

The regular quarterly meeting of the Mahone Bay Police Advisory Board was held on Monday, October 23, 2017 at 7:00pm at the Mahone Bay Fire Hall.

Present: Councillor J. Feeney
Councillor R. Nowe
Robert Morse
Roy Broadbent
S/Sgt S. MacQueen
Cpl. D. Ferguson
Mayor D. Devenne (7:04pm)
Deputy Clerk M. Hughes

Minutes

A motion by Councillor Nowe, seconded by Mr. Morse, **“THAT the minutes of the October 26, 2015 meeting of the Mahone Bay Police Advisory Board be approved as circulated.” Motion carried.**

Reports

Quarterly Report – Cpl. David Ferguson

The Police Advisory Board was introduced to Cpl. David Ferguson, Acting Operations NCO, and S/Sgt Stephen MacQueen, District Commander, of the Lunenburg District RCMP.

The Police Advisory Board received the RCMP report, covering the dates July 1, 2017 to September 30, 2017. Cpl. Ferguson reviewed District initiatives, such as the School Resource Officer’s work with updating safety plans with schools in the County, Emergency Response Team deployments and recent high-profile crimes in the area. Cpl. Ferguson and S/Sgt MacQueen also discussed the recent Move Over Legislation and increased policing on the water with the RCMP boat this past summer.

Cpl. Ferguson detailed specific policing matters pertaining to Mahone Bay such as the presence of Reserve Corporal Jean-Guy Richard in the Town of Mahone Bay for bicycle and foot patrols and the commercial break and enters in Mahone Bay. During this quarter there was an increase of 270% in calls for service in Mahone Bay as compared to this time last year, an increase which Cpl. Ferguson stated can be largely attributed to the RCMP increase in road safety initiatives.

Police Advisory Board Governance

The Deputy Clerk presented a staff report reviewing the governance of the Mahone Bay Police Advisory Board. Ms. Hughes noted that the Police Advisory Board meets very rarely as the RCMP Quarterly Report is usually the only agenda item and in lieu of calling a meeting solely to receive a report, the report is circulated and members of the Board are invited to contact the RCMP Liaison with any questions or comments on that report. During the same week as the regularly scheduled meeting of the Police Advisory Board, the RCMP present the same quarterly report to Council. Ms. Hughes noted that while many municipalities strive to build communication with their local RCMP, the Town of Mahone Bay has a very strong relationship with the RCMP and staff believe that the current practice of the RCMP presenting to Council has contributed to that relationship.

The staff report outlined that Section 57 of the Police Act, which requires that municipalities establish a Police Advisory Board, outlines in 57(8) that a municipality may be exempted from the requirement to appoint an advisory board “where the Minister is satisfied that a municipality has established, in conjunction with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, a system of governance that is equal to or better than the governance provided by an advisory board.” Based on 57(8) of the Police Act, staff are requesting approval to approach the Office of the Minister of Justice to develop an alternative system of governance for Police Advisory Board for the Town of Mahone Bay.

A motion by Councillor Nowe, seconded by Mr. Morse, **“THAT the Police Advisory Board recommend to Council that staff be directed to seek approval from the Minister of Justice to establish an alternative police governance model under Section 57(8) of the Police Act.”**

Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned upon motion at 8:04pm.

TOWN OF MAHONE BAY

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Joseph M. Feeney, Vice Chair

Maureen Hughes, Deputy Clerk