



**TOWN & MUNICIPALITY OF DIGBY**  
**Joint RCMP Advisory Board Minutes**  
**Town of Digby Council Chambers**  
**July 3, 2019**



**1. CALL TO ORDER/ATTENDENCE**

**1.1 Roll Call/Regrets**

Deputy Warden Gregory called the meeting to order at 6.02 pm.  
The following members were present:

Municipal Deputy Warden Linda Gregory, Chair  
Municipal Councillor Matthew Ross  
Town Councillor Peter Turnbull  
Town Councillor Mike Bartlett, Vice Chair  
Greg Thomas, Town Citizen Representative  
Darleen Manzer, Town Citizen Representative  
Alexander Elderkin, Municipal Citizen Representative  
Brian Bowerman, Municipal Citizen Representative (arrived 6:13 pm)  
Angela Thurber, Provincial Representative  
RCMP: S/Sgt. Dave Chubbs, RCMP  
Staff Present: Linda Fraser, CAO Municipality of Digby, who took the minutes for the meeting.

Regrets: Tom Ossinger, CAO Town of Digby, Pat Stevens, Executive Assistant

**2. ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROCEDURES ISSUES**

**2.1 Approval of Agenda-Additions/Deletions**

**MOVED and seconded that the agenda for July 3, 2019 be approved. as amended with the addition of Business Item 3.5 NS Association of Police Governance Fall Conference.**  
**MOTION CARRIED**

**2.2 Approval of Minutes of April 3, 2019**

**MOVED and seconded that the minutes of April 3, 2019 be approved as circulated.**  
**MOTION CARRIED**

**2.3 Unfinished Business Arising from the minutes of January 9, 2019**

- i) Deputy Warden Gregory indicated she has been unable to contact anyone at Crime Stoppers regarding a presentation. (Item to be kept on the agenda)

**3. BUSINESS ITEMS**

**3.1 Issues on the Island**



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In response to questions raised in a letter S/Sgt Chubbs described the response from the RCMP to that particular situation and stated has met with all individuals involved. The investigation did not lead to charges being laid under the criminal code for uttering threats.

All RCMP members are specifically trained to assess whether or not someone has mental health problems. Sometimes these situations also include drugs and/or alcohol problems. The RCMP cannot arrest someone if there is no criminal activity taking place. In some situations, the RCMP may arrest someone under the Involuntary Psychiatric Treatment Act (IPTA) which is used when people with mental illnesses are unable to make their own decisions about treatment and need help to deal with their condition. This requires that the individual must be seen by a doctor, usually in Yarmouth or Kentville.

Another option is the Mental Health Mobile Crisis Team which the RCMP or anyone can call to get support for someone who is experiencing a mental health crisis including family/friends, community support, health care providers, etc.

There is also the Safer Communities and Neighborhood Act (SCAN) that deals with illegal activities that adversely affect a neighbourhood that may be a health, safety or security concern, or which interferes with the peaceful enjoyment of your property.

### 3.2 Drug Use on Fishing Vessels

The issue of illegal drug use on fishing vessels was raised. Captains are having problems with crew members unable to work and are concerned for the safety of the crew. The RCMP cannot board a vessel without being called to investigate a crime. Crime Stoppers would work well in this situation as calls to the RCMP are anonymous. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans have more authority under the Fisheries Act to board vessels to do surprise inspections. If they see anything suspicious, they will call the RCMP to investigate. S/Sgt will contact DFO to determine if they can again proactively work together this summer.

### 3.3 Nova Scotia RBA/VCA Facebook Group

A committee member mentioned that he is aware of a public Facebook group whose members post on the activities of the police from Windsor to Yarmouth. Any police check point locations, or other enforcement activities are posted. S/Sgt Chubb indicated they are aware of the site and monitor it as well.

### 3.4 Safety Concerns on Highway 101 Digby to Weymouth

A presentation from a local community group was made to Municipal Council on June 24<sup>th</sup>. They raised concerns about the safety of the highway from Digby to Weymouth, in particular around the Barton to Gilberts Cove area. There have been 3 serious accidents in that area, with the last one on July 2<sup>nd</sup> which resulted in a fatality. It has been noted



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that drivers ignore the speed zones and would like to see more enforcement in that area. Not using seat belts and distracted driving are some of the main causes of accidents. There was a discussion on the length of time it will take for the rest of the new highway to be build to Weymouth. Phase 2 and 3 funding to complete the highway is not even in place. A suggestion was made to ask Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal (TIR) to install radar signs in the area.

**MOVED and seconded that a letter be written from the Joint RCMP Advisory committee to the Minister of Transportation, Lloyd Hines with copies going to the MLA and the MP asking that the Provincial and Federal Governments put funding in place as soon as possible.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**3.5 NS Association of Police Governance Fall Conference (NSAPG)**

Deputy Warden Gregory informed the committee that the NSAPG will be holding their fall conference on September 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> at the Old Orchard Inn in Wolfville. The registration form was included in the meeting package. Representatives from the Department of Justice will be in attendance and Gordon McIntosh, from Banff Executive Leadership Inc will be doing a session on police governance.

**4. REPORTS**

**4.1 RCMP Detachment Report, April, May, June 2019**

S/Sgt. Dave Chubbs gave an in-depth overview of the RCMP report for the period covering April, May, June 2019. The report covered Activities/Events, Crime Picture, Mental Health, Drugs, Prolific Offenders, Break & Enters, Frauds, Theft under \$5,000, Assaults, Training/Resources, Road Safety, Traffic Violations, Impaired drivers, School Safety Resource Officer and the Senior Safety Coordinator.

S/Sgt indicated that this year is a transition year with six members being transferred out. Three have already left with another leaving in two weeks. Cpl. Rob Lewis will be leaving to take a position at headquarters in Halifax. S/Sgt Dave Chubbs indicated he will also be leaving in the coming months, also taking a position in Halifax at headquarters. There are two constables coming in to replace the members who have left, as well a new cadet arrived in June. The position of detachment commander is being advertised but the timeline is not known on how long this will take.

Cst. Beifuss has assumed the role of School Safety Resource Officer, replacing Cst. Helm who was transferred to Newfoundland.

**4.2 Nova Scotia Association of Police Governance – Deputy Warden**

The committee has had two meetings and have raised the issue of the lack of training for the RCMP and Police Advisory Board members.



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**5. INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE**

Information was included in the meeting package.

**6. BOARD MEMBER ITEMS**

Greg Thomas raised the issue of canisters of tear gas been left at the gates to the public drop off. He contacted the RCMP who provided him advise on what to do with the canisters. He was advised that for anything that may be dangerous in terms of potential explosive devises, he should always call the RCMP who will assess the situation. The Department of National Defense can be called on to dispose of explosive devises. Matthew Ross repeated concerns about the need for more enforcement in the Barton to Gilberts Cove areas.

Deputy Warden Gregory asked S/Sgt Chubbs to follow up with Cpl Rob Lewis with regard to a tour of headquarters in Halifax that he was going to arrange for members of the advisory committee.

She also asked about the meeting that was to take place with Wendy Robinson regarding issues she brought forward at the last meeting. S/Sgt Chubbs indicated he met with Wendy Robinson and some other community members shortly after the last meeting.

As this may be his last meeting, all members thanked S/Sgt Chubbs for his service here in Digby and wished him well in his new position.

**7. NEXT MEETING**

October 9, 2019, 6:00 pm – Town Council Chambers

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm

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CHAIR

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CLERK