



A regular meeting of Joint Police Advisory Board was held at the County of Annapolis Council Chambers on Thursday, April 17, 2025, starting at 11:02am.

**PRESENT**

Chair Nile Harding, Warden Diane LeBlanc, Councillors; John Bartlett and Sandra Fournier, CAO Chris McNeill, CAO Ashley Crocker, Citizens; Patricia Leslie, John Thompson, Carole Greentree and Staff Sargent Mike Maxwell and Recording Secretary, Tina Halliday.

Regrets: William Street

Also in attendance: RCMP Corporal Pascal Boudreau and 1 member of the public

**1. WELCOME**

At 11:02am, Chair N. Harding welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

- 5e) Citizen Inquiry
- 5f) RCMP Headquarters Tour

**3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

D. Leblanc moved to accept the agenda as amended. C. Greentree seconded the motion. Approved.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 20, 2025**

Minutes approved by all as presented.

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

**a) RCMP FOURTH QUARTER REPORT**

(The actual physical report will be sent out to the committee as soon as it is ready to go.)

- Unusually busy right now with various circumstances.
- Jan/Feb/March-Just shy of 1200 calls in this last quarter of the fiscal year.
- Include charges of- assault, sexual assault, arson, impaired driving, drug possession, drug trafficking, etc.

- Current string of robberies in Middleton area being worked on.
- Search warrant was issued in West Dalhousie that led to 60+ charges. Very successful raid.
- Side by Side collision in March- impaired driving charges laid.
- Social drinking, and then driving, seems to have increased. Many people driving later in the evenings seem to be impaired and impaired driving seems to be resulting in more fatalities than any other criminal offence.
- Domestic violence has been increasing. Response has been for a zero tolerance policy. When economy gets worse, domestic violence seems to increase along with substance abuse with drugs and alcohol.
- Missing person located deceased.
- Chair, N. Harding noted how great it was that the news releases are being put out and shared with the public to tie in with the priorities that have been set for transparency with the public.
- Recently transferred a very qualified officer from general duty detachment to street crime unit and are soon going to be adding a supervisor to that unit as well.
- Provincial government is really focusing on street crime that carries on through the valley to target the people bringing drugs and firearms into our communities.
- Conversations with the public are working- there have been more tips come in through the Crime Stoppers avenue in the last month. Can't act on Crime Stoppers tip alone, must have another source, but these tips may lead to RCMP looking into things they may not have otherwise known about, and may lead to more information that will either support or deny the tip.
- RCMP can't always immediately act on tips that have been given because the day-to-day activities that are happening right then, have to take priority. So sometimes Crime Stoppers tips get pushed back a bit and not acted on right away, even though the officers wish they could. Citizens can sometimes get upset about that because they don't understand the priorities that the RCMP must follow. If it's an immediate concern that has been reported, the street crime unit is ready and able to address it quickly.
- Important to know that anonymous tips do not have the same effect as it would if you were calling directly to report something or someone and are willing to stand up in court to say what you saw.

**b) BODY WORN CAMERAS-HOW ARE THEY BENEFICIAL IN DAY-TO-DAY ROUTINES?**

They have been used for approximately a month now and are a great tool for gathering evidence as the audio and video will back up any information or reports. This removes the "he said, she said" aspect of questioning as it's all recorded. There seems to be no negative aspect so far other than officers getting used to pushing the record button if they are new to using them. Other units that have

used them for a longer period of time, have found that public complaints about officers are decreasing because of them. Rule of thumb is that they are to be on whenever officers are attending a situation. Very few places are exceptions to the rule (such as courthouses etc). All recordings for each shift are uploaded to a system for safekeeping and then erased from the device. They get tagged as a certain type of file with different retention time frames based on what they are. Camera's do not have tracking on them, but officers have other tracking devices and programs that do track them in real time.

**c) FURTHER DISCUSSIONS RE: RCMP ORIENTATION PROGRAM PROJECT**

-This idea was driven by the old PAB, not the RCMP, with the thoughts that RCMP officers come from all over the place to work here and that this could be a great tool to help the new officers get to know our communities and to understand the culture of the people they are trying to serve.

-Perhaps a "Welcome Package" of sorts which can give an idea of any particular accepted/not accepted social norms of our communities. Kind of a way to let them know that "this is what we'd like you to know about us!"

-Also, a way to let them know what you expect from your police? What would you like to see? Do you want them to participate in local events as citizens? etc

***ACTION- Start building on this at the next meeting.***

**d) RCMP ALERT PROCESS**

-Complaints/concerns received from residents wondering why there was not an alert put out to the community when the Foodland event happened.

-Alert section- Defined by Alert Ready- NS RCMP have the ability to issue an alert ONLY for the following events: civil emergency, animal danger, amber alert and terrorist threats.

-Guidelines for an emergency alert (issued via Alert Ready) being issued is when an emergent or ongoing incident caused by humans may put the public in direct harm including; emergent weapon or firearm offences, active shooters, immediate action, rapid deployment incidents, terrorist attacks, technical, biological, radiological, nuclear, explosive incidents, civil disobedience, rioting, dangerous animal incidents.

-Alerts are only issued when a known, active event is happening that may mean others will be harmed. When it is looking like a one-off situation, (like the recent Foodland event), RCMP can't just anticipate that there will more attacks, unless they have reason to believe this.

-This particular event did not meet the thresholds that are founded in the law, for them to issue an emergency alert.

- Information posts were pushed out very quickly to alert the community to the event, but no emergency alert was issued due to its nature.
- People want to know when there is a danger in their communities more now than ever because of the Portapique incident. This is a very reasonable response by the public.
- However, there is the risk of scaring the community residents every time something happens if alerts are issued for everything that comes up. Also, eventually people would stop paying attention to the alerts because they hear them too often and become immune to them.
- RCMP don't want to worry people about everyday things but definitely will use it in situations where the public really need to know.

**e) CITIZEN INQUIRY**

- Was answered in previous conversations.

**f) RCMP HEADQUARTERS TOUR**

- May 21<sup>st</sup> tour cancelled.
- Will be two new dates offered in June. One is for June 25<sup>th</sup> and the other is unknown as of now.
- They are trying to give us access to all of the right people on these tours so they are having some scheduling conflicts.

**6. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will take place on Thursday June 19th at 11:00am, in the Town of Middleton Council Chambers. The following meeting will be in September as no meetings are generally held in August.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 pm.



Chair



Recording Secretary