



Policing Committee Meeting
June 23, 2015
WVRSC Woodstock Office

In Attendance:

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

Staff in Attendance:

Jo-Anne Lockhart, Executive Director

Absent: Terrence Ritchie, Mayor, Perth Andover

Regrets: None

The meeting was called to order at 8.31 p.m. by Elaine English, Chair.

Approval of Agenda:

A motion was made by Brian Hayden and seconded by Steve Manuel to approve the agenda.

MOTION CARRIED

Declaration of Conflict of Interest:

None

Approval of Minutes:

Elaine English requested a correction to the April 21, 2015 minutes to change references to "John Horsman" to "Stephen Horsman". A motion was made by Brian Hayden and seconded by Jim Kennedy to approve the minutes of the April 21, 2015 meeting as amended.

MOTION CARRIED



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Presentations: Prior to the start of the meeting (6.30 to 8.31 p.m.) there were two presentations:

- a) Barry Arnold, Director of Market and Product Development at Absolute Traffic Services (6.30 – 7.10 p.m.)
Elaine English introduced and thanked Barry Arnold for attending the WVRSC Policing Committee meeting to inform the members about the mobile speeding sign option available for traffic control.
- Barry Arnold informed the committee members a number of communities had recently purchased the mobile speeding sign unit being demonstrated (Edmunston, Grand Falls, Miramichi, Saint John, New Maryland, Sackville NS). Traffic Services did extensive research on the unit before becoming a dealer. The unit is manufactured in Montreal; therefore, the unit has been built to withstand Canadian weather conditions (neither hot or cold affects the lithium battery). Options are lithium battery (charge every 2-3 weeks) or solar (no charge required). The unit is portable and weighs 23 lb. The solar panel weighs 6 lbs. Data can be downloaded from a laptop within 1000 feet of the unit. An important feature of the unit is the stealth mode because you can trend speeding patterns. The unit is anti-glare because of the design of the LED lights. There is a metal screen over the lights for protection. Technical support is available on-line and if the unit cannot be fixed within 30 minutes, a new motherboard is sent out by the next day.
 - The cost is \$3,300 FOB, with another \$200 for the solar unit and \$50 for an extra bracket. Other units are available; New Maryland has purchased the 650 model on which you can put a message. Warranty is 2 years on the unit and 10 years on the LED lights. There is an extended warranty for \$350. Delivery is 4-6 weeks.
 - Brian Hayden asked if leasing options were available. Steve Manuel asked if could get a demo unit to trial.
- b) RCMP (7.20 to 8.20 p.m.)
- Elaine English welcomed Superintendent John Warr, Inspector Dan Goodwin, Staff Sergeant Marie-Josée Darveau and Corporal Jonathon Holmes to the meeting in response to the Policing Committee letter dated April 21, 2015. Elaine English outlined the issues addressed in the letter: lack of visibility which was the number one topic identified in the WVRSC survey, communications, patrol staffing and closure of the



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Grand Falls Court House. Elaine English stated the citizens of WVRSC did not believe they were receiving the proper amount of attention for the amount of money they were paying for the service, and it is difficult to respond to citizens when they do not see results. Superintendent John Warr asked if the issue was citizens did not think their communities were safe, and presented a report "Analysis of Occurrences Relating to Crime Reduction in Hartland" as an example (between 2012 – 2014 crime has been reduced by 43% - people 33%, property – 43%). Superintendent John Warr explained it is often an issue of perception versus reality.

- Jim Kennedy stated one of the problems is nuisance crimes (ATVs, squealing tires) which do not get reported, to which Superintendent John Warr responded there are not officers available for such activities, especially if they are not reported. If complaints are lodged and the police do not respond then there is an issue. It is always the responsibility of the citizens to aid the police and this means reporting the incidents. Inspector Dan Goodwin pointed out the RCMP are trying to work smarter and in his opinion they are doing good quality work focusing on major crime and prolific offenders; it is not smart policing to have a car driving around doing nothing. The RCMP try to be effective and gave an example stating 30 traffic tickets a day were issued in Oromocto and 10 a day in Hartland.
- Superintendent John Warr stated issues are validated from the reports received. It is also a visibility issue, the crime is not happening where you see the officer.
- Art Slipp asked if similar reports to the Hartland report were available for other towns / LSDs and stated these are good news stories which should be published in the newspapers so the public knows what is happening. The response was it is difficult to produce the Crime Analysis report by community because two additional analytical staff would be needed. The RCMP recently hired an analyst after 3 attempts. Art Slipp commented there seemed to be a miscommunication from the NBCC meeting because it was the impression the Crime Analysis report was what the communities would receive. Superintendent John Warr pointed out this report was not available at the time of the NBCC meeting and it was the Quarterly Report which was referenced. Elaine English asked if the detachment commander could meet with WVRSC every quarter to report the results



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of the Quarterly Report. Superintendent John Warr asked if the press would be in attendance at these meetings and Jim Kennedy replied the press only attends the Board meetings. It was agreed Sergeant Don Daigle or Corporal Jonathon Holmes will attend the next Board meeting on August 25, 2015. Superintendent John Warr also spoke to changes in tracking performance commitments from the officers and stated this evaluation was tied into the annual performance plan developed for WVRSC.

- Brian Hayden asked if the Quarterly Reports would be comparative and the response was they would include 4 quarters.
- Superintendent John Warr told members the report "Analysis of Occurrences Relating to Crime Reduction in Hartland" was confidential and should not be shared with the public.
- Brian Hayden inquired if the RCMP had spoken to the Province about the impact of the Grand Falls Courthouse on RCMP staffing. Superintendent John Warr responded a meeting with the Deputy Minister of Justice had taken place last week and a working committee had been started. Superintendent John Warr indicated it is difficult to plan for court time and WVRSC problems are small compared to other regions such as RSC10.
- Inspector Dan Goodwin stated little strides are being made such as officers in the Plaster Rock High School. Elaine English asked if this will happen in all schools and the reply was it was doable and there is an officer at the schools in Stanley and Chipman now.
- Alexis Fenner spoke of herself being the RCMP's biggest critic, but because of the ability to talk to RCMP staff when needed things have improved in Plaster Rock and citizens are commenting on the change.
- Elaine English commented on the value of the Oromocto de-briefing and how it was an eye-opener and great benefit to understanding how the RCMP works on a daily basis. Superintendent John Warr stated the invitation is open to committee members. The next de-briefing is July 21, 9.45 a.m. in Oromocto.
- Superintendent John Warr stated there are growing pains and setbacks which have impacted WVRSC, and the Policing Committee is regarded as a partner, and again emphasized the importance of communication so the detachment and the community can work together.



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- Superintendent John Warr referred back to the ATV problem and suggested citizens call Crime Stoppers which will record the incident in the RCMP records which will be a good starting point to deal with the problem.
- Superintendent John Warr asked if any of the committee members knew of retired officers who would like to be reserves and stated he would be happy to talk to them.
- Elaine English thanked Superintendent Warr and his staff and said the committee look forward to the Quarterly Report at the August 25, 2015 Board meeting.

Business Arising:

Mobile Speeding Sign:

- The committee discussed the mobile speeding sign presentation by Barry Arnold of Absolute Traffic Logics. Steve Manuel stated the stealth mode was a good feature. Elaine English mentioned Karl Curtis, Mayor of Florenceville-Bristol expressed an interest in buying the units for Florenceville-Bristol if the cost was reasonable. Arthur Slipp was asked if Woodstock is buying mobile sign units and the reply was not at this time.
- Jo-Anne Lockhart was asked to follow-up on:
 - i) Demo unit for the WVRSC
 - ii) Leasing options
 - iii) Experiences from other municipalities.

Letter to Minister of Public Safety:

- Elaine English read the response received from the Minister of Public Safety, Stephen Horsman, to the WVRSC Board's letter sent April 22, 2015 expressing concerns about Policing in WVRSC. The Minister expressed an interest in meeting with the Board. Jim Kennedy stated a meeting will be set up for the fall.



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New Business:


RCMP:

- The RCMP will start to attend the WVRSC Board meeting, the first one being on Tuesday, August 25, 2015 to present a Quarterly Report for the period January 1, 2015 to April 30, 2015.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 18, 6.30 p.m. Woodstock Office

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Brian Hayden to adjourn the meeting at 8.50 p.m.

x 
Elaine English, Chair