

A regular meeting of the Middleton Police Advisory Board (PAB) was held at the Town Hall on Tuesday, January 30, 2024, starting at 6:30 pm.

**PRESENT**

Chairing the meeting, David McCoubrey; Members John Thompson; Deputy Mayor Gail Smith; Councillors John Bartlett and Bernadette Knapp; RCMP member Sgt. Mike Maxwell; and Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Ashley Crocker; Recording Secretary, Krista Grear.

Regrets: Gordon Rodgers

Also in attendance: Two citizens, two officers Matthew McLean and Kalie Little (entered at 6:40pm/exited at 7:00pm), one citizen (entered at 7:04 pm)

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair McCoubrey called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**240130.01** It was moved and seconded to accept the agenda as amended. **Motion carried.**

Addition to the agenda of 5.2 Citizen input.

**3. MINUTES**

3.1. Approval of the Minutes

**240130.02** It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of September 10, 2023. **Motion carried.**

**4. OLD BUSINESS**

**4.1. Follow-up from RCMP on cases reported by the Town**

It was noted that this is an old item that can be removed from future agendas. Items will be covered in Police reports.

**4.2. Police Advisory Board Training**

It was noted that future training is awaiting updates based on the Mass Casualty Report recommendations. Previous training had been completed in-house.

#### **4.3. ATVs on Public Roads Updates**

It was noted that Towns in Nova Scotia have the authority to pass bylaws that would allow ATVs on roads within town-limits (Road Trails Act).

It was further noted that ATVs have been spotted in the grocery store parking lots, waiting by the school, restaurants, and other locations.

Councillor Bartlett noted that this topic has taken up a lot of time at Council meetings of late.

Sgt. Maxwell noted that the RCMP would need to know if the Town would like them to focus on these issues.

CAO Crocker shared that questions arose during the Noise Bylaw approval process during which a petition was submitted. The petition was somewhat unclear but appeared to request that the Town take over the Rail Trail and then ban ATVs/motorized vehicles on the trails. She further noted that this would be challenging for the Town to do, from a financial and human resource standpoint. Additionally, the Town has not banned ATVs, but according to the Road Trails Act ATVs are not allowed on roads, unless a bylaw has been passed that specifically outlines approved road trails. Residents are encouraged to contact DNR hotline to report off-highway vehicles.

Sgt. Maxwell also noted that people can come to the RCMP office and give an official statement from which they can work. RCMP cannot follow-up effectively with anonymous statements/complaints.

#### **4.4. Nova Scotia Mass Casualty Report Recommendations**

Sgt. Maxwell noted that the RCMP is working on this and that the final report has not yet been released. He further noted that there are some areas where the RCMP Commissioner is seeking alternatives. The final report will be passed by legal and other experts prior to trickling down through new policies, procedures, etc.

### **5. NEW BUSINESS**

- 5.1. Election of Chair and Vice Chair (Police Act section 59: "A chair and vice-chair of the advisory board shall be chosen by the members of the advisory board at the first meeting in each year.")

CAO Crocker called for nominations of Chair three times. David McCoubrey was nominated and accepted the nomination. No other nominations were received. David McCoubrey was acclaimed as Chair for 2024.

CAO Crocker called for nominations of Vice Chair three times. Deputy Mayor Gail Smith was nominated and accepted the nomination. No other nominations were received. Deputy Mayor Gail Smith was acclaimed as Vice Chair for 2024.

5.2. Citizen comments/questions

Citizens present noted that they attended as part of the Neighbourhood Watch and that their questions were covered under the section pertaining to ATVs.

**6. RCMP REPORTS**

6.1. Quarterly Report: October 1 to December 31, 2023

Sgt. Maxwell gave an overview of his report and answered questions. Cram the Cruiser was very successful. Presentations were well received at Middleton Regional High School and traffic enforcement is up. (mostly cell phone tickets in Town, on highways its speeding).

Quarterly performance updates included data led traffic enforcement, property crime and comprehensive education.

Sgt. Maxwell gave an overview of files of interest. These are some of the more complex cases being handled by the detachment.

He also responded to a question pertaining to the camera data collection project stating that they have received several responses but would like more information. The data will stay within the RCMP detachment for the purposes of reviewing the map during investigations - if there is a camera present, they may request the footage.

**7. CORRESPONDENCE**

Questions/comments submitted electronically by citizens:

- How many RCMP locally are trained in mental health/what level of mental health training do officers have?
  - All are – mental health training starts at Depot and is largely scenario-based training, using real scenarios.
  - Mental Health First Aid
  - Lived experience – officers using past experiences during actual events, sharing past experiences with fellow officers.
  - Block training – once every three years
  - Taser and use of Force training includes mental health related scenarios.
  - Online training may include mental health scenarios, videos, etc.

- One of the officers is doing a camera project in Middleton. He asked for people to submit their address and phone number if they have cameras in town however, he was using a Gmail address for it.
  - Sgt. Maxwell noted that they will endeavour to have request(s) come from an RCMP email address.

**8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

Tuesday April 9 at 5:00 pm

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm

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Chair

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Recording Secretary