

**Region of Queens Municipality Police Advisory Board
Wednesday, April 16th, 2025
3:00 p.m.**

Present:

Councillor Vicki Amirault, Chair
Don Kimball, Vice Chair
Deputy Mayor Maddie Charlton
Councillor Roberta Roy
Elaina Gaetan
Kate Wong, Recording Secretary
Staff Sergeant Daniel Archibald
Dan MacDougall, Acting CAO

Absent:

Andrew Francis

Agenda

1.0 Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement

Councillor Amirault, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:03 pm and opened the meeting by acknowledging that we are in Mi'kma'ki, the traditional territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

2.0 Election for Chair

Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton, seconded by Councillor Roy

THAT Councillor Amirault be appointed as Chair.

MOTION CARRIED.

3.0 Election for Vice Chair

Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton Moved, seconded by Councillor Amirault

THAT Donald Kimball be appointed as Vice Chair.

MOTION CARRIED.

4.0 Approval of Agenda

4.1 April 16th, 2025 Police Advisory Board Agenda

Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton, Seconded by Don Kimball

THAT the Police Advisory Board approve the April 16th 2025 Agenda as presented

Motion Carried.

5.0 Declaration of Conflict of Interests

There were no declarations of conflicts of interest

6.0 Approval of Minutes

6.1 February 10th, 2025

Moved by Don Kimball , seconded by Deputy Mayor Charlton

THAT the Police Advisory Board approve the February 10th, 2025 minutes as circulated.

Motion Carried.

7.0 New Business

7.1 Confirmation of background checks

Interim CAO Dan McDougal stated that everyone must have a criminal background check, as noted in the Police Act Terms of Reference Section 82, *"To be a candidate for appointment as an advisory board member under Section 82, a person must consent to criminal and background checks"*.

Staff Sergeant Archibald recommends that they be done on an annual basis. Some board members may not have current documentation; however, they will follow up with the RCMP to complete the necessary process.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton, seconded by Councillor Amirault

THAT the Terms of Reference for the Police Advisory Board be amended to include the requirement that background checks be conducted on an annual basis.

Motion Carried.

7.2 GDPRM files for Board's review

There are currently no GDPRM files in place. It's an assessment completed for certain detachments. Queens is slated to have one done for next year - A review of caseloads and geographic regions to determine the recommended number general duty members are officers for one specific area. It is unclear when the last assessment was conducted in Queens County, but the goal is to ensure there are adequate policing resources. Our number of files has remained steady over the past five years. There will be no risk of losing an officer because of this assessment. Queens County is the only district without a Street Crime Enforcement Unit (SCEU), while most others have two. This unit was removed several years ago by the mayor and council of the time due to municipal budget cuts and has not been reinstated since. As a result, the province also withdrew an additional officer from the area. At present, the detachment has 10 constables, but no designated School Resource Officer, which is funded through the Municipality. There is also a lack of a 2-member General Investigation Section (GIS), which S/Sgt Archibald believes would be beneficial given the gap in specific knowledge in Queens. Although new recruits are consistently joining the force, the workload remains significant. S/Sgt Archibald said that ideally, officers would be assigned to specific types of crimes, but current resource levels do not allow for specialization.

Tours of RCMP units have proven valuable, particularly for council members, in understanding the scope and capabilities of each unit, GIS especially. S/Sgt Archibald explains that at this time, the only available RCMP resources in the area are General Duty (GD) officers, and the goal is to avoid overburdening them. Queens County operates as a single detachment, which has experienced a

strong turnover of new members and is currently fully staffed, with one additional officer beyond the standard requirement. There is also hope for increased traffic enforcement resources in the near future.

7.3 Update on speed camera program

At the last council meeting, a motion was passed to redeploy speed cameras throughout the municipality, and to continue to do so on a continuous basis. There was discussion around enforcement, with Sgt. Archibald noting he read a news articles that the province is looking at getting a traffic safety act, and abolishing the motor vehicle act. A question was raised about whether RCMP could ticket registered owners. S/Sgt Archibald noted that RCMP could enforce regulations easier by ticketing the registered owners. Discussion to regulations to require two license plates, which might aid in identifying vehicles more effectively.

Interim CAO McDougall mentioned that in Chester, speed cameras were also used, and he had consulted Sgt. Archibald for advice on best practices. Sgt. Archibald appreciated the Region of Queens summer students excellent work in assisting with the program. It was also noted that, although signs had not been deployed outside of South Queens, the data showed that the cameras were effective regardless of their location.

One of the challenges discussed involved Bristol Avenue, a particularly busy street. The higher the traffic, the quicker the batteries deplete, leading to a continuous need for maintenance and battery replacement. There was a suggestion to explore solar-powered options as a more sustainable solution.

Deputy Mayor Charlton brought up a concern that speed cameras should not block any viewpoints and asked whether there were best practices that could guide the municipality's approach. Interim CAO Dan McDougall referenced Chester, where they use a "ghost mode" feature on their cameras—this setting does not flash to alert drivers but still records speed data. It was believed, but not confirmed, that Chester currently operates seven to eight permanent camera installations that have been in place for several years.

Finally, it was noted that if speed cameras have not yet been deployed in North Queens, it may be time to consider investing in additional units to ensure equitable coverage and traffic safety throughout the entire region.

Interim CAO McDougall made a note to talk to Adam Grant, Director of Infrastructure about the speed check signs for additional information. Would like to know if there is a policy or practice. Perhaps ask him to look in to what other municipalities are doing.

8.0 Correspondence

8.1 Letter from Attorney General and Minister of Justice – Municipality of Queens County Police Association

Staff had been directed to set up a link to put on the RQM website. Heather Cook had made sure that the link for the appointed member application was added to the provincial website.

There was some confusion about orientation training. Mayor Christian had asked Councillor Amirault to reach out to the Department of Justice and ask about training for PAB. She discovered that it takes the first hour of a PAB meeting. Councillor Amirault will investigate this for the July meeting.

8.2 Adapting the Additional Officer Program - Letter from Attorney General and Minister of Justice

S/Sgt. Archibald explained that there are currently no additional officers assigned to the area. The CAO provided context, noting that approximately 15 years ago, the province established a budget of \$17–18 million to fully fund 100% of the positions under the Additional Officer Program. This program was implemented province-wide with a focus on a specific agenda, such as school safety. However, when the municipality removed a General Duty (GD) position, the province, in response, withdrew the additional officer.

S/Sgt Archibald noted that because there isn't currently an additional officer in place, there's no concern about losing one. Interim CAO Dan McDougal will contact Hayley Crichton to get

more information, noting this could also be a good time to ask for an additional officer.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton, seconded by Don Kimball

THAT to direct CAO Dan McDougal to consult with the Attorney General and Minister of Justice Department on the additional officer program, and advocate for resources for our community.

MOTION CARRIED.

9.0 Updates from RCMP

S/Sgt Archibald is coordinating a tour of the RCMP headquarters in Dartmouth for Council and Police Advisory Board (PAB) members. The tour is scheduled for May 21st and will include other councillors and PAB members from the region. While full details are not yet available, the visit will include presentations, as well as lunch and snacks. The tour will not cover the entire building but will focus on relevant areas. Kate will investigate transportation options through Queens County Transit.

S/Sgt Archibald explained his annual performance planning -

- Road safety, monthly initiative (visibility throughout county) organized structure.
- Crime reduction initiative – new system in monitoring through police reporting system. More closely monitored.
- Enhancing relations with indigenous communities. Engaging with indigenous community and trying to do more drop in at wildcat administrative offices.

In response to Deputy Mayor Charlton's inquiry regarding the most effective way to communicate to the RCMP with councillors' concerns, S/Sgt. Archibald advised that the appropriate process is for councillors to relay their concerns through the CAO or Mayor, who will then forward them to him directly. For immediate but non-urgent matters, the non-emergency police line should be used.

Interim CAO MacDougall spoke about the role of municipal staff in supporting all Council committees, including the Police Advisory Board (PAB). He noted that there is room for improvement in how support is

provided to committee chairs. One suggestion was to reach out to councillors a week in advance of PAB meetings to ask if there are any community issues they would like to raise. Additionally, once PAB minutes are completed, they should be automatically included on Council agendas to help assist with regular updates.

Interim CAO McDougal explained that the Region of Queens Municipality could use reserve funds to buy speed radar units, which wouldn't affect the tax rate. Equipment purchases usually come from the capital budget, but using reserve is another option. The cost of deploying the devices and the staff time to manage them would come from the operations budget. While the purchase could technically be funded through operations or reserve, using reserve could be more financially feasible. The final decision is up to Council, but this approach could make the expense easier to manage financially.

10.0 Unfinished Business

10.1 Finalize PAB meeting dates

Police Advisory Board – Upcoming Meeting Dates

- Tuesday, July 23, 2025 | 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, October 15, 2025 | 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- January 2026 | *To be announced – date to be confirmed at a later time*

11.0 Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned by Councillor Amirault at 4:36pm