

**Police and License Meeting Minutes
February 4, 2010
Council Chambers**

Present

Councillor J. MacPherson, Chair
Councillor S. Cameron
Councillor W. Cormier
S/Sgt. B. Rehill, RCMP
Sgt. R. Bouchard, RCMP
S/Cst. S. Smith
K. Publicover, St. F.X. University Representative

Mayor C. Chisholm
D. Kampen, MPA, Chief Administrative Officer
D. Wilson, Deputy Clerk

Absent

S. MacIntosh, St. F.X. University Students' Union Representative

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM.

Welcome New Member

The Chair welcomed S/Sgt. B. Rehill, RCMP, to the Committee and round-table introductions were made.

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor W. Cormier
Seconded by Councillor S. Cameron
"That the Agenda be approved with additions." Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor S. Cameron
Seconded by Councillor W. Cormier
"That the Minutes of the meeting held on December 3, 2009, be approved as circulated."
Motion carried.

Business from Minutes

- Noise By-law

CAO D. Kampen advised that, as requested, she had reviewed the Town's Noise By-law in concert with the By-law of the Halifax Regional Municipality. With reference to warning notices being issued, she noted that Halifax Regional Municipality does not issue such warnings nor does it have a decibel level. She further noted she had also reviewed the By-law from the Town of Wolfville which is similar to that of the Town of Antigonish with slightly lower fines for residential areas.

Councillor W. Cormier noted it appears that warnings given by the RCMP seem to be working, and that he was under the impression that landlords could also be fined. S/Sgt. B. Rehill noted the issuance of warnings would be a discretionary decision by a member.

Councillor W. Cormier made reference to the possibility of the Town licensing rental units.

S/Cst. S. Smith suggested much more information could be garnered from tenants if they were required to complete an application form when having electricity connected in their names.

The matter of a noise exemption during Frosh Week at St. F.X. University was discussed with K. Publicover suggesting guidelines be put in place with a maximum decibel level. He noted that contractual decibel agreements are not uncommon in the music industry and referred to Tour Tech of Halifax and/or Music Nova Scotia as a starting point for gathering such information.

CAO D. Kampen agreed to further review options for the Noise By-law.

Mayor C. Chisholm joined the meeting at 2:30 PM.

- Dog Attack

Brief discussion took place on a recent attack by a dog and it was noted that the owner still has the dog. Councillor W. Cormier noted that the current Animal Control By-law only allows for fines, and not for an animal to be seized. Cst. R. Bouchard advised that there is no legislation to apprehend a dog.

Moved by Councillor W. Cormier

Seconded by Councillor S. Cameron

“That the Town’s Animal Control By-law be amended to include a clause whereby, in the opinion of the Animal Control Officer and/or the RCMP, a dog is deemed a danger to the general public by reason of its actions that the dog be apprehended and destroyed.” Motion carried.

CAO D. Kampen agreed to review By-laws of other municipal units in respect to the seizure and destruction of dogs.

- Public Complaints

Councillor W. Cormier distributed information he felt would be useful to the general public on how to lodge a complaint and how complaints are acted upon along with copies of the Town’s Noise By-law.

S/Sgt. B. Rehill advised that first time noise complaints usually garner a warning with a fine on the second complaint if it is the same tenant(s). He further noted that he would not like to see the Town inform the public on how the RCMP will respond to complaints as they are somewhat discretionary.

The Committee was requested to review the information distributed and provide comments to CAO D. Kampen prior to the next meeting.

Councillor W. Cormier advised that he would still like to see some information go out to the general public regarding noise. K. Publicover noted that the University is working on a ‘good neighbour’ package for students which would include information on noise, garbage, by-laws, etc.

- Discussions with Tim Hortons® re Congestion at East Main Street Location

The Chair updated the Committee on a recent meeting held with Tim Donut Limited head office staff, and the local franchisee, regarding traffic congestion at the East Main Street location and the impact that the upcoming bridge replacement will have on this area.

Reports

- St. F.X. University Representative Report

Moved by S/Sgt. B. Rehill

Seconded by Councillor S. Cameron

“That the verbal St. F.X. University Representative Report be received for information.” Motion carried.

K. Publicover updated the Committee on the appointment of Ms. C. Fitzpatrick who will fill the role of Director of Student Life, formerly known as Dean of Students, which has evolved to include additional responsibilities. He noted the Students’ Union Election will be held February 2, and 3, 2010. He further noted that Spring Break will begin the week of February 27, 2010, and reported on a successful BURMAC Cup held the previous evening.

K. Publicover confirmed with the Chair that he would be involved in the Trading Treasures Program this year.

- RCMP Report

Moved by K. Publicover

Seconded by Councillor S. Cameron

“That the RCMP Report be received for information.” Motion carried.

S/Sgt. B. Rehill distributed copies of his report for December 2009, and January 2010, and noted an error in the number of general tickets issued. He noted that a recent homicide was not included in this Report. S/Sgt. B. Rehill updated the Committee on recent activities including an accident involving an Acadian Lines Bus and major narcotics bust, and a brief review of the activities of the Major Crime Unit.

With reference to the BURMAC Cup, S/Sgt. B. Rehill noted twelve (12) people were held overnight with others opting to return to Maclsaac and Burke Houses under the supervision of a sober adult. He noted there were no calls after 11:30 PM in reference to BURMAC. K. Publicover noted 1,588 people were in attendance at the Cup.

S/Sgt. B. Rehill provided information from the past year which included 380 false alarms. He noted that in approximately 98% of 911 calls are false alarms, but as they must be responded to regardless, this takes up many man hours.

- Special Constable Report

Moved by K. Publicover

Seconded by Councillor W. Cormier

“That the Special Constable Report be received for information.” Motion carried.

S/Cst. S. Smith provided copies of his Report and noted that issues with cars parking on campus has now resulted in some vehicles (repeat offenders) being towed.

Other Business

- College Street re Request for 'No Blocking Driveway' Sign
S/Cst. S. Smith advised he had received a request from Mr. R. Sangster to have a "No Blocking Driveway" sign placed in front of his business. However, upon reviewing the number of driveway accesses in the downtown core, he advised that he was unable to fill this request as he expected similar requests would follow.
- St. F.X. University re Communication; Xaverian Weekly
S/Cst. S. Smith raised concern with an article contained in the last Xaverian Weekly entitled 'Student Brings Music Home' which promoted a house party charging admission. He expressed his dismay with the Town not being notified until the day of the party, leaving very little time for pro-active measures to be taken.

In response, K. Publicover advised he had not read the article and agreed to attempt to provide similar information that he becomes aware of in a timely manner.

- Entryway near Burke House (St. F.X.)
Mayor C. Chisholm requested K. Publicover to look into the status of what was to be a temporary entryway near Burke House which exits on to West Street. He noted the entryway was not meant to be a road and does not have any signage associated with it. K. Publicover agreed to look into the matter.

Adjournment

Moved by Councillor S. Cameron

Seconded by Councillor W. Cormier

"That the meeting be adjourned." Motion carried.