

EASTERN SHELBURNE COUNTY RCMP ADVISORY BOARD



MINUTES

Thursday, April 16, 2026

6:00pm

Town of Lockeport

26 North St. Council Chambers

Attendees:

Deputy Mayor Craig Hillen – Town of Lockeport
Councillor Anna Chetwynd – Town of Lockeport
Howard Roszel Community Member – Town of Lockeport
Deputy Warden Heidi Wagner – Municipality of Shelburne
Councillor Paula Sutherland – Municipality of Shelburne
Deputy Mayor Donnie Acker – Town of Shelburne
Councillor Sheldon Ringer – Town of Shelburne
Bruce Bennett Community Member – Town of Shelburne
Fred Greenwood - Municipality of Shelburne

Non-Voting Members

RCMP Cpl Mike MacDonald
RCMP Cpl Sara Laurie
Recording Secretary Jill Cassibo – Town of Lockeport

Regrets:

Dawn DeMings-Taylor Community Member – Town of Lockeport
Pam Mingo Community Member - Municipality of Shelburne

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Deputy Mayor Craig Hillen at 5:57 p.m.

2. Silence Electronic Devices

All electronic devices were silenced at this time.

3. Approval of April 16, 2026, Agenda

4. Approval of January 15, 2025, Minutes

5. Outstanding Business

New Business

There was no new business

RCMP Statistical & Incident Report

Cpl. Mike MacDonald went through his report and stated that the RCMP detachment in Shelburne is fully staffed. The traffic division is out of the Yarmouth detachment, and they come on their own schedule. Cpl Mike MacDonald stated that there were 12 calls for the Town of Lockeport this fiscal year up from eight in 2024/2025 and three in 2023/2024.

Community Member Bruce Bennett asked what 'cleared by charge' meant in his report and Cpl. MacDonald explained that it means that there was sufficient evidence to lay a charge against a person.

Cpl. MacDonald explained about the new COMSTAT system that has been up and running for a few months and it a great tool. This system runs monthly reports broken down by the nature of the complaint, common trends, and area. This pro-active approach can define what or where is becoming a concern and the RCMP's intention is to be able to deal with issues such as speeding, drugs etc. with this information. Although this is a data base report, it shows where the RCMP can focus attention on what is becoming a concern.

Cpl. MacDonald went on to discuss traffic enforcement and that the RCMP is producing a plan for Shelburne County where one month they may focus on speeding and distracted driving and another month they will focus on seat belts for example.

Cpl. MacDonald discussed the action plan for the Southwest Nova District and that they will focus on three or four issues and with targeting these issues, with the intention to disrupt crime. For example, if there is a known drug house, then they will use the tools they have and other agencies to help rid the problem.

The Annual Performance Plan is a collective discussion with the Police Advisory Board and is looking for this committee to give feedback on what they believe is the biggest issue in the Town of Lockeport, the Town of Shelburne and the Municipality and after a really great discussion it was decided that education sessions for both kids and

parents on internet platforms, like snapchat. Some parents/guardians may not be aware that their children are on these platforms or have no idea how dangerous the platforms can be. As soon as you send a message on Snapchat and it is read, it then disappears. The committee decided that to combat the problem, parents need to understand how the platforms work and educate our children how harmful, as well as how to deal with issues like sextortion and bullying to name a few.

Councillor Sheldon Ringer questioned about prolific offenders and how they are being handled. Cpl. MacDonald stated that it is frustrating for the RCMP when the person keeps getting released and that the reports the RCMP are submitting to the courts need to contain as much information as possible for the charges to be pressed against someone.

Cpl. MacDonald stated that domestic violence is the biggest issue they are dealing with and how important it is to be able to paint a picture for the courts. Cpl. Sara Laurie gave an example of a person who was living in one area, but committing domestic abuse in different regions and because of her new role as South West District Intimate Person Violence/Sexual Assault Supervisor, she was able to connect this certain person with domestic abuse in more than one area and worked with other detachments to be able to lay multiple charges against that person from several different victims. Cpl. Laurie went on to further explain her new role. Cpl. Laurie covers the area from Lunenburg to Yarmouth and that she goes through reports every morning and addresses any reports that may have a relation to domestic violence. Cpl. Laurie also stated the intimate partner violence is on the rise and through the reports she reads she tries to get involved early in the case and provide risk assessments. Cpl. Laurie has reviewed close to 600 files since December 2025. Cpl. Laurie also works with various organizations like Juniper House, Victim Services and Child Protection Services. Canada has a zero tolerance for domestic violence. Cpl. Laurie does not necessarily attend every domestic violent call, but is willing to, as well as assisting officers to make sure the reports include the pertinent information. Both Cpl. Laurie and Cpl. MacDonald stated that the victim may be reluctant to report anything because of many factors like it is only normal to them, left stranded at the resident without a vehicle, if only one vehicle is owned by the homeowners, lose their home, lose children.

Councillor Donnie Acker asked about ATVs in the Town of Shelburne and if they were a problem. Cpl. MacDonald explained that the RCMP will not chase down an ATV, as they tend to speed off and they do not want accidents happening due to the RCMP and the ATV speeding. Cpl. MacDonald said that most riders are complicit with the rules and he commends the community for making it easier/safer for the riders to get to the trails. Cpl. MacDonald feels that it is education that is needed for the ATV's

Community member Fred Greenwood questioned why there was no drug charges number on the 4th quarter stats we received. Cpl. MacDonald stated that there is one or two active investigations going on right now and that most people do not want to talk to the RCMP and he promotes Crimestoppers as a way for people to report a crime or suspicious activity and to be anonymous. Cpl. MacDonald explained that part of disrupting certain drug activity, they will impound a vehicle, set up checkpoints, if a

certain area has been identified and try to be pro-active. Cpl. MacDonald also mentioned that drug dealers are not carrying as much cash on them and more transactions are being done online. Cpl. MacDonald also stated that there is not a lot of fentanyl or heroin in Shelburne.

Speed Assessments report for areas/Process and report structure

Deputy Warden Heidi Wagner asked about the process for speed assessments and the procedure. Cpl. MacDonald stated that the Department of Transportation completes the reports and send them to the RCMP detachment that requested the assessment and the Department of Transportation will also target an area if requested. Cpl. MacDonald suggested putting up a sign to get people to slow down or purchasing the solar digital sign that tells you how fast you are going. Areas of concern are Lockeport and Sandy Point. Cpl. MacDonald stated that the signs are not something the RCMP is responsible for, it is the Department of Transportation that will install them and that the signs will need to be purchased by the Town or Municipality.

6. In Camera

There was nothing for In Camera

Next Meeting Date: July 16, 2026

7. Adjournment

There being no further business, the motion was made by Councillor Chetwynd and seconded by Fred Greenwood to adjourn the meeting. Time 7:55 p.m. Motion Passed.