

SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL

May 3, 2004

The meeting was called to order by the Warden at 7:00 p.m., in the Conference Room, in the Administrative Centre, in Barrington, N.S., with the following members present:

- Warden Sterling Belliveau
 - Deputy Warden Eddie Nickerson (7:15 p.m.)
 - Councillor Angus Atkinson
 - Councillor Fred Bower
 - Councillor Louise Halliday
 - Councillor Dwayne Hunt
 - Councillor Wayne Smith
- Brian Holland, Municipal Clerk

PURPOSE OF MEETING

The meeting was called for the purpose of discussing, with representatives from the Department of Justice, the options for a review of policing services, and if necessary to set the Terms of Reference for this review.

This meeting was made necessary as a result of a motion made at the March 22, 2004 Council meeting. Notice of the meeting was given to councillors by memo dated April 21, 2004.

REVIEW OF POLICING SERVICES

Mr. Raymond Cusson and Ms. Lisa Jackson appeared before the meeting on behalf of the Nova Scotia Department of Justice. Both of these individuals are Policing Services Consultants engaged by the Department of Justice for the purpose of guiding municipal units through reviews of policing services. Both of these individuals have extensive experience with police services and with police service reviews.

Mr. Cusson acted as spokesman and stated the following:

The purpose of a policing services review is to evaluate both the cost of the service and the quality and quantity of the service being provided. At present there is no statement of policing responsibilities in place in this municipality. A statement of roles and responsibilities is required in order to determine the level of service being received and being sought. While it is true that a local police force provides more control to council it is also much, much, more work for Council.

Mr. Cusson indicated that the following costs must be considered:

- Salaries & Wages, plus 19% benefits
- All police forces are unionized
- There will be a higher degree of liability insurance required.
- Police forces must be housed.
- There must be prisoner areas for the detention of prisoners and for the retention of exhibits
- There must be a telecom infrastructure.
- There will be the cost of lawyers involved in setting up and the ongoing operation

of a police force.

Page 2, Special Meeting of Council, May 3, 2004

- There will be additional liability issues related to the conduct of Police Services and the consultant's costs for these policing reviews.

The review of policing services will involve councillors and it will take at least a year for the review process to be completed.

Once the review process is completed it will take at least another year to put a local force in place. Most municipal units that have police forces spend 20% to 25% of their total budget on policing. The base line used as a Service Level Measurement is what the RCMP is currently providing. The service now being provided is believed to be an 18 hour patrol service plus a six hour on call service. All costs are calculated as "per officer cost". The current municipal average in Nova Scotia "per officer cost" is \$100,000.00. The problems faced by the Municipality will be the per officer cost, the cost of cars which is roughly \$80,000 each, at least two of which will be required, cost of a police station and the cost of equipment and computers.

Mr. Cusson and Ms. Jackson, acting as Policing Services Consultants for the Department of Justice will work with any consultants appointed by the Municipality from the beginning of the policing review in order to expedite the review. Any policing service that is provided locally by the Municipality must meet provincial standards for policing. Meeting these standards will be expensive. Because they are the present provider of police services, the R.C.M.P. will be required to present a proposal. There will be public input and there will be media exposure for the police review. The Municipality also must invite the police union to participate and provide input.

Ms. Jackson then reviewed the governance provisions for a local police force. Municipal Council would hire the police chief. A Police Advisory Board must be put in place. There will be much more input and time required of all councillors in order to have a local police force. The Department of Justice will assign a policing consultant to the Advisory Board to assist the Board, especially during the transition stage. The Review Committee must have a Department of Justice member, a member from the Group Commissioners Board, a member from the present service provider, and other members who may be appointed by Council. All councillors can be on the Review Committee if council so wishes. It was indicated that the average criminal case load, per officer, in Nova Scotia is 98. The per officer case load in the Municipality of Barrington is much higher than this. The current service provider must maintain an adequate police force during the period of the review. The R.C.M.P. may provide "shared services" if asked. This is at their discretion. Councillors were asked if they were aware of what the R.C.M.P. provides for the Municipality now. Councillors expressed the opinion that officers are frequently leaving to provide services elsewhere.

Mr. Cusson indicated that the Municipality is paying for a level of service and that this level of service is being maintained regardless of the number of personnel in the local detachment.

The cost of R.C.M.P. services is currently being split, 70% being charged to the Municipality and 30% being charged to the provincial government.

There are three levels of policing services currently provided by the R.C.M.P. The grassroots service is the Municipal service that is provided by local officers. Specialized services are provided on a provincial level and national services address issues such as organized crime and terrorism.

It was indicated that a roles and responsibilities document would help identify for Council what shifts are currently being conducted in the Municipality, what crimes are being focused on and what results are being obtained.

The Roles and Responsibilities Documents are available from other municipal units such as Wolfville, Mahone Bay, Hantsport and Kentville. This type of document allows the Municipality to specify what it wants the local R.C.M.P. Detachment to focus on. It was strongly suggested that a monthly meeting to review policing activities be conducted with the CO of the local detachment. A meeting once a year and receiving an annual report is inadequate, all information must be communicated through the Detachment Commander and priorities must be set through that commander.

In regards to a Curfew By-law it was suggested that Mr. Kyle Hiltz, the Town Manager for the Town of Mahone Bay, be contacted as they have recently been considering such a by-law.

The R.C.M.P. conducts as a matter of routine a Detachment Managerial Review on a regular basis. It is possible to get a copy of this review from our local detachment.

It was agreed that further information should be obtained which will include copies of Roles and Responsibilities documents, a copy of the Detachment Managerial Review and that Council should meet with the CO of the local detachment in an attempt to determine what areas should be focused on by the local R.C.M.P.

It was generally agreed that Council should meet with the R.C.M.P. before proceeding with any review of policing services.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by F. Bower that the meeting adjourn at 9:12 p.m.

Warden

Secretary for the Meeting

Copied for Councillors on May 4, 2004 by Sharon Brannen.

