



May 31, 2023

Charcy Marchand, Director
Public Safety and Investigations
Province of Nova Scotia
1690 Hollis Street, PO Box 7
Halifax, NS
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Email: Charcy.Marchand@novascotia.ca

Re: Police Advisory Board

Dear Director;

This letter is in response to correspondence dated May 17, 2023 (received via email on May 30, 2023) regarding compliance with the *Nova Scotia Police Act*, particularly with respect to the requirement for a Police Advisory Board.

East Hants previously established a 7-member Police Advisory Board under Section 57 of the Police Act in 2008. There were difficulties and concerns with that structure; particularly, reaching quorum to conduct meetings for many years. In addition, concerns were raised that the structure reduced the communication flow between the local RCMP Commander and members of Council and vice versa. Prior to the establishment of the Board, the local RCMP Commander reported directly to Council on a quarterly basis for open discussion on community issues and priorities. The establishment of the Board limited communication. There was also a lack of attendance from the provincially appointed public members at that time.

In September 2015, East Hants Council proposed an alternative form of governance for police advisory to the Province to combat those issues by establishing a Police Advisory Committee, rather than a board. The proposal included membership of three (3) public members appointed by Council with meetings held quarterly as part of the Council Executive Committee meeting, which included all members of Council. This model proposed to improve the communication between the Board, Council and the RCMP Commander; as well as, an improved opportunity for all Councillors to directly receive valuable perspective of the public members. The RCMP Commander at that time fully supported the proposal.

In May 2016, the Minister of Justice and Attorney General, Dianna Whalen approved a two-year pilot project for the alternative proposal and the structure that was submitted as a trial.

In August 2018, the Minister of Justice and Attorney General, Mark Furey permanently approved the new model under Section 57(8) of the *Police Act*, “where the Minister is satisfied that a municipality has established, in conjunction with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, a system of governance that is equal to or better than the governance provided by an advisory board, the Minister may exempt the municipality from the requirement to appoint an advisory board pursuant to this section”, with an amendment that the new Committee also include one public representative appointed by the Province. Recruitment efforts were to begin immediately in order for the position to be filled in a timely manner.

There has never been an appointment to fill that position to date, despite efforts.

To address your specific questions;

1. There is a section in the Council Procedural Policy that established the Police Advisory Committee.
2. The Police Advisory Committee includes three (3) public member seats, eleven (11) Councillors and one (1) public member seat to be appointed by the Province (vacant).
3. The Police Advisory Committee has a Chair and Vice-Chair per the Council Procedural Policy.
4. The Police Advisory Committee meets quarterly.

I've attached the letters from both Minister Whalen and Minister Furey and a copy of the Police Advisory Terms of Reference.

Overall, the Police Advisory Committee is functioning well under this model.

Sincerely,



Kim Ramsay, CPA
Chief Administrative Officer

Cc: Brad Johns, Minister of Justice and Attorney General