Recognition Expert (DRE).

The bulk of traffic enforcement in Wolfville is speeding and parking offences. Recently there was a serious impaired collision where a person hit a number of vehicles and objects with their car. This person was found to be 3x legal alcohol limit. High risk for community.

Discussion around food and drink establishments' requirements/rules regarding serving alcohol.

Cell phone use while driving cases is recorded under the Distracted Driving category. This can be broken out for specific numbers if required.

Mental Health Act Category – increase in May, no known reason. Change of season perhaps or Mother's Day may be a trigger for some people. While there are a small number of occurrences, these do take up a significant amount of time and resources.

Discussion around having safety presentations for all members of the community and not specific to High School. The committee will consider topics and timing of presentations to encourage attendance by members of the community. Requests are typically received by the RCMP from schools. Acadia requested sessions on drug recognition. Contact name shared with Cpl. Collins of an officer from Kentville Police who carried out community engagement presentations around the fraudulent scams.

Others category include everything from information files, abandoned vehicles, breach of the peace, check stops and animal calls.

6. ROUND TABLE

- RCMP'S First Nations Police Officer liaises with First Nations community. RCMP's National Priority is recruitment and retention of aboriginal people. It's an ongoing effort.

7. Next Meeting: – SEPTEMBER 19, 2023 @ 10:00 a.m.

8. ADJOURNMENT

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE RCMP ADVISORY BOARD COMMITTEE MEETING BE ADJOURNED AT 10:48am.

CARRIED

Approved at RCMP Advisory Board Meeting September 19, 2023.

As recorded by Laura Morrison, Town Clerk, Office of the CAO