



Policing Committee Meeting
April 21, 2015
RSC12 Woodstock Office

In Attendance:

Elaine English, Chair, Mayor, Canterbury
James Kennedy, Chair, LSD Debec
Arthur Slipp, Mayor, Woodstock
Alexis Fenner, Mayor, Plaster Rock
Craig Melanson, Mayor, Hartland
Brian Hayden, LSD Woodstock
Steve Manual, LSD Canterbury

Staff in Attendance:

Jo-Anne Lockhart, Executive Director

Regrets: None

The meeting was called to order at 6:27 p.m. by Elaine English, Chair.

Approval of Agenda:

Brian Hayden requested an addition to the agenda for the impact of the closure of the Grand Falls court house. A motion was made by Craig Melanson and seconded by Brian Hayden to approve the agenda as amended.

MOTION CARRIED

Declaration of Conflict of Interest:

None

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Alexis Fenner and seconded by Jim Kennedy to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2015 meeting.

MOTION CARRIED



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Business Arising:

Mobile Speeding Sign: Jo-Anne Lockhart gave an update on the mobile speeding sign informing the Committee the sign would be available once the weather improved. The sign would be transported to and from the involved communities by the RCMP and statistics would be available from the unit.

The March 2015 survey results were reviewed; 13 communities indicated speeding as a concern. Discussion ensued as to the speeding concerns in various communities with several indicating their problems were seasonal. Brian Hayden pointed out signs in rural areas would not last long due to vandalism, and therefore, signs should be placed within the town limits. It was decided the timeframe for each community should be one month. It was determined the order of placements would be Florenceville-Bristol, Hartland, Canterbury; after which time the results would be reviewed and a decision made as to the order of placing the signs in other communities. Jo-Anne Lockhart will contact the Mayor of Florenceville-Bristol to ask if he want the sign in his community at this time. A question was raised as to what the other regions are doing; Jo-Anne Lockhart replied some of the communities are buying their own mobile signs (the cost is approximately \$2,300).

Policing Survey Results: The March 2015 Police survey results were reviewed and it was decided a letter should be sent from the Commission to RCMP Superintendent John Warr. It was suggested the survey be taken to the meeting arranged by Alexis Fenner with the RCMP in Oromocto on Thursday, April 23. Elaine English indicated she may not be able to attend and asked for an alternate in her place; Brian Hayden volunteered. Jim Kennedy stated it would be interesting to see if the RCMP had the same priorities as the Commission's communities (meeting was postponed by the RCMP to Tuesday, May 12).

The Committee expressed their concerns over the number of RCMP staff available to cover an area as large as the Western Valley RSC. The survey showed the number one priority was Police Visibility. Committee members reviewed the events of the April 18-19 weekend where there were several break and enters in the East Grand and North Lake areas, as well as Debec. Craig Melanson reminded the Committee of the promises previously made by the RCMP with respect to getting the "bad guys" and that the crime reduction unit was supposed to consist of 4-5 officers. Jim Kennedy pointed out with his recent robbery experience only 2 officers were available because the other three were absent for legitimate excuses. Steve Manual stated there are no "on patrol" resources available after 1.00 a.m. Brian



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Hayden stated it would be of interest to know how many police officers are on call per day and asked Elaine if she could get this information. Craig Melanson pointed out the problem is not just in our region, but across Canada. Brian Hayden informed the Committee the RCMP is currently undertaking their largest recruitment campaign ever, and hopefully, we will benefit from this initiative with more officers in our area. Elaine English reminded the Committee they have been informed if they need more officers, they can get them but will have to pay.

The Committee members expressed their frustration with the lack of communication with no updates or meetings for the last six months. Elaine English suggested the Committee ask Superintendent John Warr to come speak with the Committee again. Alexis Fenner informed the Committee the situation in Plaster Rock has greatly improved and there has been a reduction in crime because she is in constant contact with the RCMP; if the RCMP cannot come to Plaster Rock, Alexis Fenner goes to visit the Woodstock office. Alexis Fenner also reminded the Committee Superintendent John Warr requested they call them if there are problems.

Art Slipp suggested the Committee ask the Public Safety Minister, John Horsman to meet with the Committee to hear the policing concerns of the region. Jo-Anne Lockhart will write a letter inviting the Minister Horsman to a meeting with the Policing Committee, copy to the local MLAs, David Alward, Carl Urquhart and Andrew Harvey.

It was moved by Elaine English and seconded by Brian Hayden that Jo-Anne Lockhart prepare and send a letter inviting Public Safety Minister, John Horseman, copy to MLA Dave Alward, Carl Urquhart and Andrew Harvey, to meet with the Policing Committee of the Western Valley RSC. A list of concerns will be compiled for the discussion. If a response is received prior to the June 23, 2015 Policing Committee meeting, the meeting will be rescheduled.

MOTION CARRIED

It was also decided the Policing issue should be addressed with Minister Kenny at the May 4, 2015 Board meeting.



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Policing Cost per Capita: Elaine English contacted John Garvie, CAO of the Town of Rothesay and he apologized for not having the information prepared yet. It is believed the cost was about \$225-\$300 per capita.

New Business:

Impact of Closure of Grand Falls Courthouse: Brian Hayden pointed out the closure of the Grand Falls courthouse will increase policing costs because RCMP officers will now have to transport prisoners from Grand Falls to Perth.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Craig Melanson to adjourn the meeting at 7.45 p.m.

X 
Elaine English, Chair