

*Cape Breton Regional Municipality*  
**Board of Police Commissioners Minutes**

---

**Monday,  
June 19, 2023  
1:35 p.m.  
Council Chambers  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, City Hall  
320 Esplanade Sydney, NS**

**Commissioner Eldon MacDonald called the meeting to Order.**

**Present:** Commissioner Eldon MacDonald, Chair  
Commissioner Ken Tracey  
Commissioner Dale Deering-Bert, Citizen Appointee, Vice Chair  
Commissioner Tom Vickers, Citizen Appointee  
Commissioner Noelle Gouthro, Provincial Appointee

**Staff:** Police Chief Robert Walsh  
Deputy Chief Steve MacKinnon  
Deborah Campbell Ryan, Municipal Clerk  
Fire Chief Michael Seth, Director of Fire & Emergency Services  
Inspector Ken O'Neill  
Inspector Bill Turner  
Bryce Kehoe, Fire Prevention Officer  
Stephen MacKenzie, Fire Prevention Officer  
Desiree Magnus, Communications / PR Advisor  
Kelly McDonald, Recording Secretary

**Absent:** Commissioner Lorne Green (Regrets)  
Commissioner Helen Luedee, Citizen Appointee (Regrets)

**Summary of Decisions**

**Land Acknowledgement**

**Roll Call**

**1. Approval of Agenda:**

**Motion** to approve the agenda and addendum. **Carried.**

**2. Approval of Minutes:**

➤ **March 29, 2023**

**Motion** to approve. **Carried.**

**Addendum:**

**2. a) Fire Lanes – Verbal Report:**

Fire Prevention Officers provided a verbal report on the move forward plan regarding unauthorized parking in fire lanes.

**For information only.**

**3. Divisional Reports:**

**For information only.**

**Addendum:**

**3. a) NSGEU Press Release:**

Chief Walsh spoke to the recent Press Release issued by the NSGEU outlining concerns raised regarding staff shortages.

**For information only.**

**4. Upcoming Meetings:**

**Monday, September 11, 2023  
10:00 a.m.  
Council Chambers, City Hall**

**Monday, December 11, 2023  
10:00 a.m.  
Council Chambers, City Hall**

**Adjournment**

**Call to Order**

**Land Acknowledgment**

**Roll Call**

**1. Approval of Agenda:**

The Chair noted that an addendum for today's agenda was circulated to include a report by Fire and Emergency Services regarding Fire Lanes, with the addition of the recent Press Release issued by the NSGEU.

**Motion:**

Moved by Commissioner Tracey, seconded by Commissioner Vickers, to approve the June 19, 2023 CBRM Board of Police Commissioners Agenda and Addendum.

**Motion Carried.**

**2. Approval of Minutes:**

**Motion:**

Moved by Commissioner Tracey, seconded by Commissioner Deering-Bert, to approve the CBRM Board of Police Commissioners Minutes of:

- **March 29, 2023.**

**Motion Carried.**

**Addendum:**

**2. a) Fire Lanes – Verbal Report**

Fire Chief Michael Seth introduced the issue, noting that Fire Services has been working with the Regional Police to enhance enforcement of unauthorized parking in fire lanes. Chief Seth called upon Fire Prevention Officers Stephen Mackenzie and Bryce Kehoe to speak to the issue.

Fire Prevention Officer Stephen Mackenzie addressed the Commission. He advised that the fire lanes have been filling up with non-emergency vehicles, so they have a move forward plan to address the problem as follows:

- Step 1 – Education: this included public service announcements on radio, print ads in the Cape Breton Post, informing business owners of their roles and responsibilities and educating violators with flyers.
- Step 2 - Formal Warnings: Safety Unit Officers visit areas known to have issues with fire lane parking and have given written warnings.

**Continued...**

**Fire Lanes – Verbal Report (Cont’d):**

- Step 3 – Enforcement: Step 1 and 2 will still be followed, but violators will be ticketed.
- Step 4 – Continued Enforcement: Property owners are asked to keep fire lanes open with signage and pylons (ex. at Mayflower Mall).

Fire Prevention Officer Mackenzie advised that currently only Police can issue tickets for unauthorized parking in fire lanes.

Chief Walsh noted that the business community is cooperating, and Police will continue to work with the Fire Services on enforcement.

Following discussion by the Commission, the Chair thanked Chief Seth and the Fire Prevention Officers for their presentation.

**For information only.**

**3. Divisional Reports:**

Inspector Ken O’Neill noted the call volume comparisons since the last report to the Police Commission. Inspector O’Neill then reported on the following:

**Highlights and Initiatives**

- Hosted information sessions in North Sydney, Glace Bay and Membertou as part our ongoing recruitment efforts to fill existing vacancies and maintain our compliment of front-line officers.
- Charged a Millville man with numerous weapons offences and Possession of Police Articles in violation of the *Police Identity Management Act*, after seizing multi firearms, components and rounds of ammunition, as well as several articles of police clothing believed to be authentic to the RCMP and OPP. This is the first charge under the *Police Identity Management Act* in Nova Scotia.
- As part of Canada Road Safety Week, Traffic Safety Officers invited media to the scene of a mock impaired driving collision for an inside look at the specialized services Cape Breton Regional Police use to investigate – including forensic evidence, alcohol and drug recognition, and analysis and reconstruction technology.

**Continued...**

**Divisional Reports (Cont'd):**

The exercise also demonstrated the potential consequences of impaired driving and the importance of choosing safe driving behaviors to save lives and reduce injuries on roadways. In addition, through targeted enforcement, Traffic Safety Officers issued 80 charges during Canada Road Safety Week. Charges included Speeding, driving without valid and required paperwork, and driving while revoked.

- Dedicated an increase police presence – including foot patrol – in the downtown Sydney core in response to numerous complaints of criminal activity. To date there have been 8 arrests for various breaches, public intoxication, outstanding arrest warrants, and 2 Summary Offence tickets issued.
- Welcomed 5 Atlantic Police Academy Cadets who will be with us for 12 weeks of on-the-job training, each assigned to a CBRPS Coach Officer for mentoring. The APA Cadets provide service to the CBRM Community conducting foot patrols and general duties in our communities.
- Celebrated National Police Week by visiting all CBRM High Schools providing students with a first-hand look at our services and talking to them about a future career in policing.
- Through the Cops Against Cancer Committee and Police Boys and Girls Club, hosted a Floor Hockey Tournament in honour of Constables Mark Royal and Tara Morgan.
- Training
- Patrols
- Lockup
- Membertou
- K-9 Unit
- School Liaison Officers

Following the report by Inspector Ken O'Neill, staff responded to questions by Police Commissioners.

**Continued...**

**Divisional Reports (Cont'd):**

Inspector Bill Turner then presented on the following sections of the Report:

**Operational Support:**

- Traffic Safety Unit
- Street Crime/Drug Unit
- Community Safety Enforcement Unit
- Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods (SCAN)
- Major Crime/Domestic Violence Unit
- General Investigation Section/Arson Investigator
- Internet Child Exploitation Unit (ICE)/Computer Forensic Unit
- Forensic Identification Unit
- Solid Waste
- Mental Health Liaison Officer
- Polygraph

**For information only.**

**Addendum:**

**3. a) NSGEU Press Release:**

The Chair called upon Chief Walsh to speak to the issue.

Chief Walsh spoke to the recent Press Release issued by the NSGEU outlining concerns raised regarding staff shortages. The Chief noted first and foremost they will not compromise public or officer safety, however not unlike other police services, CBRPS is experiencing challenges with recruiting. With current vacancies and sick time, they have been making adjustments and redistributing officers in platoons where there are immediate shortages, noting they have been making progress to get officers back to work as soon as possible. They will continue to take steps to better resource the service during the summer months.

Following discussion by the Commission, the Chair thanked Chief Walsh for his comments.

**For information only.**

**4. Upcoming Meetings:**

The Chair noted the upcoming meeting schedule for the Police Commission:

**Monday, September 11, 2023  
10:00 a.m.  
Council Chambers, City Hall**

**Monday, December 11, 2023  
10:00 a.m.  
Council Chambers, City Hall**

Chief Walsh noted that these meetings dates are subject to change if required to accommodate Commission members.

In response to a question by Commissioner Vickers, Chief Walsh explained the process for advancement within the police service.

The Chair noted that there being no further business on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned.

**Adjourned at 2:24 p.m.**

---

**Commissioner Eldon MacDonald**  
**Chair**  
/km

---

**Deborah Campbell Ryan**  
**Municipal Clerk**