



WEST HANTS REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT FOR THE POLICE ADVISORY BOARD (PAB)

Submitted by: Paul Morton, WHRM Councillor District 8

Meeting Date: April 28th, 2025

Meeting Location: Council Chambers, 76 Morison Drive

SUMMARY/UPDATE OF THE COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES:

The Police Advisory Board (PAB) meeting highlighted important updates on operations.

The meeting can be viewed on the West Hants YouTube channel at

<https://www.youtube.com/@westhantsregionalmunicipal6378>

Minutes for the meeting can be found at <https://www.westhants.ca/police-advisory-board/2025-police-advisory-board-minutes.html>

Operational Update:

Staff Sergeant Dave Ferguson has moved on from his position with West Hants and is now working closer to his home on the South Shore. Sergeant Tim Doyle will be filling in for the intern until a replacement arrives in early fall.

As of this reporting period, the team has experienced a reduction in available staffing due to medical and administrative leaves. This has impacted operational capacity and required adjustments in workload distribution and service delivery.

Planned FTE Positions for the Year	24.00
Actual Average FTE Positions Available	20.16
Positions Impacted by Leave (medical and administrative leave)	6
Total FTE Reduction	3.84
Percent Decrease in Capacity	16%

Fleet Update – RCMP Vehicles

We have two new SUVs identified for replacement this year. The first in June and the second planned for later in the year. Both vehicles were accounted for in the 2025 budget.

There were two minor collisions involving RCMP fleet vehicles this year. Both vehicles have since been fully repaired and are now back in service. Additionally, two other vehicles are nearing the end of their life cycle and will need to be replaced in the upcoming year.

Duty Pay and Enforcement Update

At the end of the year, a total of \$72,000 was allocated for extra duty pay, covering additional shifts for officers. Residents can expect to see increased checkpoint activity throughout the year, as we anticipate a rise in infraction tickets issued. This increase is due in part to a resource-sharing initiative with our neighbors in Kings County, aimed at enhancing regional enforcement efforts and community safety.

RCMP have seen a slight uptick in calls for service this year, which is consistent with what we usually see during this period. The increase in calls for service, were related to:

- Speeding violations
- Mental health-related incidents
- Public intoxication
- Misdemeanors

The rise in these calls—specifically Hwy 215 calls can be attributed to increased police visibility and proactive patrolling.

Key enforcement statistics for the quarter:

- 65 check stops conducted
- 206 offence tickets issued
- 10 impaired driving charges
- 46 enforcement tickets issued in school zones

This year, West Hants has experienced two aircraft deployments—an unusual occurrence for our region.

In line with efforts to enhance accountability and transparency, body-worn cameras have now been implemented and are in active use by our officers across the region.

Court House Impacts

We have now confirmation that the court in our area will be closed, and all judicial proceedings will be relocated to Kentville. As a result of this change, any offenders who are in custody must now be transported to Kentville for their court appearances.

Due to safety concerns, the holding cells in West Hants have been deemed unfit for use. Consequently, when a person is in custody, two officers are now required for the transport: one

to accompany the offender in transit and remain with them during the appearance, and the other to enter the courthouse to manage the required documentation.

Additionally, paperwork related to court proceedings can no longer be sent via fax and must now be delivered in person. This change places an increased operational and financial burden on the West Hants constituency, which is now responsible for the associated costs of transportation, staffing, and logistical support.

Next Steps

The RCMP will soon be presenting a request to the Committee of the Whole (COTW) for the addition of two positions:

- 1 Supervisor
- 1 Court Liaison Officer

At present three (3) Supervisors currently manage 4 shifts, creating a recurring gap that requires overtime to cover. The addition of a 4th Supervisor would provide consistent supervisory coverage across all shifts, improving oversight, reducing overtime costs, and enhancing operational efficiency. The Court Liaison Officer role is proposed to improve coordination between RCMP operations and the court system, potentially reducing time officers spend on administrative legal tasks. Each new position is projected to cost \$169,324, totaling \$338,648 for both.

Barring any unforeseen circumstances and if everything continues as expected, RCMP are on track to have a \$425,000 surplus this year.

Respectfully Submitted, Councillor Paul Morton