

1. **Call to Order** – Chair Morton called the meeting to order at 6:03pm.
2. **Attendance** – Paul Morton, Mark Phillips, Dave Ferguson, Mandy Singleton, Jane Davis, Rupert Jannasch (6:15pm), Vanessa Lake (administrative assistant) Regrets: Guide Furlani
3. **Announcements** – There were no announcements.
4. **Approval of the Agenda**

**MOVED BY DAVIS/SINGLETON THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED AS CIRCULATED.
MOTION CARRIED.**
5. **Declaration(s) of Conflict of Interest** – None.
6. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes** – The January 22, 2024 Police Advisory Board Minutes were unavailable at this time.
7. **Presentations** – None.
8. **Business Arising from the Minutes / Old Business** – None.
9. **Reports**
 - (a) West Hants RCMP Quarterly Report – S/Sgt Ferguson reviewed the report and highlighted key items. There are 5 positions currently impacted by medical leave. The fleet has exchanged 3 of the 4 Ford Taurus’s for Dodge Chargers. A surplus was noted for this fiscal year, but some items may not have been reflected yet. The street crime unit is very busy. Discussion points:
 - Traffic speeding violations – When an area of concern is identified, it will become a strategic traffic enforcement area with focused enforcement. Many violations do come from these areas. It is valuable for these areas to be identified.
 - Mental health concerns – CAO Phillips noted that mental health incidents were down this quarter and asked if the comfort centre, POSSE, and Caremongers have lessened the number of calls. S/Sgt Ferguson replied that their work has been valuable in the community, but it is hard to put a number to it. If things do not become a police matter, they are not tracked.
 - Impaired driving – C. Jannasch asked if these incidents are captured more by complaints or traffic stops. S/Sgt Ferguson replied it is a combination of both. Checkpoints are put in strategic locations, calls are received by the public, and some charges come as a result of a collision investigation. He noted that sometimes the vehicle from a complaint cannot be located.

10. New Business

(a) RCMP Planning & Strategy Session – S/Sgt Ferguson explained that in order to establish the policing priorities for West Hants, though some priorities are provided both by the Province and federally, the RCMP looks to the community for feedback on specific local issues. The feedback will help develop initiatives and a work plan for how to meet certain objectives. Discussion points:

- Chair Morton has received many complaints about speeding. He wondered if speed traps could be set up more consistently. The presence of the police has also been mentioned to him. He would like more visibility of the police throughout the day in different areas of the municipality. S/Sgt Ferguson was not surprised by these items. He noted that road safety has been a top priority not only in West Hants but provincially. Both road safety and the police presence are impacted by resources (i.e., available officers).
- S/Sgt Ferguson explained the process for how a position where the member is on long-term leave would be replaced.
- If a service call requires immediate attention, and officers are not available, the next nearest division may be contacted. East Hants, Kings and Lunenburg have all assisted.
- CAO Phillips asked about the Auxiliary Program and the NS Guards. S/Sgt Ferguson has not heard much about the Guards beyond the announcement. He explained how the Auxiliary Program worked but noted that, due to the high level of risk and liability, it has been discontinued.
- Councillor Jannasch felt the police visibility in rural areas has diminished. He wondered if it was possible to increase it, for officers to go on side roads or parks, or to leave the vehicle and engage with citizens. He felt the quality of interaction was more valuable than the frequency. S/Sgt Ferguson agreed it was important for the community to see the police and that they were plans to increase rural visibility. He sees the appeal of leaving the vehicle, but officers often do not have enough time/are committed to other tasks.
- Jane Davis identified two themes: community needs and policing needs. The policing needs were based off a full service model and included items such as mental, physical, and emotional wellbeing, effective responses, road safety initiatives, alternate strategies to engage youth, and bicycle and foot patrols. Community needs included trust and long-term relationships [with the RCMP], community crime prevention, and property, drug, and traffic concerns. She asked about the National Youth Advisory Committee and possible budget increases to hire more officers/staff. S/Sgt Ferguson may highlight different items in his reports next time. The National Youth Advisory Committee is ongoing, and a West Hants student recently participated. He keeps an eye on it and wants to have a voice at the table. Resourcing is a Council discussion. High-risk areas are identified for road safety. Bike patrols require a week-long training course which is not readily available.
- Mandy Singleton agreed with others about police presence in rural locations. She suggested a different approach to different areas. She would like to see monitoring later in the day/evenings. She shared concerns about road safety and speed monitoring. S/Sgt Ferguson explained that speed monitoring signs

are movable and can collect data. The Committee discussed locations for these signs and whether Traffic Authority or Provincial permission would be required.

- CAO Phillips asked if there were opportunities for alternative positions for visibility, such as special constables or civilian/volunteer unarmed positions, and if there is any capacity in their budget. S/Sgt Ferguson explained the Court Liaison position, which would take the burden of paperwork from officers. He also explained the Reservist Program, which brings back retired members, but noted some difficulty with getting them to work locally.
- CAO Phillips asked if there had been any issues resulting from the Collective Bargaining Agreement. S/Sgt Ferguson replied that they are still learning as they go. There are parameters they have to work within. Some things are open to interpretation and thoughts may differ between individuals.
- CAO Phillips asked if more information on the Reservist Program could be added to the next agenda. S/Sgt Ferguson will provide a report for the next meeting and also include more information on the Court Liaison Position.
- Councillor Jannasch reiterated the importance of quality engagement and strategic positions. He is impressed with the special constable at the school and how the last “Senior Skip Day” seemed to be more respectful than previous events.

11. Correspondence – None.

12. Next Meeting Date / Adjournment – Quarterly meetings on the third (3rd) Monday (Jan – Apr – Jul – Oct) – The next meeting is scheduled for July 15, 2024 at 6:00pm.

MOVED BY SINGLETON/JANNASCH THAT THE MEETING ADJOURN AT 7:16PM. MOTION CARRIED.