



## Minutes of the Police Services Review Committee

**Place:** Council Chambers

**Date:** Tuesday, July 16, 2019

**Committee Members in Attendance:** Mayor Patricia Stewart, Deputy Mayor Rick Draper, CAO Rachel Jones, Byron MacDonnell, David Hoffman, and Linda Cloney (recorder)

**Committee Members Absent:** Councilor Dave Clark, Mark Hobeck, Department of Justice

***A quorum was present throughout the meeting***

**1. Call to order**

Mayor Patricia Stewart called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

**2. Selection of Committee Chair**

It was moved and seconded to appoint Deputy Mayor Rick Draper as Committee Chair.

**Motion Carried**

***Mayor Stewart turned the meeting over to Deputy Mayor Draper to chair.***

**3. Approval of Agenda**

It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda as presented.

**Motion Carried**

**4. Police Review Committee Terms of Reference**

- The committee reviewed the Terms of Reference
- It was mentioned that we do have approval from the Department of Justice to not have to include the RCMP as a member of the committee as it is a conflict of interest. This amendment was approved in Oxford Town Council's special meeting in July.
- The RCMP may be called in to answer questions and also for presentations.
- This committee is not here to judge on the policing services, they are looking for efficiencies.
- This committee is here to look for the best value and policing services for the Town of Oxford.
- The committee is asking to review the existing contract with the RCMP – The town office has an un-signed copy of a document around roles and responsibilities, it will be a challenge to get an actual copy of the RCMP contract.

- The RCMP billing process is a notice letter from the Department of Justice letting the Town know what the fees will be for that year, and the amount is invoiced quarterly.
- It is understood that the RCMP calculate the total cost of RCMP services in Nova Scotia, divided by the members, and that is your cost per member. The Town of Oxford pays for 3.5 members.
- The RCMP gave a policing review, in March, to the Municipality of the County of Cumberland Council and the Oxford Town Council around the policing service levels and costs.
- It was suggested that when we request proposals from the RCMP and other interested parties that their presentations include their service levels, costs, number of members, what services they provide, and their shifts for comparison and discussion.
- We should inquire the Town of Amherst if they have ever had an additional bill for special policing services.
- The RCMP provided several options on policing as a regional response within the County of Cumberland and the Town of Oxford.
- The Town of Oxford has the second highest RCMP policing costs in all of the towns of Nova Scotia per capita.
- Any change in service levels must be presented to the Department of Justice and the Minister for approval because they will not decrease the service level without a significant business case to prove that public safety and security will remain intact.
- The question was raised, why does the Town of Oxford need more policing than the rest of Nova Scotia?
- The policing costs is a lot of strain on the finances and the Town Council does not see a lot of RCMP presence.
- The key purpose of this review is to find the best value of policing services for the Town of Oxford.
- The RCMP policing costs for the Town of Oxford is approximately \$503,000.00 per year.

***Establish community policing needs and expectations***

- A role of this committee is to determine the community policing needs and expectations.
- Community engagement in this process is very important.
- The committee is interested to see what other small towns in the province are doing and what their costs per capita are.
- The committee needs to have written the policing needs and expectations in order for any service providers to submit a proposal.
- The committee would like to see templates of policing needs and expectations from other small towns like Clark's Harbour, Pictou and Stewiacke.
- The committee is required to do the needs assessment before the community meeting.

***Timeframe for review***

- The committee discussed to set a goal to have this finished by the end of October, 2019

***Communication process/public engagement***

- We need a community meeting at the start and the end of the process.
- The Committee has scheduled a meeting for the public on September 9, 2019 at 6:00 pm.
- The plan discussed for advertising the public meeting is the website, community calendar, Mayor's corner, social media, property tax bills and possibly a mail out.

***Committee meeting forum***

- The committee would like to set up bi-weekly meetings starting August 12, 2019.
- In-camera discussions would be topics relating to contract negotiations and also public safety/security.
- These meetings are public meetings and agenda packages and approved minutes will be posted on our website.
- The official spokesperson will be Mayor Stewart and, in her absence, it will be Deputy Mayor Draper.
- CAO Jones's role is to help prepare speaking notes and/or information required.

**5. Date of Next Meeting**

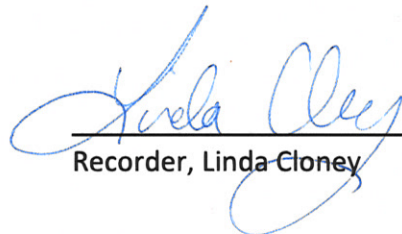
The next scheduled meeting is August 12, 2019 at 6:00 pm in the Council Chambers.

**6. Adjournment**

At 6:55 pm, it was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

**Motion Carried**

  
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Chairperson, Rick Draper

  
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Recorder, Linda Cloney