



Town of Wolfville Policing Presentation
Erin Beaudin, CAO

Background



- In November 2021, Town Council passed a motion to conduct a Policing Review
- There were 4 main reasons for doing so:
 - Due Diligence
 - Concern with Service Levels
 - Cost of Policing
 - New Municipal Building



Policing Review



- A Review Committee was formed and a workplan was developed
- Over the summer of 2022 the Town and Review Committee undertook a community engagement process to inform the review
- The Review Committee also requested
 - That a GDPRM be conducted
 - That the feasibility of a Community Safety Office be examined



MPSA Decision



- On February 24, 2023 the Town was informed that because our population exceeded 5000 in the last census we had to make an immediate decision in relation to how we would be policed by the RCMP
- Options were to:
 - Stay in the PPSA and cover full accommodations program and support staff costs or;
 - Move to an MPSA and cover full accommodations program and support staff costs
- In either scenario the Town had the choice to provide our own accommodations and support staff



MPSA Decision



- The Department of Justice gave the Town a one-year notice period on any additional costs to allow us time to move to an MPSA arrangement if that was the option chosen
- This decision did not preclude the Review Committee and Council from making another decision down the road once the Policing Review was concluded
- If an MPSA path was chosen, the Town was told that we could move back to a PPSA in the future contingent on any policies in place at the time and with Ministerial approval/approval from Public Safety Canada



Current State of Contracts (March 2023)



- There were no towns larger than 5000 that were currently in a PPSA arrangement
 - Amherst, Bridgewater, Kentville, New Glasgow and Truro all have municipal forces
 - Yarmouth is in an MPSA
- There are currently only 4 MPSA contracts in the Province (Towns of Yarmouth, Antigonish, Pictou and West Hants Regional Municipality)
- The Town of Antigonish intended to move to a PPSA once consolidation was complete
- The Town of Shelburne used to be in an MPSA and decided to join the PPSA in 2021



PPSA



- If there are vacancies under the contract the RCMP will bring in officers from other detachments to fill in or they will remain vacant, but municipalities still pay the full per-officer cost
- Municipalities pay their portion of shared services (ie Truro dispatch)
- The Province holds the contract and is the main conduit between PPSA municipalities and Public Safety Canada
- Per Officer rate is fixed for the year, no surprises
- The cost per officer covers all costs
- Province sets resource/service levels and goals/objectives



MPSA



- Municipalities have some level of increased “control” over resources and service levels
- Municipalities can set the goals and objectives in accordance with the Province
- Costs can fluctuate based on overtime/vacancies/pooled resources
- Municipalities deal directly with RCMP/Public Safety Canada
- Access to specialized services is outside of the contract however there is currently no mechanism or precedent for bill-back
- Multi-year financial projections and business planning is provided directly to the municipality



District Policing Model



- The District Policing Model is an operational decision by the RCMP
- The Town was told we may be able to negotiate out of this model as part of MPSA discussions however the officer resource requirements may change if Wolfville operates as a standalone detachment
- For the purposes of Wolfville's analysis at the time it assumed that we remained in the District Model and maintained the current level of officers
- The GDPRM was intended to provide more detail on both scenarios and to help inform future decision making



Impact on Policing Review



- It had been confirmed that regardless of this decision, Council could change directions after the Policing Review was completed.
- It was recommended that the Review Committee continue to explore alternative models to complement traditional policing models (Community Safety Office) under either an MPSA or PPSA decision
- If moving to an MPSA was chosen, it had been recommended that an RFP for policing services not be pursued to allow for an opportunity to evaluate if this model works for Wolfville
- If remaining in the PPSA was chosen it had been recommended that the Committee move forward with an RFP for policing services to examine options (informed upon exploring alternative policing models)



Accommodations Costs



- Under either the PPSA or MPSA the Town would now be responsible for the full cost of the accommodations program
- For next few years we will continue to provide space adjacent to Town Hall
- Once the Town Hall is rebuilt, a decision will need to be made on whether to pay a share of the New Minas detachment or provide new policing space in Town
- It was estimated that the costs for Wolfville to use the New Minas detachment would be approximately \$132,000 annually (based on Town of Antigonish figures)
- Figures provided later by Department of Justice estimated costs at \$151,024



Support Person Costs



- Under either the PPSA or MPSA the Town will now be responsible for the full cost of the RCMP admin support person
- There was a one-year notice period on these costs, so the Town won't begin paying the full cost until April 1, 2024
- We currently pay approximately \$52,000 of the \$73,000 costs, so the additional costs to the Town would be approximately \$21,000 annually
- We also have the decision to provide our own administrative support (seems like most MPSA's chose this option)



Other General Considerations



- Currently
 - The Town currently pays \$1,710,137 for 2022-23 (\$1,616,463 Officer cost for 9 positions and \$93,674 for Shared Services)
 - 2023-24 Figures will be released March 23, 2023
- If MPSA
 - the cost sharing would change to a 70-30 split between the Town and the Federal Government, with any overtime or additional costs being the responsibility of the Town.
 - Any vacancies left longer than 30 days are credited back to the Town



Town of Antigonish Comparison



- We chose to use the Town of Antigonish for comparative purposes
- The Town of Antigonish is similar in population and currently has the same officer complement as Wolfville. They are also in a District Policing Model



Town of Antigonish Comparison



Wolfville – if remaining under PPSA

Known cost 2022/23			1,710,000
Add adjustment for Adm costs to be picked up by Town			21,000
			1,731,000
Add accomodation charges once Wolfville detachment unavailable			132,000
ADJUSTED Cost of RCMP, PPSA			1,863,000

Wolfville – if moving to MPSA (using Antigonish estimates)

Antigonish budgeted 2022/23 (refer to budget document)			
RCMP			1,838,575
Adm staff - Town payroll			83,981
			1,922,556
Less estimated credit adjustment (vacancies)			(50,000)
			1,872,556



Caveats to the Analysis



Note the comparison shows results that are relatively the same costs, within half of one percent difference. Caveats to be noted:

- Wolfville's costs subtotal of \$1,731,000 would be the value until such time as detachment is no longer provided, so it represents a reasonable projection of the April 1, 2024 costs (before allowing for inflation)
- Wolfville costs total of \$1,863,000 is a projection of what April 1, 2024 would look like if detachment no longer available. This is not the expected scenario, but simply done to provide the baseline assumption of what Wolfville costs would look like under MPSA and officers report out of New Minas. As with note above, these costs are not adjusted for inflation over next year.
- Antigonish is based on their budget (available on their website), adjusted for service credit. The service credit is based on their average credit adjustment experienced over the last three complete fiscal years, net of retro wage accrual). This is an estimate by Wolfville staff, not Antigonish.
- The projected value of \$1,872,556 will differ from actual results by the final credit adjustment and actual accrual posted for retro wages as part of their year end process of closing the books for 2022/23.



Caveats to the Analysis



- The key take away from the comparison was not the exact value difference (just shy of \$10,000 overall) but rather the close proximity of the two values. This result is only true once Wolfville is responsible to pay an accommodation fee after Wolfville detachment not available. In the near future, i.e. starting April 1, 2024 the comparison shows a larger gap, some \$141,500.



Other Factors to Consider



- The extent to which officer vacancy credits might be experienced in Kings District. To the extent they exceed the conservative estimate above of \$50,000 annually, the overall cost for the Town under an MPSA will be less than noted projections.
- The extent to which Wolfville would incur “extra RCMP resource” billings under a MPSA contract versus the current PPSA where it’s a fixed cost regardless of periodic additional resource requirements. To date it appears other MPSA or Municipal Town’s have not been billed for use of added resources.



Options and Recommendation



- Staff recommended that the Town of Wolfville enter into a Municipal Policing Services Agreement (MPSA) effective April 1, 2024
- Council approved this recommendation in March and sent a confirmation letter the Department of Justice



Next Steps



- The Town is now waiting to work with Public Safety Canada to negotiate an MPSA
 - Once the results of the GDPRM are presented to the Review Committee and Council (April-May) a decision on the District Policing Model will come before Council
- A decision will be made in the near future on whether to provide our own admin support person or pay the full costs for the existing position



Community Safety Office



- Inspired by some of the work being done in Kentville, among others, Wolfville wanted to look at how we can complement the traditional policing model
- Currently undertaking a Community Safety Office feasibility study which we expect to be done in February to inform the 2024-25 Budget process





Balance. That's what we're all looking for.
In our work. In our personal lives. And,
most of all, in the place we call home.

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